



**Eastern & Southern Africa Prolinnova Platform (ESAPP)**

**Annual Activity Report for 2019**

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**April 2020**

## ACRONYMS

ACDEP	Association of Church-based Development NGOs
ADCR	Association for Rural Community Development
ARD	agricultural research and development
CBO	community-based organisation
CP	Country Platform
CSO	civil society organisation
ESA	Eastern & Southern Africa
ESAPP	Eastern & Southern Africa ProInnova Platform
EU	European Union
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IST	International Support Team
KIT	Royal Tropical Institute (acronym for Dutch name)
LSC	Local Steering Committee
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP	multistakeholder partnership
NCR	National Center for Research
NGO	nongovernmental organisation
NSC	National Steering Committee
Nuffic	Netherlands Organisation for Internationalisation of Education
PE	ProInnova–Ethiopia
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
PK	ProInnova–Kenya
POG	ProInnova Oversight Group
Proli-FaNS	Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security
ProInnova	Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM
SA	South Africa
SKI	Seed and Knowledge Initiative
SRC	Subregional Coordinator
SULCI-FaNS	Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security
TMT	Tailor-made Training
WCA	West & Central Africa

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction .....	4
2	Activities of the CPs .....	4
2.1	Ethiopia .....	4
2.2	Kenya .....	5
2.3	Mozambique .....	6
2.4	South Africa .....	7
2.5	Sudan .....	7
2.6	Tanzania .....	8
2.7	Uganda .....	9
2.8	Zimbabwe .....	10
3	Activities at the Eastern & Southern Africa subregional level .....	11
3.1	Workshops and networking .....	11
3.1.1	Proli-FaNS partners workshop and African CPs regional meeting/IPW .....	11
3.1.2	SULCI-FaNS inception workshop, December 2019 .....	12
3.1.3	SKI Agroecology Workshop in Zambia, August 2019 .....	13
3.1.4	Networking with regional structures .....	13
3.2	Backstopping to Prolinnova CPs .....	13
3.3	Other activities .....	14
3.3.1	ESA subregional charter .....	14
3.3.2	ESA brochure .....	14
3.4	Fundraising .....	14
4	Challenges, achievements and overall assessment related to achieving objectives of SR platform .....	14
5	Conclusion .....	15
	Appendix 1: PROLINNOVA IPW, Toubab Dialaw, Senegal, 13–17 May 2019 .....	16
	Appendix 2: Inception Workshop for Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security (SULCI-FaNS), 2–6 December 2019, Centre Mampuya, Toubab Dialaw, Senegal .....	17
	Appendix 3: SKI Agroecology Workshop in Zambia .....	23

# 1 Introduction

This report covers activities undertaken in 2019 within the Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) subregional platform. The report provides a summary of what has been done within the eight country platforms (CPs) that make up the ESA subregion: Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, as well as activities taking place at a subregional level. Amanuel Assefa resigned as Subregional Coordinator (SRC) at the end of March. Sadly and very unexpectedly, he passed away later in the year. His enormous contribution to the Prolinnova network over the years since its inception is greatly recognised. Brigid Letty was appointed as acting SRC in April 2019. Zacharia Malley then took up the position of ESA taskforce leader, a position that Brigid had held until then.

The reporting has taken into consideration the key objectives of the Prolinnova network, namely:

1. To develop new methods and approaches to enhance local capacities to innovate in agriculture and NRM and provide evidence of the effectiveness of these methods and approaches
2. To strengthen the capacities of agricultural research and development (ARD) actors to support local innovation and farmer-led joint experimentation
3. To scale up and mainstream participatory approaches to agricultural innovation in ways that enhance local innovative capacities
4. To strengthen multistakeholder partnerships (MSPs) in promoting local innovation and farmer-led participatory research
5. To influence national and subnational policy processes that favour development and promotion of identified local innovations by small-scale farmers, including but not limited to market-oriented innovations, by actors along value chains of agricultural and natural resource products
6. To communicate participatory innovation development (PID) evidence and knowledge products locally and internationally.

The extent to which the work of the subregional platform has met these objectives is considered in the conclusion.

## 2 Activities of the CPs

Summaries of activities that members of CPs have engaged in are provided below, based on the content of their annual reports for 2019.

### 2.1 Ethiopia

Prolinnova–Ethiopia (PE) was one of the CPs involved in the Proli-FaNS (Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security) project and this was the main set of activities that were undertaken under the Prolinnova umbrella. More details about PE’s involvement in the project can be found in the final project report, which is on the Prolinnova website ([https://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/Ethiopia/2019/proli-fans\\_ethiopia\\_end-of-project\\_report\\_aug\\_2016\\_-\\_july\\_2019\\_final.pdf](https://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/Ethiopia/2019/proli-fans_ethiopia_end-of-project_report_aug_2016_-_july_2019_final.pdf)).

A proposal prepared for submission to GIZ (German Agency for International Development) via the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) was not submitted and a decision was taken to

repackage it and submit it in response to the European Union (EU) call under the funding stream “Climate-relevant and Development-smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA)”. The Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) in collaboration with ILRI and Prolinnova submitted an expression of interest for funding in April, titled: “Blending science with local innovation: a participatory innovation development model with livestock-keepers in Ethiopia”. However, it was received too late and could not be considered in that round of funding.

## 2.2 Kenya

The main activities of Prolinnova–Kenya (PK) in 2019 were associated with the Proli-FaNS project. PK has been active during 2019. The National Steering Committee (NSC) has representatives from World Neighbors (host organisation), Inades Formation Kenya, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), ETC Consulting and the Ministry of Agriculture. The PK Coordinator also sits in the NSC as an *ex-officio* member.

During this final year of the Proli-FaNS project, the main activities in which PK members engaged were:

- Joint experimentation on 11 local innovations using the PID approach, with a sharing event in February, which allowed for exchanging experiences and mutual learning between the innovators. The event, which took place in Kasikeu in Makueni County, was attended by 19 people comprising 8 local steering committee members, 4 newly identified innovators, 6 innovators whose innovations had been documented previously, and the PK Coordinator;
- Identification of two new local innovations: a crossbred variety of eggplant by one farmer and a method of detecting the sex of papaya seed by a woman innovator so that she can plant both male and female plants to ensure good pollination;
- A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) visit, which took place in March, aimed at assessing the extent to which the project’s objectives had been achieved;
- Two follow-up focus group discussions (FGDs) in July to gather additional information from project participants about the impact of the project;
- Participation in the Proli-FaNS Partners Workshop and African CPs Regional Meeting/International Partners Workshop (IPW) in May in Senegal;
- SULCI-FaNS (Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security) Inception Workshop in December in Senegal;
- Follow-up trip on mainstreaming gender in farmer-led research in September, supported by IST member Chesha Wettasinha and her colleague from KIT (Royal Tropical Institute), Mona Dhamankar, which built on the gender workshop that had been held in Kenya in 2018.

The NSC held two meetings during 2019 (18 June and 25 July) to obtain various updates on Proli-FaNS, upcoming events and other network news within/outside Kenya. Further, the meetings were convened to deliberate on other organisational issues such as resource mobilisation, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues, PK guidelines, membership and leadership. On PK leadership, Bell Okello of ETC Consulting took over the NSC chairmanship from Geoffrey Kamau of KALRO. Bell will occupy the seat in an acting capacity until an official election is held (date still to be scheduled). In its July meeting, the NSC also reviewed the draft brochure on the Eastern & Southern African Prolinnova Platform (ESAPP), which had been shared by Brigid Letty, the SRC for ESA. Finally, during this reporting period, George Chemining’wa and Florence Olubayo, both teaching in the University of Nairobi, joined the NSC.

The Local Steering Committees (LSCs) of Kisumu and Makueni, the two Proli-FaNS action-learning sites, held a series of meetings to plan for various project activities. During this reporting period, Abraham Nyaga, Kilome Sub-County's veterinary officer, joined the Makueni LSC.

Resource mobilisation remained one of PK's strategic areas. PK continued to respond to various calls for proposals. Though none of the proposals submitted so far yielded any fruit, PK is still committed to developing proposals and mobilising resources for additional projects besides the SULCI-FaNS project.

- *Based on annual report compiled by Vincent Mariadho (PK Coordinator)*

## **2.3 Mozambique**

In 2019, Prolinnova–Mozambique went through the most difficult and challenging moments of its existence: most of its members including NGOs, CBOs and farmer associations, suspended all their activities due to lack of funding; and ADCR (Association for Rural Community Development), Prolinnova–Mozambique's long-term host, lost its Director, Henrique Chissano, who passed away unexpectedly. Prolinnova–Mozambique will always remember him as the champion of and its reliable partner in promoting local innovation in rural communities. In all proposals to donors, Henrique Chissano ensured local innovation promoting activities were included for funding. Despite these adversities in 2019, the network managed to implement some activities with funds mainly from FAO and CIC-Batá (Spanish NGO). These activities consisted in supporting and strengthening local innovation processes in some farmer associations, and replicating and disseminating previously identified and proven local innovations to other communities in six districts of Gaza Province, namely Massangena, Chigubo, Mabalane, Massingir, Guijá and Chibuto.

The activities undertaken by partners of Prolinnova–Mozambique included:

- Support and follow-up activities on local innovation processes were conducted in Chigubo District, Mangual Community with the Abaixo a Fome Farmer Association. This association, with ADCR support, has been promoting organic horticulture in producing various vegetables.
- Through an FAO-funded project, ADCR was appointed to work with local agriculture departments to distribute inputs and build farmers' capacities in producing and using biopesticides and biofertiliser. ADCR did this through the farmer organisations with which they work, most of which are active Prolinnova members. Facilitators of these activities were farmers who were known as innovators in their home communities and who had participated in at least one training on local innovation and PID organised by Prolinnova–Mozambique in the past. Each time, ADCR supported the facilitation and highlighted the importance of local innovation in community development and food security.
- From August 2018 to July 2019, CIC-Batá funded a local community development programme with a strong gender focus in three communities of Massangena District, Gaza Province. Six farmer associations were trained in producing and using biopesticides and biofertilisers; constructing improved granaries; producing, processing and conserving local seed varieties; and processing locally produced horticulture crops. Most of these products and techniques can be called local innovations, but had been identified in other communities from which they were introduced. As in the above FAO-funded activities, farmer innovators trained in PID were brought in to train their peers, with ADCR support and guidance.

- The Tchemulane Farmer Association is one of two farmer associations in the Guemulene area of Chibuto District, Gaza Province, that received support from ADCR and its partners in 2013–17 to promote and use local innovation to cope with climate change and persistent food insecurity. Last year, they experienced severe flooding and drew on their experience of local innovation to find a way to use the mud that was deposited by the flooding to produce bricks, which they were able to sell. They used this money to pay school fees and cover healthcare costs.
- Kulima, based in Maputo, partnered with the Prolinnova International Support Team (IST), KIT (Netherlands) and the Institute of Natural Resources (INR, South Africa) to submit a proposal to Nuffic (Netherlands Organisation for Internationalisation of Education) to run a training and mentorship programme on local innovation and PID through their Tailor-made Training (TMT). The submission was successful, and the initiative will be implemented in 2020.
  - *Based on report compiled by Gilda Fafitine (Prolinnova–Mozambique Coordinator) and Domingos Tsucana (NSC member)*

## 2.4 South Africa

Prolinnova–South Africa (SA) was quiet during 2019, but a number of useful initiatives did emerge. The initiation of a new UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) initiative called the Accelerator Lab has provided an opportunity to mobilise partners in KwaZulu-Natal Province, as the programme sees local innovation as a mechanism to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and would like to partner with Prolinnova–SA. Networking is definitely easier when it is around a particular initiative.

Brigid Letty (Coordinator of Prolinnova–SA for many years) was appointed as acting SRC for ESA when Amanuel Assefa resigned in early 2019. Ms Zanele Shezi, also with INR, took on the local networking role in SA.

Activities undertaken during 2019 include:

- Brigid Letty represented Prolinnova–SA at the Proli-FaNs Partners Meeting and IPW that took place on 13–17 May in the Sahel Vert Agroecology Training Centre Mampuya in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal.
- As the SRC for ESA, Brigid later attended the inception workshop for the SULCI-FaNS project, which took place in Senegal in December. This also allowed her to ensure that the SA platform was represented in discussions, particularly those related to fundraising.
- Prolinnova–SA is one of the CPs included in the concept note submitted to the EU titled “Improving rural livelihoods through bio-based technologies and circular value chains in Africa” (BioSol4Rural), led by University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany. This will build on work being undertaken in one of the upper catchments where a number of Prolinnova partners are currently working.
  - *Based on report compiled by Brigid Letty (Prolinnova–South Africa Coordinator)*

## 2.5 Sudan

The Sudan Revolution started in December 2018, so during 2019 Sudan was politically unstable. Things have now started moving forward but there are still challenges in the development process, mainly of an economic nature. The promotion of local innovation as a concept is something that the country should focus on, as it is an opportunity for decision-makers to adopt a bottom-up approach.

Activities that took place during 2019 included:

- Two homegardening workshops in partnership with Workers Micro-finance Company Ltd (which had funds for homegardening) and a Women’s Association in the National Centre for Research (NCR) in July and September. There were 40 participants at each workshop (65 women and 15 men in total). One of the outcomes was identification of the need to train extension actors in PID.
- A lecture was presented to CP members and researchers and employees in the National Center for Research on organic fertiliser by Mohmed Dahoom, a farmer innovator, in October, organised by Prolinnova–Sudan in partnership with the Women’s Association in NCR.
- A farmer innovation day on organic agriculture was held in December at Alzheim Alazhari University. It was coordinated by the Sudanese Organisation for Agricultural Extension and Rural Development in partnership with Prolinnova–Sudan. The two-day event included an exhibition, lectures on organic agriculture, sharing of innovators’ experiences and field visits to homegardens and farms. Seven innovators attended the event, five men and two women.

Prolinnova–Sudan was able to engage in these activities by partnering with other organisations that had funds to support the events. This was effective, given that the network did not have own resources. During 2019, there was only one meeting of the NSC, because all Sudanese citizens were completely involved with the Revolution and the transition period, so the communication within the NSC and among the platform members was very limited. Unfortunately, there were no opportunities for capacity-building activities directly related to PID or fundraising in 2019.

- *Based on report prepared by Ms Raja Mahmoud Yahya (Executive Manager of Sudanese Organization for Agricultural Extension and Rural Development) and Ms Mawahib Eltayeb Ahmed (Prolinnova–Sudan Coordinator).*

## 2.6 Tanzania

The CP has not been very active for over five years due to lack of funding to support Prolinnova coordination and activities. The Prolinnova-related activities were implemented individually by CP partners in the country and not always well communicated and shared with other partners and the coordinator.

Activities that were undertaken during 2019 included:

- On 30 August, Prolinnova–Tanzania co-organised and participated in a local seed and food fair in Karatu District, titled: “Local Seed, a Forgotten Treasure”. The co-organiser was Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)–Tanzania, a member and host of the CP. The CP coordinator participated in response to an invitation to the Prolinnova IST by Iles de Paix–Tanzania, the main organiser.
- PELUM–Tanzania organised two local seed promotion fairs, one at zonal level, the Lake Zone, on 23 August, titled “Our seed our right” and another at national level – the Local Seed and Traditional Food Fair held at Chamwino Village, Dodoma, on 14 November, which was titled “The role of farmer-managed seed system in ensuring national seed security”.
- Follow-up on farmer experimentation with local approaches to controlling fall armyworm. In July, the CP coordinator visited farmer-designed and -implemented experiments on control of fall

armyworm in Mbozi, Songwe Region, and Mbulu, Manyara Region. Farmers were using the presence of larvae in stalks and destruction of grains as indicators of efficacy of the products they tested.

- The CP coordinator took part in the IPW held at Mampuya Training Center in Thiès, Senegal on 11–18 May.
- The CP continued with efforts to raise funds through joint proposal development. During the reporting period, the CP was involved in developing a concept note under the Prolinnova umbrella, which was submitted to the EU, titled: “Improving rural livelihoods through simple technologies and circular value chains in Africa (BioSol4Rural)”, under the call: CE-SFS-36-2020: Diversifying revenue in rural Africa through bio-based solutions.

- *Based on annual report compiled by Zacharia Malley (Prolinnova–Tanzania Coordinator)*

## 2.7 Uganda

Despite Prolinnova–Uganda being largely constrained in terms of funding to effectively deliver on its aspirations, the CP Secretariat at Environmental Alert ensured that the CP remained visible and active among the members, key stakeholders and partners. This was achieved through facilitating and supporting networking activities among members for information sharing and exchange, largely through online interactions and participation in activities led by CP members. Furthermore, greater focus and effort were invested into resource mobilisation and fundraising as part of the development of the Prolinnova–Uganda programme.

Key activities undertaken during 2019 included:

- Participation of the Prolinnova–Uganda CP coordinator in the National Agro-ecology Actor’s Symposium (NAAS) held on 30–31 May organised by PELUM–Uganda; <https://www.pelumuganda.org/communique-of-the-1st-national-agroecology-actors-symposium-30th-and-31st-may-2019-kampala-uganda/>
- The CP coordinator took part in the IPW held on 13–17 May in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal
- The CP coordinator and members (i.e. Kikandwa Environment Association) benefited from an interactive training on “Lobbying, Policy Analysis and Advocacy” held in October. The training was aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills for civil society organisations (CSOs) to effectively engage in influencing duty bearers to actualise climate-change resilience actions at national and community levels. The two-day training was organised by Environmental Alert, with funding from DANIDA (Danish International Development Agency) through Care Denmark & Care International in Uganda under the “Strengthening resilience and promoting inclusive governance for women and youth in vulnerable communities” (STRENPO) project<sup>1</sup>.
- A two-day Training of Trainers on Integrated Soil and Nutrient Management (ISNM) was conducted by Wageningen University in collaboration with the Kawanda Agricultural Research Institute and Environmental Alert. It equipped 30 participants with additional knowledge and skills in ISNM. The participants comprised banana farmer innovators and representatives, processors,

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<sup>1</sup> Further information about the project is available at: <http://envalert.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Leaflet-STRENPO.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> “Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security” (SULCI-FaNS) is a follow-on project to the “Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS)” project implemented in 2016–19. It aims at scaling up and

district and sub-county extension staff from STEP-UP project sites of Birere, Rugaaga and Rwimi in Isingiro and Bunyangabo Districts.

- Fundraising efforts included the generation of proposals/concept notes in response to the following calls: (1) “Innovation and Climate Adaptation: Women Smallholder Farmers Lead the Way”, with activities/outputs targeted for implementation in Uganda and Kenya, with the NGO A Growing Culture; (2) “Traditional Ecological & Indigenous Knowledge based Bio-Solutions & Business Models to Diversify Revenues in East African Rural Communities (TEKBioMEs)”. Three Prolinnova–Uganda CP members (i.e. Environmental Alert, Makerere University and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARO)–Kawanda) were involved in preparing the proposal and are partners in the research consortium led by *Leibniz-Zentrum fuer Agrarlandschaftsforschung* (ZALF, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research) based in Germany.
- Strategic engagements included: (1) Coordinating the review of the Prolinnova international network’s five-year strategic plan, 2016–20; (2) Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Environmental Alert (host for the CP Secretariat) and PELUM–Uganda; (3) Developing an MoU between Prolinnova–Uganda and Makerere University’s School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences (SFECS). The CP coordinator met with the Dean of SFECS and reached agreement to develop an MoU between SFECS and Environmental Alert, as host of the CP, targeted at developing a framework for structured collaboration for advancing farmer innovation in Uganda. A draft MoU in this respect was developed and is under review by both parties.

The CP Secretariat organised a meeting of the NSC in December to discuss a number of strategic matters (see <http://envalert.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Prolinnova-Uganda-CP-Progress-Updates-18-December-2019.pdf>).

Another organisation, Horizont 3000 (an Australian NGO <http://www.horizont3000.at/en/> and <http://www.horizont3000.at/en/eastafrica/projects/eri>) joined Prolinnova–Uganda. Furthermore, the CP Secretariat engaged the Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE) to appoint another focal point staff for her representation on the NSC.

As with a number of other CPs, the lack of adequate funds limits Prolinnova–Uganda from implementing its aspirations. Some funds for activities have come from the STEP-UP (Sustainable Transition to Entrepreneurial Production in Agriculture through Upgrading) project in Uganda, but delays have also affected the implementation of activities. In conclusion, the CP Secretariat actively pursued regular coordination engagements among the members of the NSC, core team and CP. Besides, the members have their independent programmes/initiatives within which farmer innovation is promoted at different levels.

- *Based on annual report compiled by Joshua Zake (Prolinnova–Uganda Coordinator)*

## 2.8 Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe’s application to form a Prolinnova CP was approved in November. The network is hosted by PELUM–Zimbabwe. The CP has not yet been able to engage in any of the Prolinnova regional workshops.

According to its annual report for 2019, PELUM–Zimbabwe has been appointed to perform secretariat duties for Prolinnova–Zimbabwe. The CP is presently comprised of five CSOs, namely: PELUM–Zimbabwe, Cluster Agricultural Development Services, Centre for Applied Social Sciences, Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum and The Phiri Award. Five representatives from these CSOs make up the NSC. As the CP grows, it will include other CSOs and representatives from government and the private sector.

- *Contact person: Gertrude Pswarayi-Jabson, Prolinnova–Zimbabwe Coordinator*

### **3 Activities at the Eastern & Southern Africa subregional level**

#### **3.1 Workshops and networking**

A number of opportunities emerged during 2019 that allowed for networking between the Prolinnova partners as well as with other fora and stakeholders. These are discussed below, highlighting some of the key outcomes.

##### **3.1.1 Prolifans partners workshop and African CPs regional meeting/IPW**

On 13–17 May, the five African CPs involved in Prolifans converged in the Sahel Vert Agroecology Training Centre Mampuya in Senegal. The meeting was held jointly with the IPW bringing together 20 participants from Prolinnova CPs, members of the POG and the IST. The event provided a platform for peer learning and sharing of experiences on implementation of Prolifans and on steps/achievements made as well as to craft a way forward for better results in the last quarter of Prolifans and future projects. Further, the external evaluator presented the project’s evaluation report.

In the discussion about regionalisation and southernisation, the following points emerged (extract from workshop report): “It had originally been foreseen that the SRCs would make brief presentations on the progress in regionalisation in Africa. However, the SRC for ESA, Amanuel Assefa, resigned in March and the person who is replacing him, Brigid, has not yet been updated on developments. The SRC for West & Central Africa (WCA), Georges Djohy, had to cancel his participation in the IPW because of a sudden illness in his family. However, he sent a PPT about activities and progress of the subregional platform in WCA, which can be found in Annex 25 of the workshop report. The participants divided into subgroups – WCA, ESA and Asia – to discuss their (sub)regional plans”. The feedback from the ESA subgroup is summarised below.

##### **Where are we with regionalisation of Prolinnova in Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA)?**

- 5 active CPs and 5 members in taskforce for regionalisation
- 1 CP not active (in Mozambique)
- Draft charter for subregional network.

Plans/Action points:

- Finalise the ESA charter and the ESA brochure
- Improve communication with the taskforce
- Engage with Prolinnova–Mozambique
- Follow up on the interest of Zimbabwe to form a CP
- Supervise the activities and operation of the CPs
- Build capacity of the CPs

- Mobilise resources for country-level and regional activities.

Some points raised during discussion of the feedback from the groups were:

- The taskforces should be helping to set up oversight groups in the subregions but, in the meantime, they could already start performing some functions on an oversight group, such as fundraising, reviewing proposals, reviewing applications to set up new CPs, etc. Their main work is to support the SRC. By the time of the IPW in 2021, it is expected that the SRCs and taskforces in Africa will have set up two functioning subregional platforms, each with an oversight group.
- As some members of the taskforce in ESA are not responding to emails from the taskforce leader (thus far Brigid but now Zacharia, because Brigid has taken over the SRC role), it was decided that Beza (Ethiopia), Mawahib (Sudan) and Vincent (Kenya) be co-opted to join the taskforce. They can then remind the other taskforce members in their respective countries.
- In the Proli-FaNS project, more funds will be needed for someone to manage the work of the CP in Ghana, as it is too much for Joe to be both project manager and CP coordinator.
- It is not realistic to expect Misereor to support full-time SRCs. Paying full-time coordinators would mean that too high a proportion of the project budget would be for staff and administration rather than for work with farmers and rural communities on the ground. It is more likely that two days a week can be covered. Time spent on writing proposals that would help to support the SRC's own salary (up to 3 more days per week) may be outside of these two days.
- For the SRC in ESA, it may be necessary to advertise the position. Brigid could stay on for 1–2 months until a new person has been identified.
- We need to be prepared that there may be a gap in funding between Proli-FaNS and SULCI-FaNS. We also need to be realistic about what one can do with limited resources. We should tap the experience and capacities of the Friends of Prolinnova in trying to move the regionalisation process forward.

A summary of tasks that were identified at the workshop are included in **Appendix 1**.

### **3.1.2 SULCI-FaNS inception workshop, December 2019**

This workshop, which aimed at ensuring that project partners have a deep understanding of the Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security (SULCI-FaNS<sup>2</sup>) project document for its effective implementation, was also held in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal, on 2–6 December. The workshop was hosted by the NGO AgriBio Services and brought together 17 participants (3 from Kenya, 4 from Ghana, 3 from Cameroon, 2 from Burkina Faso, 1 from Senegal, the 2 SRCs and 2 from the IST).

There was substantial discussion about the regionalisation process, as this is supported by the SULCI-FaNS project. One key issue which will be taken to the next Africa-wide meeting or IPW is that of the structure of the coordinating body for each subregional platform, as well as the membership of the ESA subregional platform, which is currently limited to active Prolinnova CPs located in ESA.

Some details from the workshop report with relevance to this report are included in **Appendix 2** together with lists of action items.

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<sup>2</sup>“Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security” (SULCI-FaNS) is a follow-on project to the “Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS)” project implemented in 2016–19. It aims at scaling up and consolidating the farmer-led research and innovation approach and the gains made in Proli-FaNS.

### **3.1.3 SKI Agroecology Workshop in Zambia, August 2019**

Via Ann Waters-Bayer (IST), Prolinnova was invited by Elfrieda Pschorn-Strauss (Regional Coordinator – Seed and Knowledge Initiative/SKI). The SRC assisted with arranging for Joseph Righa from Prolinnova–Kenya to attend the event in Lusaka, Zambia, in August (more information about the workshop provided in **Appendix 3**). The event included a strategy development process with SKI partners to develop a strategy for promoting agro-ecology in the region.

### **3.1.4 Networking with regional structures**

Through the AFAAS (African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services) mailing list, the SRC came across the call for inputs for the Three-Year Strategic Plan (2019–22) of the Southern African Regional Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (SARFAAS). She provided input to Andrianjafy Rasoanindrainy and Verona Parkinson that promoted local innovation and joint experimentation processes.

## **3.2 Backstopping to Prolinnova CPs**

Backstopping was undertaken for three CPs, namely in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The first SRC for ESA, Amanuel Assefa, held several meetings with the Prolinnova–Ethiopia (PE) coordinator, the advisory committee members and the members of the NSC to try and improve the participation of PE in the Proli-FaNS project and the timely submission of reports. Since there was no notable improvement, a decision was taken by the POG not to include PE in the follow-on SULCI-FaNS project. Another aspect in which the SRC had to intervene was financial management and transfer of funds to other organisations in Ethiopia.

The development of the funding proposal submitted to Nuffic for their TMT programme allowed for strengthening of linkages with Prolinnova–Mozambique. This has been challenging since Romuald Rutazihana withdrew from the network in January, both as NSC chairperson and as member of the ESA subregional taskforce. With the involvement of Domingos Tsucana and the local NGO Kulima in the submission of the Nuffic proposal, it became necessary to ensure that the platform was classified as “active”, which required compiling an annual report for 2018 in order to meet the minimum commitments of a CP. Despite his resignation, Romuald Rutazihana assisted Domingos with drafting this report. The TMT programme to take place in 2020 is seen as a key mechanism to revive the CP, as it also provides small amounts of funding for some PID activities by the participating organisations.

A number of stakeholders in Zimbabwe have sought to establish a CP in Zimbabwe, which will widen the network in ESA. Some initial discussions have taken place to see how the SRC can support the platform as it establishes its structures and initiates activities. Unfortunately, it was not possible to include Prolinnova–Zimbabwe in the funding proposal submitted to the EU, which is discussed below.

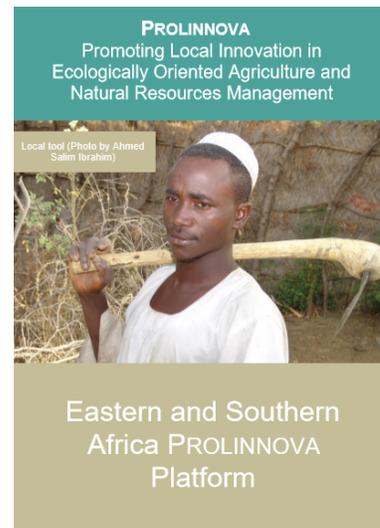
### 3.3 Other activities

#### 3.3.1 ESA subregional charter

The charter for the subregion has been further refined during 2019 and the next draft will be circulated to the taskforce by end April 2020 for their input.

#### 3.3.2 ESA brochure

Regarding the ESAPP brochure, the initial draft was revised and circulated for comment. Some CPs still need to confirm the content of their page so that the brochure can be finalised and put into use. The purpose of the brochure needs to be clear before it is finalised, especially if costs are to be incurred in having it professionally laid out and printed. Initially, it was to be a catalogue of innovations in ESA subregion, but it later took the form of a brochure describing the ESA platform and its CPs.



### 3.4 Fundraising

The main fundraising activities undertaken in 2019 that have included more than one CP have been the concept notes submitted to the EU. In 2019, it was ascertained that the AfriDIETS concept note, developed in 2018 and led by the University of Hohenheim, had not made it to the full proposal stage. In 2019, discussions were initiated again with the University of Hohenheim to respond to another EU call (CE-SFS-36-2020: Diversifying revenue in rural Africa through bio-based solutions), which was due in January 2020 and should allow for involvement of a number of Prolinnova CPs. The proposal development was coordinated by Sajid Latif (University of Hohenheim, Agricultural Engineering) and GFE (Research Center for Global Food Security). The SRC for ESA worked with various organisations in Europe and Africa to develop the concept note titled “Improving rural livelihoods through bio-based technologies and circular value chains in Africa” (BioSol4Rural). Other Prolinnova CPs involved are those in Ghana, Kenya, Senegal and Tanzania. Prolinnova–Uganda was part of a different consortium that made a submission to the same call.

A draft concept note, prepared by Amanuel Assefa and Georges Djohy, was submitted to Misereor for funding, to allow additional CP partners to attend the meetings in Senegal.

## 4 Challenges, achievements and overall assessment related to achieving objectives of SR platform

Cross-CP sharing of experiences continues to be largely limited to face-to-face events such as the two workshops that took place in Senegal during 2019. Project-related Skype calls allow for some level of exchange but is normally very much limited to discussing the project implementation and meeting reporting requirements. The taskforce that is responsible for setting up a subregional platform has not yet formed a strong and cohesive unit, and this needs to be addressed in the coming months. There is much discussion at the various meetings about how the subregional platform should be structured. These discussions need to be completed so that the charter can, in turn, be finalised.

The involvement of CPs that are not receiving funds through projects/initiatives that have been submitted in the name of the Prolinnova network is always a challenge, as the CPs have to find ways to retain the visibility of the network and to integrate the approaches that Prolinnova promotes into their existing work. A number of CPs have achieved this successfully and lessons can be learnt from them.

## **5 Conclusion**

In terms of the ESA subregion's contribution to meeting the objectives of the global Prolinnova network, the following points are noted. The first objective (enhancing local capacity to innovate) is not relevant at the level of the subregion and is taking place at CP level, for example, the capacity building with farmer innovators that took place through the Proli-FaNS project, though this was largely during the earlier part of the project – later, there was capacity development around the process of monitoring impact. There were no multi-country initiatives to strengthen the capacities of ARD activities in 2019, nor were there training events at a CP level during this period. Scaling up and mainstreaming participatory approaches (Objective 3) is achieved at CP level through the involvement of different development actors in the local and national structures, which is also a contribution to Objective 4 (strengthen MSPs), and a number of CPs reported on the involvement of new organisations and/or representatives in the NSCs. Holding farmer innovation fairs, participating in various events and contributing to strategy development processes of other organisations all contributed towards influencing national and subnational policy processes (Objective 5). Lastly, there was contribution during 2019 to the communication of evidence of the impact of PID both nationally and internationally (Objective 6), with different stakeholders being invited to participate in the Proli-FaNS and SULCI-FaNS workshops and Prolinnova members participating in other events. From this, it is clear that there was some contribution to the objectives of Prolinnova. For those CPs that had funding through the Proli-FaNS project, this was more directly related to local innovation and PID, but the other CPs also found ways to integrate the approaches of Prolinnova into various activities and events.

## Appendix 1: PROLINNOVA IPW, Toubab Dialaw, Senegal, 13–17 May 2019

**Table 1: Regionalisation process – Key Actions Points (Note: Only those with relevance for ESA)**

No.	Activity/output	Who?	By when?
<b>1.</b>	<b>Advancing resource mobilisation</b>		
	a) Finalise preparation of the follow-up proposal for the ProlinnoVA project; thus, clarifying the roles & responsibilities of the subregional coordinators with consideration of staff time compensation based on what is acceptable to the development partner	ACDEP	3 June 2019
	b) Recruitment of the Eastern & Southern Africa Platform subregional Coordinator	POG	If SULCI-FaNS successful
<b>2.</b>	<b>Preparations and hosting of the regional meetings</b>		
	a) Cameroon willing to host Africa regional meeting for 2020	Etoa, 2 SRCs / taskforces	Date of meeting: May 2020
<b>3.</b>	<b>Preparations and hosting of the International Partners Workshop 2021</b>		
	i. Tanzania: to discuss in NSC and estimate costs if interested	From Tz NSC to POG	??
<b>4.</b>	<b>Review of the ProlinnoVA Strategic Plan (SP) 2021–2025</b>		
	a) Follow-up actions for review of the SP by the selected task team	Joshua, Karbo, Emily/Chantiang, Lionel	First draft by end Feb 2020
	b) Review of the revised version	Chesha, Ann	April 2020
<b>5.</b>	<b>Activate the subregional taskforces to implement their roles</b>		
	a) Co-opt all CP coordinators as members of the Eastern & Southern Africa subregional taskforce	Done	
	b) Finalise the subregional platform charter with a clear organisation chart	SRCs	End June 2019
	c) Finalise the guidelines for selecting host organisation for (sub)regional platform by giving technical inputs	Brigid	End June 2019
	d) Advance networking/coordination with the subregional platform Taskforce POG and IST through the taskforce chairpersons	Chairpersons of the taskforces (interim while BL is SRC, Zacharia as chair of ESA taskforce)	Continuous
	e) Support coordination of the fundraising initiatives to consolidate the position of the subregional coordinators	SRCs/taskforces	Continuous
	f) Establishment of a subregional oversight group – development of its ToRs and composition		??
	Prepare guideline for the subregional oversight group	SRCs/taskforces	End July 2019
	Identify members, nominate, elect, operationalise	SRCs/taskforces	End Feb 2020
	g) Supervise and review performance of the subregional coordinator	Taskforces, ACDEP	July 2020 If SULCI-FaNS successful, then make decision
	h) Submit subregional reports on CPs and their own activities to ACDEP	SRCs	August 2019

## **Appendix 2: Inception Workshop for Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security (SULCI-FaNS), 2–6 December 2019, Centre Mampuya, Toubab Dialaw, Senegal**

**Extract from the workshop report (only information pertaining to ESA is retained):**

### **Regionalisation in Africa** (facilitation: Brigid and Georges)

The SULCI-FaNS project intends to pursue the Africa regionalisation process with greater focus and intensity and complete it by 2022 by the end of the project. The session reviewed and discussed: i) Roles and responsibilities of SRCs (in project and subregions); ii) Will the current SRCs continue, and how to replace them if required; iii) How will they be compensated; iv) Roles and responsibilities of taskforces/ subregional platforms; v) Roles and responsibilities of IST and POG; and v) the Regional Africa platform.

The topics initially presented for discussion were: i) Roles and responsibilities of the SRCs within the project and subregions; ii) Roles and responsibilities of the subregional taskforces and platforms; and iii) Roles and responsibilities of the POG and the IST.

### **Roles and responsibilities of the SRCs**

The description of the roles and responsibilities of the SRCs in the project and subregions takes into consideration the original Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the SRCs at the start of the Proli-FaNS project, the tasks of the SRCs according to the SULCI-FaNS project proposal, and the resources available to cover the SRCs' time.

The original ToRs for the SRCs during the Proli-FaNS project (2016–19) were:

#### *a) In initial period:*

- Build the subregional platform, particularly for the purpose of strengthening policy-dialogue activities at subregional and regional levels
- Create synergies and stimulate mutual learning by facilitating sharing and cross-analysis among the CPs in the subregion, including those not involved in the Proli-FaNS project
- Compile information and reports at subregional level on progress of the Proli-FaNS project and other CP activities in the subregion
- Coordinate and facilitate documentation and publication at subregional and regional level
- Coordinate and develop content for multi-CP meetings/workshops/events and disseminate reports at subregional and regional level

#### *b) Over time, depending on how the subregional platforms develop:*

- Map CPs' status regularly as a basis for enhancing performance, ensuring a vibrant membership and good governance, and facilitating capacity strengthening of the CP coordinators and NSCs
- Provide technical backstopping to the CPs in collaboration with the CP coordinators, Proli-FaNS project coordinator, NSCs and the IST
- Provide a hub for capacity building at subregional and regional level
- Formulate and implement subregional strategies to mobilise resources
- Facilitate networking and cross-learning with ProInnova regional platforms in Asia and Latin America as well with similar platforms.

### **SRCs' responsibilities according to SULCI-FaNS project objectives**

Most of the work on Objective 1 (*strengthen the innovation capacity of rural communities, particularly women, to improve food and nutrition security and community resilience*) and Objective 2 (*enhance the capacity of multiple stakeholders in agricultural research and development to promote local innovation and facilitate PID*) are the responsibility of the four CPs and the project coordinator. In this work, they may consult with the SRCs to provide some guidance and backstopping.

Compared with the SULCI-FaNS project coordinator, the SRCs have wider responsibilities to work with all CPs in Africa. They are primarily responsible for Objective 3 (*process of regionalisation is completed, strengthened and functioning*) and to some extent for Objective 2 (*national and local MSP members have become major players in facilitating and scaling up PID approach in partner project countries*).

It needs to be clarified what it means concretely that regionalisation is “completed, strengthened and functioning”. The main tasks of the SRCs in this respect would be:

- to finalise the subregional charters, which would include defining the entities (CPs or multistakeholder organisations or both) to be included in the subregional platforms and the conditions (minimum requirements) for them to be considered part of the platforms
- to make the taskforce operational so that it can accomplish its task, which is to set up the subregional platform and make it operational
- to build capacities of CPs in their subregions, e.g. through better sharing of information, mutual learning, training and mentoring in documentation of local innovation and PID processes, helping CPs improve their governance and network management, and arranging South–South backstopping
- to support networking with relevant regional and global fora in agricultural research, advisory services, education and training
- to ensure involvement of Prolinnova partners, also themselves, in policy dialogue at subregional and regional level, including preparation and presentation of policy-related papers
- to support fundraising and proposal development involving two or more CPs.

Other tasks of the SRCs would be:

- to increase the visibility of the subregional platforms by attending (sub)regional events and organising side events at such meetings
- upon request, to expand the platform to other countries, such as Benin and The Gambia.

The indicators, i.e. concrete outputs or achievements expected of the SRCs, are:

- the coordination and governance bodies of the two subregional platforms have been set up and are functioning well
- the host institutions of the two subregional platforms have been identified and confirmed, and secretariats (physical or virtual) for the two platforms have been arranged
- the modalities for a functioning regional (African) network have been put in place; this could be a regional platform or a system of networking between the two subregional platforms
- the roles of each level within the African regional network are clearly defined, and mechanisms have been put in place at all levels that allow bottom-up exchange and synergies
- a document exists that summarises the roles of the local, national, subregional and regional networks and is widely shared within and beyond the Prolinnova network
- guidelines on mechanisms for information exchange have been elaborated, published and shared
- networking, fundraising and policy dialogue have improved at subregional and regional level
- SRCs have won at least two multi-CP projects (one in each subregion) funded by various donors and each of the four CPs in SULCI-FaNS has raised funds for one complementary project
- each SRC will attend one subregional ARD event/year for sharing local innovations and the PID approach (3 in the entire project period)
- each SRC will coordinate cooperation with at least two subregional ARD fora (e.g. for research, agricultural advisory services).

According to the SULCI-FaNS proposal, the SRCs were also given the tasks of training and supporting project implementation within the four CPs. However, this should be the responsibility of the CP coordinator and/or project coordinator in each country.

Regarding M&E of the activities in the four project CPs, the SRCs will assist in ensuring that templates are available but the M&E focal points and the project coordinator will carry out the M&E.

The African POG members should be overseeing whether the Prolinnova CPs in Africa and the SRCs are working towards Objective 3. The SRC should report on this to the POG, which is responsible for evaluating the SRCs. The POG will need to be clear about what has to be in place so that it can be said that a subregional platform has been established and is functioning.

### Subregional platforms and taskforces

Some issues that arose in the discussion on subregional platforms and taskforces were:

- **Composition of subregion platforms:** The CPs are composed of multiple stakeholders. Should the subregional platforms be composed of CPs or of multiple stakeholders? Most CPs are represented by people from NGOs, who are expected to represent all stakeholders in the CPs in international meetings. In the charters, stakeholder diversity is not mentioned; only CPs are foreseen as subregional platform members. Another possibility would be to form a subregional platform of CPs plus subregional Friends of Prolinnova, i.e. individuals in other stakeholder organisations that share our vision (this is already mentioned in the charters). The subregional platforms are supposed to coordinate capacity building, mutual learning, advocacy and resource mobilisation for promoting local innovation and PID. The SRC should facilitate the functions of the platform, but not necessarily perform them. We need to consider what is the added-value of all CPs coming together and what is the added-value of including other institutions (e.g. regional research and development organisations) to support us in these functions. We should include organisations that we think can help us achieve our aims.
- **Mapping potential partner organisations:** If we want to link with (sub)regional organisations with interests and aims similar to ours, in order to build capacity within our network and strengthen our advocacy, the SRCs should map such organisations in Africa that cover more than one country in their mandate. The taskforce would need to decide whether the organisations would be partners or members of the subregional platform. The taskforces would need to decide whether organisations like WN that work in several countries in Africa or organisations that work in only one country could join the subregional platform. Ann pointed out that any interested individual or organisation at country, subregional and regional level can join the global Prolinnova network, which is the Yahoogroup with about 750 addresses. There are no restrictions on joining this group, whereas the groups that want to form a CP and join the Prolinnova Community of Practice need to be approved by the POG. A similar process of approval would need to be worked out if the subregional platform becomes a multistakeholder entity rather than a group of existing CPs.
- **Database of (sub)regional resource persons:** Some workshop participants also suggested creating a database of resource persons on which the CPs and subregional platforms could draw for advice and capacity building. However, the Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) was asked to set up such a database several years ago, put much effort into creating it and then it was not filled in or used. The workshop participants did not come to a decision on the database.
- **Physical vs virtual secretariat:** Discussion was started but not finalised on the question whether each subregional platform needs to have a physical host organisation and secretariat, or whether it should be in a virtual entity. Chesha reminded the group that the IST has always worked as a virtual body with members in different countries. A virtual secretariat would be more cost-effective than a physical office. Originally, it had been foreseen that the SRC would become a “Coordination”, i.e. the SRC plus one or more other people who work together, coordinating capacity building, mutual learning, advocacy, fundraising etc; depending on the number of projects and activities, additional support staff could be recruited. The SRCs currently have contracts with ACDEP as host organisation of SULCI-FaNS. After this project ends, the people in each “Coordination” would probably need to be contracted by a (sub)regional host organisation. This could also be a subregional focal point and need not be the host organisation of a project. The subregional oversight group would choose the focal point and SRC.
- **Evolution of the subregional taskforces:** Each taskforce is made up of one person from each CP; the CP coordinators are also copied in the correspondence. It is a temporary structure put in place to set up the subregional platform. The taskforce is meant not to become another entity but rather to set up the new organs needed at subregional level: i) subregional coordination and support team (much like the IST functions in the

global network) and ii) subregional oversight group as governance and decision-making body. The taskforce should decide on composition of the oversight group, e.g. representation of CPs (perhaps 2) plus 2–3 independent members, and how they are chosen/ elected. Just like in the POG, where CPs are represented on a (sub)regional basis, also the two CP representatives in the oversight group would represent all the CPs in the subregion and would change every 2–3 years. They would ensure information flow to and from all the CPs they represent.

- **Form of regional platform/network in Africa:** According to the project proposal, a regional platform in Africa should be set up. The taskforces need to clarify whether this should be a regional platform or a system of effective networking between the two subregions, especially to support regional activities, such as in policy dialogue. The diagrams in Annex 8 show Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) and Western & Central Africa (WCA) as two subregional platforms with good linkages between them.

It was noted that much about regionalisation was discussed during the International Partners Workshop (IPW) in May 2019; our discussion this week should have built on this. The functions of the subregional platforms were already defined, but may need revision. Not this workshop but rather the next African regional meeting in late 2020 would be the place for validating revisions – and needs to be well prepared by the SRCs. By then, the SRCs should find out from the CPs with what (sub)regional organisations they would like the network to work, and whether these should become members or partners of the platform or whether individuals from these organisations should become “Friends of Prolinnova”. The platforms should be regarded as dynamic, starting by including interested individuals from the subregional organisations as “Friends of Prolinnova” and then seeing how things evolve. The SRCs should identify such individuals and have them validated as “Friends” at the African regional meeting. The participants agreed that we should interact better with (sub)regional organisations that would add value to our work.

In summary, before the African regional meeting, the SRCs should:

- in consultation with the CPs and the POG member from the subregion, decide whether and – if so – how the members of the taskforce should be changed
- revise and finalise the charters based on what was discussed, in consultation also with CPs that were not present this week, and share the charters before the African regional meeting; the charters do not have to be identical
- get input from CPs regarding organisations and individuals that should be invited to participate in the subregional platforms and how.

## Tasks extracted from SULCI-FaNS Inception Workshop report

Responsible	Task	Timing
CP coordinators and SRCs	Send mail to Joe describing what they have done in Oct–Dec 2019 and include report on salaries and any other expenditures made, e.g. prefinanced travel costs	20 Dec 2019
CP coordinators and SRCs	Confirm receipt of funds sent by ACDEP for quarter Oct–Dec 2019	20 Dec 2019
CP coordinators, SRCs & IST	Send all subsequent narrative and financial quarterly reports within 2 weeks after quarter ends	15 <sup>th</sup> of month
CP coordinators	Make annual workplans and budget for Year 1 (Oct 2019–Sept 2020)	15 Jan 2020
CP coordinators at CP level; SRCs at subregional level	Plan policy advocacy and institutionalisation activities in more detail	Jan 2020
CP coordinator through project coordinator	Inform Misereor that Burkina CP plans to work in 3 instead of 2 sites (as written in project document) and explain reasons for it	Jan 2020
Each SRC & POG member from SR	Engage with taskforce to clarify which members want to be in it and how they want to communicate and work, and replace members if necessary	starting Dec 2019
SRCs	Revise & finalise subregional charters, consulting also with CPs not at this workshop, and share charters before African regional meeting	by Oct 2020
SRCs & taskforces	Define structure and organs in subregional platforms, including composition and roles of Subregional Oversight Group and how members chosen/elected	by Oct 2020
SRCs to coordinate	Define entities to be included in subregional platforms and conditions for their inclusion; get input from CPs about organisations & individuals to invite	by Oct 2020
SRCs, IST and POG	Produce document that summarises roles of local, national, subregional & regional networks	by Oct 2020
SRCs, IST and POG	Produce guidelines on mechanisms for information exchange between different levels of the network	by Oct 2020
SRCs & taskforces	Clarify whether Prolinnova–Africa network will be regional platform or system of effective networking between subregions to engage in joint activities	by Oct 2020
SRCs & African members of POG	Prepare for discussion of regionalisation at next African regional meeting, e.g. proposed structure/ organs/Subregional Oversight Group, where these will be adapted and confirmed	by Oct 2020
SRCs & taskforces	Identify individuals from subregional organisations to be invited to become Friends of Prolinnova	ongoing
Brigid	Design Excel templates to capture data needed for M&E and revise after feedback from M&E focal points	12 Dec 2019
Ann & Annie	Edit annual reports and post on website	ongoing
James & CP finance officers	Clarify proportion of bank charges spent by ACDEP and proportion by other CPs and divide costs accordingly	Jan 2020
SRCs & IST	Arrange training on policy dialogue to upscale PID	Year 2
SRCs & IST	Arrange training in social entrepreneurship	Year 2
SRCs & CP coordinators	Draft policy brief on local innovation and food and nutrition security	Mar 2020
SRCs/IST & CP coordinators	Finalise booklet on farmer – scientist interaction in PID	end Jan 2020
SRCs, Joe, IST, CP Cameroon, POG	Prepare and implement annual SULCI-FaNS meeting and African regional partners workshop	by Oct 2020

*\* This table does not include the tasks of the individual CPs outlined in their PPT presentations and action plans, nor does it include the tasks of the SRCs as outlined in their ToRs or the tasks of the CPs and SRCs included in the SULCI-FaNS project proposal.*

### Suggestions extracted from SULCI-FaNS inception workshop report

Responsible	Task	Timing	Comments
SRCs & taskforces	In each subregion, map individuals and institutions working with participatory ARD approaches (NGOs, research institutes, universities etc)		
SRCs & taskforces	Decide whether these organisations should be approached as partners or members of subregional platform		
Ann & SRCs	Send 1-page questionnaire to Prolinnova e-list to ask for name, country, institutional affiliation, stakeholder group and whether interested in interacting with subregional platform in their area		
SRCs & taskforces	Make database of resource persons on which CPs and subregional platforms could draw for advice and capacity building		
SRC WCA	Explore whether similar platform like AGC exists for francophone farmers		
CPs	More attention to youth in SULCI-FaNS activities		
SRCs & taskforces	Find ways to encourage more communication within and across CPs and across subregions, including with farmer innovators		Possible point of discussion at next African meeting or IPW

## Appendix 3: SKI Agroecology Workshop in Zambia

The Prolinnova network was invited to join a workshop held by SKI (Seed & Knowledge Initiative) in Lusaka, Zambia, in August 2019 on “Advancing the practice of agroecology in Southern Africa”. The workshop aimed to increase understanding of agroecology and decide where SKI should focus to increase its impact in the region. SKI is a regional initiative that works with partner organisations to support and enhance community-based seed systems and agroecology as strategies to achieve food sovereignty and mitigate the climate crisis.

Below is the information that was provided about the workshop.

### ***Advancing the practice of Agroecology in Southern Africa***

*This meeting will be held in Zambia at Kasisi on 5 and 6 August. After this we will have another two to three days with our partners in the region to develop a strategy for promoting AE in the region and to strengthen our own practices.*

*The first day will be presentations mostly and the second day will be devoted to running an Open Space session to allow people to take possibilities, ideas and thinking in general forward.*

*Overall purpose of the 2-day meeting: To increase our understanding of what Agroecology is and where we should be focusing to increase its impact in our southern African region.*

*Objectives:*

- 1. To agree on what the full spectrum of Agroecology covers (thinking in terms of Agroecological landscapes and in terms of ‘from sun to plate’).*
- 2. To do an assessment of how well we are doing in promoting Agroecology in the region.*
- 3. To identify critical gaps in the development of Agroecology in the region.*
- 4. To agree on what the focus of SKI should be in the next 4 years related to promoting Agroecology.*

Makonge Righa from Prolinnova–Kenya attended the workshop on behalf of the international network. He gave a presentation about Prolinnova’s goals and about local innovation and farmer-led experimentation. Many workshop participants appreciated the role of farmer innovation. In their interaction with farming communities, they had seen farmers coming up with innovations and experimenting with various ideas. Indeed, during the workshop field trip to nearby farms, participants identified various local innovations. However, few participants had thought of supporting the farmers to improve/expand their innovations. This clearly illustrates that Prolinnova has its work cut out in promoting local innovation and farmer-led experimentation as a development approach that can improve food security, environmental conservation and incomes.

Righa found that the local innovation concept fits well with agroecology. When communities of small-scale farmers engage in local innovation and experimentation, they are mainly addressing or contributing to agroecology elements such as increasing diversity, ensuring resource-use efficiency, minimising waste (e.g. recycling nutrients) and ensuring culturally appropriate solutions. SKI wants to build a community of practice (CoP) on agroecology and identify ways of spreading agroecology. It is grappling with some of the same issues as Prolinnova does as a network, e.g. finding efficient ways to promote local innovation and farmer-led experimentation at local, national, regional and international level; involving diverse stakeholders; mainstreaming the approach. Hence, both Prolinnova and SKI have much in common that we can share and learn from each other, working together to achieve our mutual objectives.