

2017 Annual Report Contribution: PROLINNOVA–South Africa

FUNCTIONING OF THE COUNTRY PLATFORM

PROLINNOVA-South Africa is not currently active as a functioning platform although some members have engaged in related initiatives during 2017. Brigid Letty, currently the focal point for the South African platform, attended the 2017 International Partners Workshop which took place in the town of Tamale, Ghana, which allowed for interaction and sharing of experiences with other country platforms, specifically discussions regarding regionalisation. Ms Zanele Shezi has taken over the role of facilitating local networking between partners in KwaZulu-Natal Province. She has had discussions with Pietermaritzburg Association for Community Social Action (PACSA), Mahlathini Rural Development Trust, KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Farmer Support Group. There is willingness for a younger group of practitioners to share experiences.

HOSTING OF STUDENTS FROM UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Two students, Emily Kelly and Claire Martin were hosted by Institute of Natural Resources and Mahlathini Rural Development Trust for a 6-week period in June. This arrangement is likely to continue, as it was an effective way for the students to gain experience of the South African context. They worked on a number of different rural agricultural projects.

Emily and Claire enjoying a South African braai with INR staff and students.



BACKSTOPPING TO PROLINNOVA–MOZAMBIQUE

Through the Proli-FaNS (Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security) project, funds were made available in 2017 for Brigid Letty to provide backstopping support to the team in Mozambique. Due to other work commitments, this was postponed to 2018.

PARTICIPATION IN AFAAS EVENT

At the request of the Eastern and Southern African Prolinnova Platform (ESAPP), Brigid Letty attended the final day of the 3rd AFAAS Africa-Wide Agricultural Extension Week combined with the 51st Annual Conference of the South African Society for Agricultural Extension that took place in Durban, South Africa from 30 October to 3 November 2017. The final day was a side event on “Strengthening Extension and Rural Advisory Services Systems in Africa” that was facilitated by Ms N Ernst from GFRAS (Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services). AFAAS is the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services and Brigid’s participation created some interaction with Max Olupot of AFAAS, which may lead to future collaboration.

Prepared by: Brigid Letty, Institute of Natural Resources NPC, bletty@inr.org.za