

## **Prolinnova–Ghana Report for 2014 and 2015**

Following the end of the externally funded Prolinnova and FAIR-LISF projects in Ghana, NGO partners of the CP who have mainstreamed PID /LI approach into their agriculture and food-security projects continued to promote and support farmer innovation and capacity building to achieve greater productivity and climate resilience for rural smallholder farmers. ACDEP and Core members have also actively been involved in like-minded local platforms to ensure that climate change responses and adaptation strategies and activities are built on farmers' local knowledge and innovations. Highlights of activities during 2014 and 2015 are as follows. Detail reports for 3 NGO partners under the FAIR-LISF zones are also provided:

- PID and local innovation activities promoted by NGO partners among smallholder farmers (details below)
- Participation in Annual National Farmers Celebration Day by NGO partners and their innovators to showcasing best innovations and awards to best innovators, organized by Ministry of Food & Agriculture
- Participation of ACDEP (host NGO) and Core CP members in local climate change innovation platforms, including the CCAFs and the CIAT-led Water-land-Ecosystems project and Ministry of Food and Agriculture's Climate-Smart agriculture food systems project platforms.

### **Detailed reports of NGO partners**

#### **1. NABOCADO (Navrongo-Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Development Office)**

After the end of externally funded Prolinnova activities in Northern Ghana, the Upper East LISF Zone entered into partnership with Center for Development Research in the University of Bonn to implement a three-year Local Innovation Contest after a one-year pilot covering all the 13 administrative districts of the region. The focus of the partnership is organizing an annual local innovation contest for interested farmers who wish to showcase their own locally developed innovations. The contest has been mainstreamed into the Ghana version of National Farmers Day which comes off on the first Friday of December annually.

The Farmer Innovation Contest is organized by Dr. Tobias Wünscher at WASCAL (West African Science Service Center for Climate Change and Adapted Land Use) and the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany.

Local partners involved in planning and facilitating the context were: Navrongo-Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Development Office (NABOCADO), host organization; Department of Agriculture (DOA); Savanna Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) and Animal Research Institute (ARI); Representative of Farmer Organizations.

#### **The process of organizing the local innovation contest**

Signing of MOU between the Bonn University and NABOCADO to implementation of the contest; information workshops with pre-selected farmers in 3 selected districts; training workshops for the extension staff of the local Department of Agriculture to enable them to participate in the process by deepening their understanding of local innovations. Interested

farmers pick application forms from the AEAs, who also support them to fill the forms. The applications are picked up and screened district agricultural offices in Upper East Ghana. The committee visits shortlisted applicants in the field to validate the innovations. Four applicants are shortlisted from each administrative district. All the award winners receive their awards during the Regional and District Farmers Day on the first Friday of December.

### **Participation in 2015 International Innovation Fair**

In 2015 the Bolgatanga Zonal Innovation Committee participated in an international innovation fair in Burkina Faso. Ghana is the only Anglophone country to participate in the fair. Ghana was represented by 4 previous award winners in the local innovation contest; 3 Researchers, 6 staff of the Department of Agric and 1 NGO representative. The fair afforded the Ghanaian platform to exhibit some of their innovations. At the end of the programme one Ghanaian exhibitor won an award as one of the best exhibitors.

### **2. Evangelical Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (EPDRA)**

Five farmers under the NGO partner (EPDRA) in the Northern Region of Ghana have sustained their innovations in ethno-veterinary medicine for treatment of various disease of ruminants and poultry. As a result, 70 other farmers (10 females) have adopted and using the innovation their livestock rearing. Field staff of the NGO and Department of Agriculture have continued to pay serious attention to training and promoting farmers innovations in soil fertility management, livestock production and environmental management, thus mainstreaming local innovation as key extension approach.

### **3. Zasilari Ecological Farm Project (ZEFP)**

As part of supporting vegetable farmers to control and prevent pest/diseases in the production of onions, tomatoes and other vegetables in the district. ZEFP and her allied farmers supported and tried two bio-pesticides combination and the results were relatively good. These are being improved upon in this season for the larger farmer population in the district. The two (2) innovations are described below:

#### a) Innovation 1

The following botanicals were used for the preparation of environmentally friendly pesticides for pest management:

- Kapok roots
- Mahogany bark
- Chilli pepper
- Neem seeds

The preparation steps used are:

1. Pound the Kapok roots, Mahogany bark, Chilli pepper & Neem seeds together and dry them
2. Soak the pounded materials in water and shake daily for three days
3. Filter the soaked water into a knapsack to eliminate potential particles that may impede smooth spray

4. After the soaked water is filtered into the knapsack you can now spray
5. Spraying is done every two weeks at least

#### Innovation 2

The ingredients and preparation processes were:

- Neem seeds
  - '*Palga*' roots (local name)
- I. Collect Neem seeds
  - II. fry (dry fry) the Neem seeds and grind and winnow out the seed coat
  - III. After winnowing, grind the material into flour
  - IV. Soak the flour with hot water to extract the oil in the Neem
  - V. After extracting the oil, you then soak the paste (residue) and the '*Palga*' roots in water for three days
  - VI. Filter and pour into knapsack
  - VII. Add 50mls of the extracted Neem oil into the knapsack and mix and spray
  - VIII. Spraying is done every two weeks at least

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