

PROLINNOVA–PHILIPPINES UPDATE 2019

**Building the infrastructure for
Strengthening Rural Advisory Services
(RAS) through Innovation Development
Platforms**

PROLINNOVA–Philippines was recognized as a CP in August 2013. It was conceptualized to explore models of local innovation platforms (municipal level) to bring together stakeholders and to serve as units for fostering innovation development and for promoting and outscaling farmer innovations while bringing national planners to recognize the value of local-level outscaling as being an important basis for upscaling. Evidence-based advocacy through proof-of-concept sites demonstrating effective models is expected to result in policy influencing.

PROLINNOVA–Philippines aims to enhance the Rural Agricultural Services at the local (municipal) level through the introduction of multi-stakeholder innovation development platforms. Specifically, it aims to:

- ▶ use an innovation development approach to leverage the nutritional and livelihood contributions of agriculture and allied sciences;
- ▶ identify and document local innovations, innovation processes and innovators among farmers by enhancing capacities at different levels: communities, academe, local government units and NGOs;
- ▶ facilitate the establishment of local-level multi-stakeholder platforms for the testing, adoption, adaptation and sharing of innovations in agriculture and natural resource management, and provision of rural advisory services; and,
- ▶ raise awareness on participatory innovation development (PID) approaches among policymaking and academic institutions.

IN 2017, IIRR EXPANDED MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNTRY PLATFORM TO THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:

- 1. OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURE, GUINAYANGAN MUNICIPALITY IN QUEZON**
- 2. REGIONAL OFFICE 4A, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (FORMERLY STIARC)**
- 3. SOUTHERN LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE OF QUEZON PROVINCE**

2019 ACTIVITIES

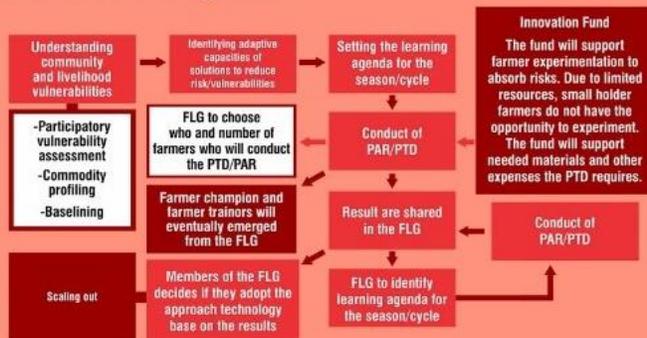


...s able to buy several seedlings of fruit trees and black pepper through the provided funds. I planted those on my farm to test what will grow best under local conditions.



Efrenia Untalan
Agroforestry Farmer

Community innovation fund (CIF)* is a type of support system provided to learning groups or individuals in order to catalyze and support knowledge generation on practices and strategies for addressing location-specific climate change issues. CIF is set up to provide farmers easy access to funds for: 1) supporting farmers' efforts to experiment and innovate strategies and practices to address current and future climate change impacts; and 2) developing farmer leaders' capacities as local knowledge resource on climate resilient agriculture practices. CIF is also a safety net for farmers to engage in experimentation without sacrificing productivity and income from their farms. Set-up and management of the fund is mutually agreed between farmers and local extension agents.



* CIF is adapted from PROLINNOVA <https://www.prolinnova.net/>

In 2019, the track of Philippine country platform is to scale out climate smart agricultural innovations tested in a climate smart village in Quezon. With 2 other members (DA Region 4A and Office of the Municipal Agriculture of Guinayangan) 2 municipal wide learning events that highlighted the concept of farmer innovation to adapt to climate change and the role of innovation fund to facilitate this were conducted.

➤ In partnership with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS SEA), a roving workshop on 9-13 July 2019 was organized. The workshop gathered 12 participants from the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN), specifically from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand. <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/106893>

➤ Another learning event, this time in partnership with the Philippine Prolinnova member, the Regional Office of the Department of Agriculture, Region 4A. This time around 100 local executives and agricultural officers from the 9 adjoining municipalities of Guinayangan, Quezon also held a roving workshop. In both events, participants engaged with the Guinayangan farmer innovators. During the community dialogue, the farmers emphasized the need to have a platform for farmers to conduct participatory innovation development (PID). They further highlighted the value of innovation fund as a factor in facilitating resource-poor farmers in supporting their ideas for innovation.



HOUSEHOLDS WITH XDP PATIENTS USE BACKYARD GARDENING USING BIO INTENSIVE PRINCIPLES AS ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF INCOME BUT ALSO AS A HEALING ACTIVITY FOR THEIR XDP MEMBER

Meanwhile, in a resolve to scale out further innovations in climate smart agriculture, IIRR has partnered with a local organization, the Sunshine Foundation. The foundation is focused on providing clinical and aid care to patients affected with X-Linked Dystonia parkinsonism or XDP. It is an adult-onset genetic movement disorder which primarily affects males of Filipino descent especially those with ancestry from the Visayan region. It is characterized by dystonic and Parkinson traits. IIRR facilitated the exchange of knowledge with farmer innovators from Ivisan, IIRR's learning community, to select households of the foundation's XDP beneficiaries. Around more than 50 households with XDP members started to set up their own backyard gardens using the principles of bio-intensive garden approach and raising small livestock promoting the principle of low external inputs approaches innovated by Ivisan farmers based in their context.