

# PROLINNOVA–Philippines Update 2015

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

### **Introduction**

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 as 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:

- a. use an innovation development approach to leverage the nutritional and livelihood contributions of agriculture and allied sciences;
- b. identify and document local innovations, innovation processes and innovators among farmers by enhancing capacities at different levels: communities, academe, local government units and NGOs;
- c. 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,
- d. raise awareness on participatory innovation development (PID) approaches among policymaking and academic institutions.

### **Achievements in 2015**

Thus far, no specific funding for PROLINNOVA–Philippines has been raised. The agenda and activities were linked to existing projects of its secretariat, IIRR, to initiate establishment of the local network. IIRR currently works in the municipality of Guinayangan, Quezon, where it engages farmers and farmer groups towards innovation development for their livelihood resilience building.

In 2015, IIRR became part of **CCAFS** – a CGIAR research program on Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security. IIRR is partnering with ICRAF Vietnam as part of this program, and leads the implementation of the work in the municipality of Guinayangan, where IIRR aims to help build up a “climate-smart municipality”.

In the design of the project, IIRR integrated the concept of **community innovation fund**, where farmers were capacitated and facilitated to develop innovations related to addressing impacts of climate change on their livelihoods. Budgets were allocated for the community innovation fund, which will be implemented next year.

A **technological assessment** was done in a roving workshop on 12–13 November 2015. This involved 17 farmer leaders from six villages in Guinayangan, together with various stakeholders: local government unit staff, particularly those of the municipal agriculture office, and a civil society representative. This group is the initial backbone of the local PROLINNOVA network. The roving workshop was designed as a training program, in which farmers learn and test for themselves innovations on climate-smart agricultural practices through farmer-to-farmer learning approaches. The activity also aimed to surface issues in the cacao and coffee sectors and identify areas for improvement and development.

**Partnerships with research stations** were strengthened, specifically with the Southern Tagalog Integrated Agricultural Research Center (STIARC), which was established in 1930 as one of the experiment stations of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and is currently responsible for strengthening the Regional Research and Development/Extension Systems in agriculture for effectiveness and efficiency and for promoting the region's agricultural growth through research and development.

Continuing efforts in fundraising to generate resources that can support PROLINNOVA–Philippines network activities are underway and will continue in 2016.

In 2016, a *Primer on Community-based Adaptation* will be developed in partnership with CCAFS and the Department of Agriculture. Concepts of PID and community innovation fund will be highlighted.

PROLINNOVA–Philippines also participated in the annual conduct of International Farmer’s Innovation Day. In November, IIRR conducted two activities that encourage farmers to learn and share from one another. Seventeen farmers from Guinayangan, Quezon participated in a **roving workshop** where a special emphasis on coffee and cacao technologies was given. A **farmers’ learning event** was also conducted where seventy farmers gathered and learned about innovations in livestock management from farmer trainers.

By year end, PROLINNOVA-Philippines responded to the e-evaluation.

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