

PROLINNOVA–KENYA
ANNUAL REPORT
2017



The innovator showing how to get rid of chicken wastes from her locally made brooder

JANUARY 2018

ACRONYMS

ARD	Agricultural Research and Development
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CP	Country Platform
FAIR	Farmer Access to Innovation Resources
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IST	International Support Team
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
LI	Local Innovation
LISF	Local Innovation Support Facility
LSC	Local Steering Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NSC	National Steering Committee
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
PK	Prolinnova–Kenya
POG	Prolinnova Oversight Group
Proli-FaNS	Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security
Prolinnova	Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM
WN	World Neighbors

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PK PARTICIPATED IN THE 2017 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS WORKSHOP (IPW) HELD IN TAMALE, GHANA, ON 15–18 MAY. KENYA WAS REPRESENTED BY PROF. CHRIS MACOLOO (CO-CHAIR, POG) AND MR. MAKONGE RIGHA. THE WORKSHOP BROUGHT TOGETHER 38 PARTICIPANTS FROM VARIOUS CPS, THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM (IST), THE PROLINNOVA OVERSIGHT GROUP (POG) AS WELL AS FRIENDS OF PROLINNOVA TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE BY THE NETWORK. THIS WORKSHOP DISCUSSED STRATEGIC ISSUES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK, KEY BEING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL CPS AND THE REGIONALISATION (ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-REGIONS) AND SOUTHERNISATION OF THE NETWORK, I.E. MOVING AWAY FROM A HEAVY RELIANCE ON THE IST BASED IN THE GLOBAL NORTH. (HTTP://WWW.PROLINNOVA.NET/CONTENT/IPW-2017-HELD-NORTHERN-GHANA)	9
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1.0. BACKGROUND

Prolinnova is an international multi-stakeholder platform that promotes local innovation processes in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management (NRM). The network focuses on embracing the dynamics of indigenous knowledge and enhancing capacities of farmers (including pastoralists, fishers and forest dwellers) to adjust to change – to develop their own site-appropriate systems and institutions of resource management so as to gain food security, sustain their livelihoods and safeguard the environment. In several countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, diverse organisations that subscribe to the Prolinnova vision and principles have come together within these countries and formed Country Platforms (CPs), designed their own programmes and agreed on joint activities for mutual learning and policy dialogue to promote local innovation processes in agriculture and NRM.

The Prolinnova CP in Kenya was initiated in January 2007 as a network through which farmers, researchers, development agencies, entrepreneurs and policymakers share experiences and lessons to promote and sustain local innovation. The overall goal of Prolinnova–Kenya (PK) is to enhance the capacities of farmers to innovate and develop appropriate systems of resource management to achieve food security, sustain their livelihoods and safeguard the environment while taking cognisance of the dynamics of indigenous knowledge. The network comprises various partners in the agriculture, research and development sectors that include the academia, government departments such as the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers, research institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs).

A National Steering Committee (NSC) oversees the operations of PK and is currently composed of representatives from World Neighbors (WN), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), INADES Formation Kenya and ETC East Africa. At the local level, Local Steering Committees (LSCs) support the NSC in the management of the network. These are county/sub-county level committees that undertake networking and promoting local innovation at the local level as well as coordinating PK activities such as the Local Innovation Support Facility (LISF) and monitoring activities. These committees mainly comprise community members such as farmer representatives, who work with NGOs, government departments and researchers active at the county level as members that offer technical and management support.

In 2017, PK continued to implement the Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS) project, a three-year project (August 2016–July 2019) that is implemented in countries in Africa: Kenya, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Ghana and Burkina Faso. Proli-FaNS is built upon attempts over the past several years to show the value of an alternative approach to agricultural research and development (ARD) – an approach that starts with recognising and valuing community assets, especially small-scale farmers' creativity in their own efforts to experiment and innovate in order to deal with new problems or opportunities. The project builds on the successes and outcome of previous projects implemented by the platform such as Farmer Access to Innovation Resources (FAIR) and Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC–SR), which aimed at stimulating ARD actors, including small-scale farmers, to recognise local innovation processes and the outcomes of these processes and to encourage actors in agricultural research, extension and education to support farmers' initiatives in ways that strengthen local capacities to innovate and adapt.

2.0. PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

2.1. Proli-FaNS

Proli-FaNS project is implemented in two action-learning sites: Kisumu West Sub-County in Kisumu and Mukaa Sub-County Makueni. The project aims at using on-the-ground evidence of the process and outcomes of the local innovation (LI) and participatory innovation development (PID) approach as sources of learning and as evidence for policy dialogue aimed at making ARD more farmer-led and more useful for small-scale farmers. Specifically, Proli-FaNS seek to:

- i. Strengthen innovation capacity in rural communities by mobilising the embedded potentials of the local people for transformation during “normal times”, and to increase the level of resilience for “shock scenarios”.
- ii. Contribute to building functional multi-CP platforms in two sub-regions – i) West & Central Africa and ii) Eastern & Southern Africa – which may eventually lead to creation of a continental Prolinnova–Africa platform with the capacity to coordinate South–South sharing, learning and mentoring, including support to newly emerging CPs as well as linkages to other regions.

During the year, the key activities implemented were trainings in PID, conducting an inception workshop for the project, formation of LSCs, and identification and support of local innovations. These are explained in detail below.

2.1.1. Training on PID

Two trainings on PID were conducted, one at regional (multi-CP) and one at national level. The main purpose of the trainings was to provide implementation partners with knowledge in the LI/PID approach. The aim was to strengthen their capacity to effectively support local innovators as well as other stakeholders in building local innovative and adaptive capacities and documentation of the process for sharing and learning and policy influencing. Both trainings covered several topics related to LI/PID with special attention to women as innovators and supporting innovations related to food and nutrition security.

a. Training in PID at regional level

PK hosted the regional PID training on 13–16 February at Kilimo Grand Resort, Farmers’ Conference Centre in Kikuyu town on the outskirts of Nairobi. Eight participants from the Anglophone countries (Kenya, Ghana and Ethiopia) involved in the implementation of Proli-FaNS took part in the training. PK had four participants (two from each site – Makueni and Kisumu) while the CPs in Ghana and Ethiopia had two participants each.

Thematic sessions were on local innovation, PID, documentation of farmer-led joint research, farmer-led documentation, multi-stakeholder partnerships, gender in PID, policy influencing and institutionalisation of PID. Participants shared and discussed various conceptual aspects as well as Prolinnova’s diverse experiences in each of them. The workshop was facilitated by Makonge Righa from PK/World Neighbors and Chesha Wettasinha from the Prolinnova International Secretariat.



Sub regional training in Participatory Innovation Development, 13–16 February 2017, Nairobi, Kenya

b. PID training at national level

A PID training was conducted on 16–17 June in the Kisumu-West Sub-County site that targeted local partners and stakeholders involved in the coordination and implementation of Proli-FaNS. The specific objectives of the training were to:

- i. Equip the community (farmers, fishermen, etc.) and stakeholders with knowledge and skills about local innovation and farmer-led joint experimentation;
- ii. Introduce the stakeholders and the community to the Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS) project; and
- iii. Train on operationalisation and management of the LISF.

The training participants were representatives from CBOs, farmer and fisher organisations, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Health, NGOs and selected innovators identified during the initial consultative meetings conducted in 2016. Twenty-nine participants attended the 2-day training and covered sessions on local innovation, joint experimentation, LISF, farmer-led documentation and management of multi-stakeholder partnerships.



National PID training course participants at Ogal Secondary School, Kisumu West Sub-County

Another PID training was conducted on 6–8 December at Sky Hotel in Emali town, along Mombasa road, Makueni County. The workshop targeted local partners and stakeholders involved in implementing the Proli-FaNS project. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- i. Provide a clear concept of PK's definition of innovation
- ii. Receive feedback from farmers on existing innovation.
- iii. Familiarise farmers with the PID process (farmer-led and joint experimentation)
- iv. Vet farmer innovations by LSC.

The training brought together representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, CBOs, NGOs, local religious groups and County government officials from the department of Sand Conservation and Utilization Authority. The training covered sessions on local innovation, LISF, farmer-led experimentation, joint experimentation and PID documentation. During the 2-day workshop, 10 innovations were presented for vetting by the LSC.

2.1.2 National inception workshop

An inception workshop for Proli-FaNS project was conducted on 4 May to officially introduce the project to various stakeholders in the country and to share various implementation guidelines and strategies such as the multi-stakeholder guidelines and project timelines, targets and objectives. The workshop was attended by representatives from various organisations representing NGOs, farmers, CBOs and government departments.

2.1.3 Establishment and strengthening of Local Steering Committees

The LSCs play a pivotal role in coordinating local innovation initiatives at the county level. In particular, the LSCs handle the LISF at the local level by providing leadership and coordination, monitoring the implementation of local innovations supported through the LISF, and developing LISF reports for submission to the NSC. In addition, the LSCs build the capacity of farmers and the community as a whole in PID, engage in documentation of innovations (farmer-led documentation)

ensuring that relevant experiences and knowledge is shared with relevant stakeholders and concerns voiced to relevant decision makers at the local level; and are involved in networking – establishing and maintaining linkages with various relevant stakeholders at the local level that are important in promoting local innovation.

In June, the Kisumu-West LSC was formed. It is composed of five members (2 farmers, 1 NGO representative, 1 government department – agriculture and 1 researcher). The Kisumu LSC is in the process of including more members from fisherfolk, Ministry of Health, academia and other relevant stakeholders. The Makueni LSC has 10 members (5 farmer representatives, 1 local government administration, 1 NGO representative, 1 church leader, 1 youth representative and 1 local water management organisation). The LSCs have been identifying local innovations in their respective areas by calling for proposals on innovations, vetting the innovation proposals and submitting the identified innovations for further assessment by the NSC. In addition, the LSCs have been creating awareness on LI through use of various fora such as local government administration public meetings. The LSCs have developed bylaws to guide their operation and management. These guidelines are in accordance with the Prolinnova guidelines on management of local multi-stakeholder partnerships.

2.1.4 Farmer-led research

In the Makueni site, a team led by the implementing partner, INADES Formation, and representatives of the LSC made a field trip to assess and document innovations mapped during a PID training in the site in 2016. The following innovations were identified for joint experimentation, with INADES Formation and the LSC liaising with KALRO scientists to work closely with the innovators and the community to carry out joint experiments.

- i. Rabbit urine as pesticide and foliar feed
- ii. Lemon and honey fruit tree fly trap
- iii. Termite control using onion and avocado
- iv. Fertilizer from tithonia leaves and stems
- v. Live brooding for poultry farming
- vi. Croton seeds and *Aloe vera* to manage poultry diseases.

In the Kisumu site, the LSC conducted a meeting to assess innovation proposals. It forwarded 11 innovations to the NSC for further assessment and verification. Below are some of the potential innovations for support for farmer-led joint experimentation:

- i. Two-in-one energy saver *jiko* (stove)
- ii. Hanging garden
- iii. Multi-purpose *jiko*
- iv. Kitchen (sack) garden irrigation kit
- v. Local liquid detergent
- vi. Modified cassava pit
- vii. Plastic soda bottle hand sprayer.

2.2 Farmer-Led Innovators Association of Kenya

The Farmer-Led Innovators Association of Kenya (FALIA-K) was conceived on 29 May 2013 by 15 Kenyan small-scale farmer innovators during the Eastern Africa Farmer Innovator Fair co-organised by Prolinnova. The aim was to establish a legally recognised platform for small-scale

farmer innovators to promote indigenous knowledge and innovation as mitigating tools against climate change and food security.

The association is composed of local farmer innovators and aims at promoting farmer-led innovations in the country to improve agricultural productivity, food security and farmers' livelihoods. Though the association is still waiting for its registration to be finalised, it has been engaging with various partners and participating in various activities. Key activities that FALIA-K was engaged in include:

2.2.1 Library for Food Sovereignty

A Growing Culture (AGC), an international NGO that is developing a Library for Food Sovereignty (LFS) –an online platform for sharing local innovations –worked with FALIA to identify innovations in Nyando, Western Kenya. The exercise conducted in January and February identified 30 innovations, out of which 20 were documented to facilitate sharing and learning. The innovations were categorised into five groups: technological, agricultural, food and nutrition security, human/livestock treatment, locally made fish meal; and environmental.

2.2.2 Farm Radio International

In December, FALIA (K) was introduced by Farm Radio International. The radio works with partners in developing countries to deliver programmes that serve small-scale farmers through radio with the aim of fighting poverty and food insecurity. A Field Officer from the radio's partner visited innovators in Nyando, Western Kenya on 22 December and documented five innovations that will be shared with farmers through the radio.

2.2.3 NET-FUND award

An innovator from Western Kenya, Joe Ouko, won an award facilitated by the National Environment Trust Fund (NET-FUND), a quasi-government institution, through its Green Innovations Award initiative. The award was to improve his innovation on dairy goat meal (LOFODA-G-MEAL). The innovator is currently working with the institution to commercialise the goat meal and is in advanced stages of branding the product and identifying suitable investors.

3.0 OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 National Steering Committee (NSC) meetings

PK conducted several NSC meetings throughout the year. The meetings discussed various project and organisational issues such as Proli-FaNS project budgets and work plans, implementation of Proli-FaNS activities, staff recruitment, performance, strengthening the membership and the NSC, and resource mobilisation.

3.2 PK Coordination

In April, the NSC recruited a coordinator on a part-time basis. However, this person resigned in June after just three months. In October, the NSC embarked on the recruitment of another coordinator. In November, the current coordinator, Vincent Mariadho, was recruited. In the interim, Righa Makonge had served as acting coordinator.

3.3 Participation in International Partners Workshop

PK participated in the 2017 International Partners Workshop (IPW) held in Tamale, Ghana, on 15–18 May. Kenya was represented by Prof. Chris Macooloo (Co-Chair, POG) and Mr. Makonge Righa. The workshop brought together 38 participants from various CPs, the International Support Team (IST), the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG) as well as Friends of Prolinnova to review progress made by the network. This workshop discussed strategic issues aimed at strengthening the network, key being active participation of all CPs and the regionalisation (establishment of sub-regions) and southernisation of the network, i.e. moving away from a heavy reliance on the IST based in the Global North. (<http://www.prolinnova.net/content/ipw-2017-held-northern-ghana>)



International Partners Workshop, 15–18 May 2017 at University of Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana

3.4 Revision of LISF operational frameworks

PK revised two LISF frameworks used by LSCs. The frameworks are for submission of local innovations (Local Innovation Submission Form) and for vetting of innovations (Innovation Proposal Vetting Form). The revision was to ensure that the structure and content of these forms are in line with the goals and objectives of the Proli-FaNS project, in particular identifying and supporting innovations related to food and nutrition security and supporting women innovators.

3.5 PK annual partners meeting

PK held its annual partners meeting in May, jointly with the Proli-FaNS inception workshop. The meeting was used to enhance membership by using the platform to invite new members and introduce them to PK as well as to highlight PK activities and strategies. Through enhanced membership, PK expected to strengthen the NSC by diversifying and broadening the committee through inclusion of other stakeholders such as universities, farmer organisations and the private sector, that were not represented in the committee.

4.0 CHALLENGES

General election: 2017 being an election year implied that there were heightened political activities and anxiety, which reduced the pace of coordination and implementation of PK activities. In addition, the Proli-FaNS project sites are in rural areas and many community members in one way or another were involved in various politics-related engagements and this reduced their participation in PK activities, with some being put on hold altogether.

However, the elections have ushered in new leaders, especially at the local levels (county and sub-county) and this is expected to bring new administrations and management. PK intends to take this opportunity to introduce the concepts of LI and PID to the new leaders and use this as a means to engage in policy dialogue for inclusion of local innovation in the development agenda as an approach to improving the social-economic wellbeing of rural communities.

Staff turnover: For the first time, PK had the position of the coordinator on a part-time basis. This is due to inadequate funds to employ a full-time coordinator. The concept of working part-time is not embraced in Kenya and many people prefer having full-time positions. In addition, having a part-time employee might result in inconsistent productivity as, unlike full-time employees, their loyalty is not entirely with the organisation as they might be juggling multiple jobs or searching for full-time employment with better remuneration (often part-time positions are not high paying and have limited employee benefits). Therefore, holders of the position may not stay for long in the position; those applying for the position may see it as a stepping stone while they search for better positions. PK is endeavouring to address this challenge through continuously developing proposals and approaching donors for further funding to facilitate having a full-time employee.

5.0. FUTURE PLANS AND STRATEGIES

5.1. Strengthening membership

At the start of the CP, several organisations expressed interest in the network. However, over the years, there has been a great decline in their participation in the network's activities. PK therefore plans to undertake a systematic follow-up on inactive members, in addition to identifying and admitting other stakeholders into the platform. One of the strategies is to have fora where both old and new members can share and learn from each other and updates on the progress of the network can be provided. In addition, a write-up is to be developed that can be shared with potential new members. A quarterly newsletter (PK news) is being developed as a communication channel to ensure close touch with all existing members.

5.2. Resource mobilisation

PK intends to be more aggressive in its resource mobilisation through development of proposals for funding, including collaborating with other CPs to develop multi-CP proposals. In early 2018, two proposals are being developed in response to calls by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and the National Research Fund (NRF). In late 2017, a concept for funding was submitted to the Commonwealth Foundation, PK awaits feedback. PK also intends to establish strategic linkages at county, national, regional and international levels with both private and public organisations that could attract funding. The linkages with county governments will be through the LSCs.