

## **PROLINNOVA–MOZAMBIQUE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2017**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Prolinnova–Mozambique’s volume of implemented activities increased considerably in 2017 compared to the previous year, where activities were mainly limited to one seminar on sharing and training on local innovation. For 2017, Mozambique had planned a refresher course on Local Innovation (LI) and Participatory Innovation Development (PID), renewal and strengthening of the National Steering Committee (NSC), appointment of focal points at provincial and district levels, publication of a Prolinnova–Mozambique catalogue of innovations and activity planning for 2018. The present report gives a detailed account of achievements by Prolinnova–Mozambique (MZ) in 2017, including the backstopping visit to Mozambique by Brigid Letty from Prolinnova–South Africa.

### **II. ACHIEVEMENTS**

Due to continuous financial constraints, most of the above-mentioned activities initially scheduled to start from July onwards were postponed until the last quarter of 2017.

#### **2.1 REFRESHER COURSE on LI and PID**

- Dates: 15–16 November 2017
- Venue: Xai-Xai, Gaza Province
- Facilitator: Romuald Rutazihana; Co-facilitator: Vicente Zefanias
- Number of participants: 24 (10 men/14 women).

Participants came from various Prolinnova partner and member organisations, including the international NGO (CIC-Batá), local NGOs (CTO, Mahlahle, Kulima, FONGA and ADCR), a farmer organisation (UNAC), a government institution (DPP-Inhambane), an educational institution (ISPG) and a community-based organisation (Activa). The training aimed to enhance participants’ skills and knowledge on processes of local innovation and participatory innovation development. Some of the participants are expected to serve as facilitators in their respective organisations.

#### **2.2 RENEWAL OF NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (NSC)**

Towards the end of 2016, all in Prolinnova–MZ were aware that our Country Platform (CP) had been labelled “inactive” and therefore temporarily suspended from the International Community of Practice. The requirements for its re-admission had been shared among partners and stakeholders. One of the requirements was to have a strong functioning NSC. So this was one of the reasons why renewal and re-organisation of the NSC was put on the agenda of our 17 November meeting in Xai-Xai.

The activity consisted in replacing some members who were no longer active, confirming the remaining ones who were still active, and strengthening the NSC structure at provincial level. In this regard, **Romuald Rutazihana** (independent member) was appointed as the new chairperson to replace the representative from the Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM-Gaza), who was no longer active and had moved to another province. Unlike in the previous NSC, it was decided to have two deputy-chairpersons, so **Kulima** was confirmed as the first deputy, while **UNAC** was elected to serve as the second deputy. Kulima indicated **Ms Miriam Morgado** to fill the post, while UNAC selected **Claudio Machabana**. **Nelson Mesquita** (ISPG) was re-elected as NSC secretary; **Mahlahle (in Inhambane)** and **CTO (in Maputo)** were asked to serve as NSC representatives from their respective provinces. The NSC list also includes ADCR's **Ms Gilda Fafetine**, the current Prolinnova–MZ national coordinator.

### 2.3 APPOINTMENT OF FOCAL POINTS

During the same November meeting, focal points were appointed at provincial and district levels in the three provinces where the network is present, namely Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane. There are a total of eight focal points (5 in Gaza, 2 in Inhambane, 1 in Maputo). The roles of the focal points are to facilitate integration of Prolinnova's approach into their organisations, to identify and document local innovations and to report to the Prolinnova–MZ coordinator in Xai-Xai. This also was a novelty aiming to improve the CP functioning at all levels.

### 2.4 REVIEW OF PROLINNOVA–MZ CATALOGUE OF LOCAL INNOVATIONS

After the NSC elections, participants discussed and agreed on the reviewed version of Prolinnova–MZ's catalogue of local innovations. The catalogue was the result of a combined effort of all organisations involved in Prolinnova–MZ and was published in late December.

### 2.5 BACKSTOPPER'S MEETING WITH PROLINNOVA–MZ NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Although it happened in February 2018, Brigid Letty's backstopping visit to Mozambique is reported in this 2017 activity report because it was initially scheduled for late July 2017, had to be postponed several times but preparations for the meeting were made already during 2017. The visit aimed to help the Mozambique CP meet the minimum requirements of Prolinnova in accordance with the network's Guidelines #8 and to improve NSC functioning. The meeting took place on 10 February 2018 at the Kulima office in Maputo city. These were the seven participants and their respective organisations:

- ✓ Ms Cristina Natália – CTO
- ✓ Luis Luene – CIC-Bata
- ✓ Claudio Machabana – UNAC
- ✓ Ms Miriam Morgado – Kulima
- ✓ Ms Gilda Fafetine – ADCR
- ✓ Romuald Rutazihana – independent
- ✓ Domingos Tsucane – independent

The following main items were discussed:

**i. Minimum commitments for re-admission of Mozambique CP:**

- *NSC structure and interventions to improve functioning* – Brigid was given a detailed account of the November meeting where the NSC was re-organised and strengthened in a bid to revitalise the CP (*please refer to points 2.2 & 2.3 above for more details*).
- *Submission of an annual report* – Romuald previously sent a summary for the website, but Gilda was tasked to coordinate inputs from members into a report for 2017. Previously, members saw it only as a task for Gilda, so this was a new approach. The report was expected to be shared by end of February 2018.
- *Sharing of information on Prolinnova Yahoogroup and website* – Brigid promised to ensure the Prolinnova website guideline document was circulated; the NSC undertook to keep the Mozambique page updated with documents such as the innovation catalogue. Brigid undertook to circulate the documents and ask Ann for the password for Mozambique.
- *Developing of concepts / proposals with other CPs* – There were discussions about Prolinnova–MZ’s participation in the FAO concept note due on 1 March 2018. Brigid undertook to forward documents and then Prolinnova–MZ to communicate with Joshua Zake (Prolinnova–Uganda) and Amanuel Assefa (Prolinnova Subregional Coordinator for Eastern & Southern Africa).

**ii. Interaction with Timor Leste, another Portuguese-speaking CP**

It was decided that Brigid would make introductions between the Mozambique team and the Timor Leste coordinator Xisto Martins. The first document to be shared with Timor Leste would be the innovation catalogue, which is in Portuguese.

**iii. Planning for the May 2018 meeting in Kenya**

Prolinnova–MZ was informed that the Nairobi meeting on 22–24 May 2018 for African CPs would replace the International Partners Workshop (IPW) in this year. The first two days will focus on the Prolinnova–FaNS (Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security) project and the third day will focus on regionalisation of Prolinnova activities in Africa. We agreed that Prolinnova–MZ members would undertake to enquire within their organisations about the possibility of covering the cost of their participation. Brigid was asked to provide an indication of the costs involved. The NSC would like to be able to send two people to the Nairobi meeting so that one non-English speaking person can attend.

**iv. Opportunities for collaboration with Prolinnova–South Africa**

There was some discussion about developing proposals together with the CP in South Africa and some possible themes were discussed. The possibility of expanding beyond agriculture to include water and sanitation initiatives (e.g. protecting springs) and erosion control work were discussed briefly.

## **2.6 ACTION PLAN FOR 2018**

During the November meeting, it was not possible to produce an action plan for 2018 due to time constraints. However, participants defined what would be the major focus of Prolinnova–MZ activities in 2018: networking and advocacy, fundraising, capacity building, and identifying and attracting new relevant partners. The Prolinnova–MZ national coordinator and the new NSC chairperson were tasked to draft an action plan, which would be shared with other NSC members and the provincial focal points for review and approval by end of January 2018.

## **III. CONCLUSIONS**

Despite continuous financial constraints and the departure of trained and experienced members, Prolinnova–MZ was more active during 2017 compared to the previous year. CIC-Bata’s financial support was crucial for the above achievements. In order to sustain this momentum in the CP during 2018, much effort is required for Prolinnova–MZ to successfully raise additional funds to support LI and PID activities. Submission of concept notes alone or jointly with other CPs will be one of the strategies adopted to this end. Networking and advocacy activities will also be on top of the Prolinnova–MZ agenda. Capacity-building activities will continue to be central to the CP’s activities in 2018, while trying to attract relevant stakeholders such as researchers.

*Compiled by*

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