

<u>PROJECT REPORT (NARRATIVE): JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 2017</u>		
1.1	Project no. & title	100-900-1543 Z Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security: enhancing women's creativity to increase community resilience to change in Africa (PROLI-FaNS)
1.2	Project location/region	Total of 8 selected learning sites (counties/districts) in 5 countries in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya
1.3	Reporting Period	January 1 to March 31, 2017
1.4 Legal holder of the project (organisation)		
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Date/place: April 28, 2017; Tamale, Ghana.

Signature of person responsible for the report



BRIEF OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY TO MARCH 2017 (CONSOLIDATED REPORT)

During the period of January to March, the five ProInnova Country Platforms (CPs) – in Kenya, Ghana, Ethiopia, Cameroon and Burkina Faso – and the International Support Team (IST) at the ProInnova International Secretariat implemented various activities under their work plans towards achieving the *Promoting Local Innovation for Food & Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS)* project objectives. This is an overview consolidated report on activities implemented both at the CP and the regional levels in the period of January to March 2017. The main report is annexed by the individual partners' reports of activities and outputs achieved for the same period.

A) ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AT CP LEVEL

Selection and refining local innovations

During the period, all CPs undertook further local participatory exercises to screen and validate to finalize their innovations to meet the agreed criteria and respective targets. In Cameroon, this activity continued throughout January, February and March 2017. The local group of Nkometou Committee and Ekoumdouma met each month on the selection and validation process. In Burkina, the list of innovations selected was finalized and the data were harmonized at the level of the three partner NGOs. Overall, the CP has 17 innovations by women and three innovations by men or mixed groups. The CP in Burkina also undertook further sensitization at its project sites to help communities understand the project and approach and to actively participate. In Ghana, the process led finally to 45 female-dominated innovations selected, validated and profiled, from which three in each learning site have been selected for PID and other activities from April to the end of the calendar year.

Establishment of local multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs)

These were established by the CP Ghana at the project sites to support project implementation and advocacy and to promote learning and institutionalization. The Burkina Faso CP organized two meetings to set up two multi-stakeholder platforms in Gourcy and Gomponsom. More than 20 participants per site were registered. The guideline on the MSP (Guideline 10) was explained to the participants with the attributions, the organization and operational mode of these structures. Cameroon has identified and sensitized relevant local stakeholder institutions in preparation for setting up the local MSP in the next quarter. The CPs in Kenya and Ethiopia had already established their MSPs in a previous project. Members of MSPs are selected from relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions, the private sector, traditional rulers, community-based organizations and women and men farmers and their groups. Where local MSPs have been established, the CPs or local implementing NGOs are now helping them to draft rules and bylaws and to enhance and systematize their functionality.

Launch of project at local sites

The Ghana CP launched the project with colourful ceremonies at its two sites in Bongo and Yendi in March, characterized by speeches from host NGO, local implementing NGO, local-level decision- and policymakers, traditional rulers and media publicity. The event has been published in two national newspapers and the stories posted on the Proli-FaNS webpage (www.prolinnova.net/fns). The launch has created wider public awareness and signified local

acceptance and commitment to the success of the project. The CPs in Ethiopia and Cameroon had earlier launched their projects at national level. Kenya plans to launch the project at national level in May 2017.

In other advocacy activities, Burkina Faso presented the project to CPF and ROPPA. After the presentation of the project, these institutions are willing to collaborate, particularly in disseminating the results of the project with their members on the ground.

Local training on PID and commencement of PID /farmer-led research process

After the training-of-trainers workshops for francophone and anglophone CPs in Ouagadougou and Nairobi, respectively, the CPs in Ethiopia, Burkina and Cameroon have organized similar trainings for their stakeholders including field staff, MSP members, innovators and working groups at local or site levels. The CPs Ghana and Kenya will hold similar trainings in April and June, respectively.

PID activities were started in two CPs – Burkina Faso and Ethiopia. In Burkina, the beginning of the joint experimentation process for five selected innovations by women was started by providing them with funds to develop protocols and purchase small experimental equipment. This prepares the ground for the PID process from April to October. The women were also educated on the PID approach and process and the principle of sharing the results and knowledge generated from the joint experimentation. In Ethiopia, data collection and monitoring of experimentation on sex determination by egg shape are being conducted by poor women in Mai Siye village. All periodic data are summarized and reported to the district level including the farmer research group (FRG), who – together with external experts – jointly evaluate the process on a monthly basis.

National Steering Committee (NSC) meetings

The CP in Kenya held an NSC meeting on 19 March 2017. Key issues discussed were recruitment of the country coordinator, progress and updates on Proli-FaNS, IPW 2017 participation, membership of NSC/leadership, CP membership drive and proposal development for funds. A new female part-time coordinator was subsequently appointed to start work in April 2017. In Burkina Faso, the National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting was held on 30 March 2017 in the Réseau MARP office (an NGO partner in the CP), involving various participants from NGOs and associations, researchers, technicians and farmer representatives. The overall goal was to share information on PID and joint experimentation and to discuss the work plan for the next quarter. The question of financing farmer-led research was also discussed. The Ghana CP will hold an NSC meeting in April.

B) ACTIVITIES AT REGIONAL LEVEL AND PROJECT COORDINATION

PID training for francophone and anglophone CPs (training on methodologies & tools)

As part of improving knowledge and building capacities of CPs on basic methodologies to enhance project implementation, a four-day training course on PID and related topics was organized at sub-regional level in Nairobi for Ghana, Ethiopia and Kenya (anglophone CPs) and in Ouagadougou for Cameroon and Burkina (francophone CPs). Two IST members led the training, one in each location. The anglophone training was co-facilitated by the then acting Prolinnova–Kenya coordinator under a South–South capacity-building support arrangement. There were eight participants at each training, with the host CP presenting more than two persons each. Topics and

concepts dealt with included local innovation, PID / joint experimentation, local innovation support facility (LISF), gender in PID, M&E of PID, documentation, MSPs, policy-influencing dialogue and institutionalization (full training reports can be found at www.prolinnova.net/fns).

South–South backstopping support to Prolinnova–Cameroon

To strengthen capacities of younger and less experienced CPs for effective CP coordination and governance and Proli-FaNS implementation, Joe Nchor of Prolinnova–Ghana (Proli-FaNS coordinator) and Djibril Thiam of Prolinnova–Senegal and POG (Prolinnova Oversight Group) member visited and offered technical support to Prolinnova–Cameroon in February/March. The 5-day visit used a combination of meetings with the host NGO staff and stakeholders, coaching sessions, field visits to the project site and debriefing sessions to achieve its objectives.

The key results achieved were: enhanced capacities of the host NGO (COSADER) to establish and coordinate governance structures such as the NSC and local and national MSPs and technical working team; better understanding in identifying and selecting relevant innovations; better skills to engage in and facilitate PID and local innovation processes with women and community groups; and overall increased knowledge and confidence to implement Proli-FaNS (the full trip report is being finalized by the backstopping team).

Recruitment of two sub-regional coordinators

The recruitment process for two sub-regional coordinators (SRCs) for the West & Central Africa (WCA) and the Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) sub-regions was undertaken by the POG, assisted by the IST and the CPs in the two zones. The part-time positions were publicly advertised, including on the Prolinnova website. From well over 100 applicants, a short list was made of five candidates in WCA and three candidates in ESA. A subsequent voting process by the CPs helped to rank the shortlisted candidates, after which Skype interviews were held by the POG co-chairs and the Proli-FaNS coordinator to select the best candidates. The two SRCs have since been appointed to take office from 1 May 2017.

Developing project guidelines and sharing with CPs and Prolinnova network

During the reporting period, ACDEP and the IST finalized and shared various project guidelines drafted during the project inception workshop in November 2016 to serve as essential tools for managing Proli-FaNS and coordination within the Prolinnova network. Guidelines and other documents so far finalized include:

- i. Guidelines for communication in Proli-FaNS and within the Prolinnova network*
- ii. Guidelines for identifying local innovations*
- iii. Guidelines for setting up local multi-stakeholder platforms*
- iv. Guideline for documenting local innovations (draft)*
- v. Guidelines for National Steering Committees (draft).*

The guidelines (in English and French) and other reports have been posted on the Proli-FaNS webpage (www.prolinnova.net/fns) and the Guidelines webpage (<http://prolinnova.net/content/prolinnova-guidelines>) on the Prolinnova website.

Preparation for 2017 Prolinnova International Partners Workshop in Ghana

This year's annual Prolinnova International Partners Workshop (IPW 2017) is being planned by ACDEP with support of the IST to be held in Tamale, Ghana on 15–19 May, with Prolinnova–Ghana as the host. The venue is the University for Development Studies (UDS) International Conference Centre. Preparations are ongoing, including booking of accommodation/facilities/logistics; booking of international and local flights; local visa arrangements; invitation letters to participants; and planning the budgets, opening ceremony and field visit. About 40 participants from the Prolinnova network in Africa, Asia, Latin America; IST/POG members, Misereor, University of Virginia and NGOs have been invited to the 4-day workshop. A meeting of the POG will take place on the weekend before the IPW (13–14 May), and a meeting of the Proli-FaNS partners will be held on 19 May to discuss progress, challenges and plans for the rest of the year.

CONCLUSION

Good progress has been made in terms of the project implementation with women-focused innovations selected, necessary project governance and implementation structures established and capacities built on project concepts, tools and management principles. Field activities on farmer-led research, advocacy, documentation and M&E and learning will characterize the next implementation period, which coincides with the rainy season. Subregional activities will be accelerated in the coming months following recruitment of the SRCs. Delayed submission of financial and narrative reports from the project partners is, however, a constraint being addressed by ACDEP. Many organizations need 3–4 weeks after the completion of the quarter to finalize their financial administration, which does not allow them to produce a financial report immediately at the end of the quarter. It is much more realistic to allow them to submit reports within three weeks after the end of the quarter.

APPENDIX: REPORTS OF THE CPs AND IST/KIT FOR JAN TO MAR 2017.

IST / KIT

The following is a summary of the activities undertaken by the Prolinnova International Support Team (IST) that includes of Ann Waters-Bayer, Chesha Wettasinha, Gabriela Quiroga and Ingrid Flink.

a. PID training for francophone CPs

This Participatory Innovation Development (PID) training in French was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 23–26 January 2017. The workshop was facilitated by Gabriela Quiroga with the participation of eight participants from Burkina Faso and Cameroon (including 7 men and 1 women). The training covered the basic concepts of the LI/PID approach and paid attention to gender and food and nutrition security as required by Proli-FaNS. The workshop included a field visit to sites where local innovations in food and nutrition security were found. The report is found at: <http://www.prolinnova.net/content/atelier-d%C3%A9veloppement-participatif-de-l%E2%80%99innovation-dpi>

b. PID training for anglophone CPs

Similarly, a PID training in English was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 16–19 February 2017. The workshop was co-facilitated by Makonge Righa of Prolinnova–Kenya and Chesha Wettasinha of the Prolinnova International Secretariat. Unlike the Francophone training in Burkina Faso, a field visit could not be included due to budgetary constraints, but two farmer innovators joined the workshop and their innovations were used as examples for training purposes. Eight participants from Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya participated in the workshop and included 5 men and 3 women. One of the key focus areas of the workshop in keeping with the objectives of Proli-FaNS was local Innovation (LI) and PID in relation to women’s innovation in food and nutrition security. The workshop report has been posted on Prolinnova’s website at: <http://www.prolinnova.net/content/sub-regional-training-participatory-innovation-development-nairobi-kenya-13-16-february-2017>

c. Selection of two Prolinnova sub-regional coordinators for Africa

As agreed during the Proli-FaNS inception meeting, the POG co-chairs took the lead in facilitating the process of identifying coordinators for the two sub-regions agreed on by the African CPs during the International Partners Workshop (IPW) in 2016, namely West and Central Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa. The process was supported by Ingrid Flink of the International Secretariat by sending around the call, collecting and compiling the long list of candidates, setting up a Dropbox with all the application documents of the shortlisted candidates, requesting the CPs in each sub-region to send their rankings and notifying the candidates who were not selected. Ann Waters-Bayer and Chris Macoloo were involved in finalising the call for candidates, making the short lists, interviewing the short-listed candidates and making the final selections based on the CP’s rankings. Two sub-regional coordinators have been selected and ACDEP is in the process of contracting them.

d. Support to preparation of IPW 2017 and Proli-FaNS partners meeting

Prolinnova–Ghana volunteered to host the IPW 2017 from 15–18 May in Tamale and to use the event to piggyback a meeting of the Proli-FaNS partners on 19 May 2017. Preparations for the event began in January 2017 and have continued throughout the reporting period. Chesha was selected by the team at KIT to be the main person responsible for providing support to ACDEP for the events. Ingrid sent out the general invitation and reminders to the CPs. Chesha and Ann have been involved in drafting the programme for the IPW and circulating it to the CPs for feedback. Chesha and Ann also drafted and submitted a proposal and a budget to SDC to get additional funding for several CP and POG members to participate in the IPW and POG meetings. Chesha was involved in finalising the contract between KIT and SDC and for making travel arrangements for the SDC-funded participants. Chesha has also provided support to Michael Pervarah of ACDEP in on-going logistical and organisational matters pertaining to the IPW.

e. Support to setting up M&E framework

Chesha provided comments on the first draft of the M&E framework for Proli-FaNS developed by Violet Kirigua of Prolinnova–Kenya. Thereafter, Chesha met with Violet when visiting Nairobi (for the PID training) and discussed the next version of the M&E framework and provided further comments.

f. Other coordination and backstopping support

- *Comments on guidelines:* Ann and Chesha provided feedback on some guidelines prepared by Joe for internal use of Proli-FaNS partners. They included guidelines for identifying and documenting innovations and guidelines for communication within Prolio-FaNS. Together with Wilhelmina from ACDEP, Gabriela contributed to translations of the guidelines into French and obtained feedback and improvements from Proli-FaNS partners in Cameroon and Burkina Faso
- *Updating translation of key terms:* Gabriela and Ann updated the translation of key terms and acronyms used in Prolinnova/Proli-FaNS, with the support of francophone Proli-FaNS partners.
- *Feedback on reports to Misereor:* Chesha commented on the consolidated narrative report for the period August–December 2016 before it was submitted to Misereor
- *Setting up webpage for Proli-FaNS:* Ann worked with Norbert (ACDEP) and Annie (IIRR) to set up a webpage for the Proli-FaNS project and to upload documents.
- *Support to set up MoU for backstopping visit of Djibril and Joe to Cameroon:* Ann, Chesha and Gabriela provided comments on the draft MoU and helped finalise it. Gabriela who happened to be in Senegal for other work, used the opportunity to prepare this trip with Djibril. Ann and Chris, as POG co-chairs, have been following up on the backstopping report and having discussions with Christine Andela of COSADER (host organisation of Prolinnova–Cameroon).
- *Long-distance support to the CPs and ACDEP as required:* Ann and Chesha joined a Zoom virtual conference on 1 February that discussed several operational issues. They also prepared the notes of the meeting. Ann, Chesha and Gabriela maintained regular communication through phone, e-mail and Skype with the CPs partners and supporting them as and when necessary on Proli-FaNS implementation.

GHANA

During the period of January to March 2017, field activities on the Project continued earnestly in the two learning sites of the Yendi and Bongo Districts. The activities implemented were focused on refining selected innovations, validation and profiling them into a database; Establishment of two local site-based multi-stakeholder platforms; and launching the project at local levels at the learning sites. Project management and coordination activities with international partners also took place. Description of the activities and outputs are as follows:

Selection and refining local innovations

Further identification, refining and validation of the initial local innovations with community representatives, local MSPs and the working group were undertaken to ensure quality innovations that are accepted and approved for implementation. The Bongo site have a final female-dominated of 17 innovations and Yendi 28 has innovations all selected validated and profiled, from which three in each site will be chosen and planned for PID, and the remaining promoted through local innovation processes from the next quarter of April to end of calendar year.

Documentation of innovations

The selected innovations for the CP have been described in detail and analyzed to prepare for process documentation, PID documentation and video and other forms of documentation in the next quarter, to promote dissemination and policy dialogue and advocacy activities. A guideline for documenting local innovations has been drafted and improved by Chesha and Ann for finalization during the up-coming Project partners meeting during the May 2017 International Prolinnova Workshop to be held in Tamale.

Establishment of Local Multi-stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) at Bongo and Yendi sites

In the previous quarter, the project in partnership with local implementing NGOs identified, sensitized and profiled interested relevant local stakeholders at the sites on Prolinnova concepts, Proli-FANS project, and the concept, relevance, and roles of local MSPs for the project. During this quarter, meetings were held with the selected stakeholder representatives to outline their roles as MSPs, and executives elected. The two local MSPs have begun drafting their own rules and by-laws to guide their operations and are enthusiastic to support and learn from Prolinnova and Proli-FANS activities. The local MSPs were subsequently inaugurated and out-doored at the Proli-FANS launch in the project districts (sites).

Launch of project at local sites

As part of advocacy drive, the project was launched locally at the two districts (sites) in a ceremonial fashion with cultural drumming and dancing, through partnership of the two local implementing NGOs. Apart from the community people, innovators and local MSP members, the launches were attended by Working Group members and graced by local level decision and policy makers (regional and district directors of agriculture and district political heads), traditional rulers and the media. The event was characterized by speeches, sharing of experiences on local innovation and some exhibitions on local innovations. The event has been widely published in two national newspapers and also posted on www.prolinnova.net/fns

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION ACDEP

These are detailed in the consolidated report but summarized here as follows:

PID training for francophone and anglophone CPs. As part of improving knowledge and building capacities of CPs on basic methodologies to enhance project implementation, a four-day training course on PID and related topics was organized at sub-regional levels in Nairobi for Ghana, Ethiopia and Kenya (anglophone CPs) and in Ouagadougou for Cameroon and Burkina (francophone CPs). Patricia Formadi from the University for Development Studies and Zimi Alhassan from the Department of Agriculture attended from Ghana CP. Two IST members led the training, one in each location. The anglophone training was co-facilitated by Prolinnova–Kenya coordinator under a South–South capacity-building support arrangement. Full training reports can be found on www.prolinnova.net/fns.

South–South backstopping support to Prolinnova–Cameroon: To strengthen capacities of younger and less experienced CPs for effective CP coordination and governance, and Proli-FaNS implementation, Joe Nchor of Prolinnova–Ghana (Proli-FaNS coordinator) and Djibril Thiam of Prolinnova–Senegal and also a member of POG visited and offered technical support to Prolinnova–Cameroon in February. The intervention has led to enhanced capacities of the host NGO to establish and coordinate governance structures such as the NSC, national and local MSPs and technical working team; better understanding in identifying and selecting relevant innovations; better more to engage in and facilitate PID and local innovation processes with women and community groups; and overall increased knowledge and confidence to implement Proli-FaNS (the full mission report is being finalized by the team).

Development of project guidelines and sharing with CPs and Prolinnova network: During the reporting period, ACDEP and the IST undertook to finalizing and sharing various project guidelines started during the project inception in November 2016 to serve as essential tools for managing Proli-FaNS and coordination within the Prolinnova network. Guidelines and other documents so far finalized include:

- ✓ *Guidelines for Communication in Proli-FaNS and within the Prolinnova network*
- ✓ *Guidelines for identifying local innovations*
- ✓ *Guidelines for setting up local multi-stakeholder platforms,*
- ✓ *Guideline for documenting local innovations (draft)*
- ✓ *Guideline for National Steering Committees (draft).*

The guidelines (in English and French) and other reports have been posted on the Proli-FaNS webpage (www.prolinnova.net/fns), created in the Prolinnova website, as well as on the Guidelines webpage (<http://prolinnova.net/content/prolinnova-guidelines>).

Preparation for 2017 Prolinnova International Partners Workshop in Ghana: The 2017 annual Prolinnova International Partners Workshop (IPW 2017) is being planned for Tamale, Ghana, on 15–19 May, with Prolinnova–Ghana as the host. Preparations were undertaken in the quarter and continuing to May and include booking of accommodation/ facilities / logistics; booking of international and local flights; local visa arrangements; invitation letters to participants; and planning the budgets, opening ceremony and field visit. About 40 participants from the Prolinnova network in Africa, Asia, Latin America; IST/POG members, Misereor, University of Virginia and NGOs have been invited to the 4-day workshop. A meeting of POG will take place on the weekend before the IPW (13–14 May) and a meeting of the Proli-FaNS partners will be held on 19 May on project progress, challenges and next plans.

KENYA

In the reporting period, the following activities were planned for implementation by Prolinnova–Kenya (PK): training in PID at both regional and national level (at the action-learning sites), inception meeting, NSC meetings and preparation of promotion materials.

Some of the activities have been implemented while others are in the process of implementation. PK has recently recruited a Coordinator and this will speed up implementation of Proli-FaNS activities as well as coordination of PK in general. Some of the activities such as the inception workshop and PID training at the action learning sites were postponed until the recruitment of a Coordinator, as the involvement and participation of the Coordinator in these activities will support the orientation process to facilitate effective understanding of Prolinnova network and Proli-FaNS project. This will enable the Coordinator to quickly understand the project and the network and thus settle in and become effective as quickly as possible.

2. ACTIVITIES PROGRESS

a. Training in PID at both regional and national level

i. PID training at regional level

The PID training at the regional level was conducted on 14–19 February at Kilimo Grand Resort Farmers Conference Center located in Kikuyu town in the outskirts of Nairobi. Eight participants from the anglophone countries (Kenya, Ghana and Ethiopia) involved in the Proli-FaNS project participated in the training. PK had four participants (two from each action-learning site: Makueni and Kisumu Counties) while the CPs in Ghana and Ethiopia had two participants each.

The purpose of the training was to provide implementation partners with knowledge in local innovation/participatory innovation development (LI/PID) approach. The training covered several key topics related to the LI/PID approach with special attention to women as innovators and supporting their innovations related to food and nutrition security, as this is a key objective of the Proli-FaNS project. 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 Prolinnova–Kenya/World Neighbors and Chesha Wettasinha from the IST. The training report has already been developed and shared.

ii. PID training at national level

The training at the national level will be conducted in the action-learning sites. In Eastern Kenya, the training is planned for end of April while, in Western Kenya, it is planned for early June 2017. In both sites, the training will involve various stakeholders at the local level such as government ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Social Services, Ministry of Health etc.) non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, farmer organizations and the private sector. The trainings will mainly

introduce stakeholders to the concepts of LI and PID and multi-stakeholder partnerships as well as the local innovation support facility (LISF).

iii. Establishment of Local Steering Committees

During the trainings, Local Steering Committees (LSCs) will be formed. These LSCs will coordinate the LISF at the local level and will comprise farmer representatives, NGOs, government departments, researchers and other stakeholders. The key roles of the LSC will include call for innovations, vetting of innovation proposals, establishing networks and linkages, capacity building of farmers and the community as a whole in LI/PID including issues such as gender, climate change adaptation, financial management, documentation of innovations (farmer-led documentation) and monitoring of innovations.

b. National Inception Workshop

The inception workshop will be conducted on 4 May 2017 to officially introduce the project to the various stakeholders in the country and share various implementation guidelines and strategies such as the multi-stakeholder guidelines and project timelines, targets and objectives. In addition, PK intends to use the inception workshop to enhance its membership by using it as a platform to invite new members and introduce them to PK and highlight PK activities and strategies. The inception meeting will also be used to strengthen the NSC by diversifying and broadening the committee through inclusion of other stakeholders such as universities, farmer organizations and the private sector that are currently not represented in it.

c. National Steering Committee (NSC) meetings

PK held one NSC meeting on 19 March 2017. Key issues discussed were recruitment of the PK coordinator, progress and updates on Proli-FaNS, IPW 2017 participation, membership of NSC/leadership, PK membership drive, deregistration of PK and proposal development.

d. Other activities undertaken

i. Recruitment of PK Coordinator

The NSC recruited Caroline Kibii as the Coordinator on a part-time basis effective from 10 April 2017. Caroline has a degree in Environmental Studies and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Environmental Planning and Management. She has five years' experience working in project management and coordination of community-based projects, research and documentation, community-level capacity building and training and in natural resource management.

ii. Sub-regional Coordinator selection

The NSC members participated in the selection of the sub-regional coordinator for Eastern and Southern Africa through ranking of three candidates shortlisted by the POG.

3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES (APRIL–JUNE)

Activities to be implemented between April and June 2017 are: finalization of the national PID trainings, conducting the national inception workshop, formation of the LSCs and identifying additional innovations and support of local innovations through LISF, undertaking of joint experimentation on selected innovations and development of a country synthesis paper.

ETHIOPIA

Based on the plan for the quarter January–March 2017, the following activities were conducted:

- i. Training of farmer-led experimentation for female-headed families in February 2017
- ii. Monitoring visit to Axum area

1. Training of farmer-led experimentation for female-headed families

During the launching of the project participants identified some local innovations for documentation and experimentation. One of them was “Sex determination by egg shape to be conducted by poor women in

Mai Siye village.” The innovator farmers, experts from the agriculture district and researchers from Aksum University conducted practical training on the process of experimentation and documentation. The trainees agreed to use their per diem for the purchase of two breeds of hen.

The data to be collected are:

- i. How many eggs collected from the two breeds?
- ii. How many eggs consumed at home from each breed? Which one is consumed more and why?
- iii. How many eggs damaged/mismanaged? Why?
- iv. How many eggs are sold to the market by variety? How much is earned?

All data are to be collected per week at the local level and each month summarized and reported to the district level including the farmer research group (FRG). The FRG and experts evaluate it at monthly level.

The participants were 16 in total. Three were male.

2. There was a monitoring visit to Axum during the training

The monitoring visit was to see the organizational collaboration among the different stakeholders while conducting the experimentation. The stakeholders especially Aksum University, district experts and the food security desk are still actively involved in the experimentation.

We have also reached agreement with the Tahtai Maichew District Education Office on innovation identification in all schools.

BURKINA FASO

PROFEIS Burkina Faso is implementing the Proli-FaNS project through three partner NGOs: Réseau MARP, World Neighbors and Diobass. This report summarizes the activities carried out from January to March 2017.

Farmer-led research

Finalization of the selected innovations list: The list of innovations selected was finalized and the data were harmonized at the level of the three partner NGOs. According to the importance given to women in this project, women's innovations were favoured. Thus, the selected ones are found in two large parts of the country: one northern part and another one in the east. Overall, we have 17 innovations of women and three innovations of men or mixed groups.

Joint presentation of PROLI-FANS at the learning site: Two missions were carried out at the learning sites to present the project to the actors involved locally, such as technical services, farmer organizations and local authorities (communes). This enabled them to understand the objectives and the outputs of the project and then to expect their real involvement in the implementation and monitoring of project activities.

Training in PID for francophone countries in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: This workshop brought together the CPs of Burkina Faso (5 participants) and Cameroon (3 participants). It contributed to a better understanding of the PID process and the links with food and nutrition security.

Implementation of PID process for five innovations: The beginning of the joint experimentation process for the five selected women innovations was financed to allow them to develop protocols and to purchase small experimental equipment. For the implementation itself, the best period begins from April to October. Those women were informed of the PID approach and also of the principle of sharing the results and knowledge generated from the joint experimentation.

Establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms in the project area: Burkina Faso CP organized two meetings to set up two local MSPs in Gourcy and Gomponsom. More than 20 participants per site were registered. The guideline on local MSPs (Guideline 10) was explained to the participants with the attributions, the organization and operational mode of these structures.

Advocacy

Presentation of Proli-FaNS to the Confederation Paysanne du Faso (CPF) and ROPPA: With a view to future joint advocacy activities, Proli-FaNS was presented to CPF and ROPPA in Burkina Faso. After the presentation of the project, these structures are willing to collaborate particularly in disseminating the results of the project with their members on the ground.

Documentation at Country Platform level

Documentation of cases of local innovations at the learning site: The documentation is ongoing and pooling is planned for next quarter.

Coordination and management

Meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC): A meeting was held on 30 March 2017 in the meeting room of Réseau MARP in Ouagadougou with various participants (NGOs, associations, researchers, technicians and farmer representatives). The overall goal was to share information on PID and joint experimentation and to discuss the work plan for the next quarter. The question of financing farmer-led research was also explored.

CAMEROON (Google translated into English by Joe)

A. Introduction

The report on the implementation of the project Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS) covers the period from 1 January to 31 March 2017. It brings briefly the main activities carried out during this period, in two parts. The first part concerns the activities and their conduct while the second focuses on the results achieved.

B. Activities and their sequences

According to the proposed plan of action, the following four activities were scheduled to be conducted during the reporting period:

1. Identification of the potential innovations and innovators linked to food and nutritional security

This aspect has been continued throughout the three months of January, February and March. The Local Group of Nkometou Committee / Ekoumdouma meets every second Wednesday of the month. The monthly meetings offer an opportunity to maintain contact with the group. These regular meetings and visits to the potential innovators helped to identify leading innovators.

2. Participation in the PID training workshop in Ouagadougou

Three members of the CP in Cameroon participated on 23–26 January in the international training on PID, which took place in Ouagadougou at the National Centre Cardinal Paul Zoungrana.

3. Feedback session on PID workshop in Ouagadougou

A feedback meeting on the PID workshop was held on 21 and 22 March at Nkometou at the headquarters of the Commune Initiative Group (GIC) of Nkometou beekeepers (APINK), one of the organizational members of the Local Group.

4. Three sessions to validate innovations identified or selected

Changes were made in the originally proposed action plan. Indeed, following the visit of the backstopping team, priority has been given to activities that can allow the setting up of a local multi-stakeholder platform.

The day 20 March was devoted to a meeting to raise awareness on setting up a local platform. In addition to the four members of the national platform (COSADER, AID, CAPEF and IRAD), the Institute of Agriculture of Obala (ISAGO) departments for agriculture and livestock were present and representatives of the Local Group.

The workshop for validation of innovations was held 23 March. The Local Group members and the institutions referred to above were all present, as well as some innovative farmers. Seventeen participants including five women took part in this workshop.

The activity related to the backstopping mission was planned in November 2016 at the Proli-FaNS inception workshop. The team visited Cameroon from 26 February to 3 March 2017.

C. Results

The first activity on identifying potential innovations/innovators yielded four potential innovations and innovators, but one was removed since it concerns human health (treatment of amoebas).

Three members of Cameroon CP participated in the PID training in Ouagadougou.

On two days, 16 people including 5 women took part in the feedback meeting on the PID training. Particular focus was on the following elements: identification of innovators and innovations; joint experimentation; promotion of innovations/innovators and local innovation support facility. An exchange was also held on the selection criteria for the innovations and innovators for the Proli-FaNS project and the importance of recognising women as innovative farmers. The workshop also allowed a revisiting of the objectives of the Prolinnova network.

The following institutions: through a joint project of the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock, the Institute of Agriculture of Obala (ISAGO) and the Committee of Nkometou/Ekoumdouma have been sensitized on setting up a local MSP. ISAGO is a private higher education institution; the representative requested time to inform higher levels which must give the go-ahead.

At the workshop for validating local innovations presented by innovators, three innovations were retained: that of Serge Ayangma on the *fonje* hive, that of Joseph Martial Ambomo on producing a poultry feed mixture based on *Aloe vera* and moringa, and that of Véronique Nkoah on using tree bark (*ebak*) as a starter for fermenting traditional maize beer (i.e. innovations of two men and one woman). Four other innovations were not taken up during this meeting because the innovative character was not clear in the description. Of the twelve farmers identified with innovation potential, only seven could make themselves available.

Outlook

The validation of the three innovations paves the way for supporting the innovator with the *fonje* hive in joint research (removal of the concentrate). For the starter used in producing maize beer, further options are underway. The use of the tree bark/root as a starter could contribute to extinction of the tree species. The starting up of a local multi-stakeholder platform will be good to starting an LISF process.