

Proposal for Farmer Led Documentation Pilot (FLD/Sudan)

1- Project title:

To pilot farmer-led documentation of water drilling (Massaffi) as a water harvesting local technology in Kassala, eastern region of Sudan.

2- Contact person:

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3- Prolinnova Sudan:

Prolinnova Sudan is currently coordinated by Practical Action (formerly ITDG). The most important features of the Prolinnova Programme are the inventory, documentation of local innovations in Sudan and PID activities. Prolinnova Sudan had started only in 2005 and although witnessed frequent instability in its Steering Committees, organizational set-up and coordination unit since then, it had taken the lead in some thematic aspects of the Programme such as Curriculum Development (www.prolinnova.net) and institutionalization of PID as in Ghana 2008-IPM. This farmer led documentation pilot is yet another breakthrough for the young promising Prolinnova Sudan Country Programme (CP) development.

4- Project and innovator backgrounds:

The idea of the project began about three years ago when Prolinnova teams toured five regions of Sudan to conduct documentation surveys of local innovations and identify innovators. This task was also facilitated during PID workshops or TOT sessions held for capacity building of trainees including extension agents, researchers, university staff and innovator farmers around Sudan. More than 500 items had been identified before they were further scrutinized, validated or disseminated and finally catalogued or publicized.

The name of the innovator is Atta Allah which literally translates from ‘Allah’s Providence’. He had a nickname “George”-after the man who made the train steam engine- earlier before he dropped out of primary school. Atta Allah adapts heavy- duty deep-bore mechanical equipment to ‘Massaffi’, the local name for Kassala model of wells. In this model both surface and deep water is optimally utilized and the work is handled economically and conveniently by manual trained labour. This type of local innovation describes a need of the poor farmer to harvest water to be used all the year round and thus responsible for the expansion of cultivated land area with high value horticultural crops in the region. Mohammed Ali Atta Allah is farmer-artisan and a versatile-minded innovator.

5- Relevance and rationale of the FLD project:

The relevance and rationale for the Massaffi innovation documentation stems from the fact that and as always the case is outsiders and field practitioners rather than beneficiaries dominate this process. Prolinnova Sudan thought to reinstate farmers back in the driving wheel seat to lead these documentation endeavours themselves. Unfortunately all these series of beneficent, integrated local Massaffi innovations (technical as well as group organization) go without proper documentation; downhill in the deep rooted culture of the ‘word of mouth’ and illiteracy predominance in Sudan. The aim of Prolinnova Sudan is to preserve this type of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) through still photography; by training the innovator himself and his team workers to use and own the improved method, digital cameras rather than by just relying on the inefficient, relaxed oral means. Finally a catalogue of the group’s own pictures is going to be produced for the public.

6- Institutional aspects:

This pilot project involves an organizational innovation, besides the material benefit of the “Beer” Kassala or Massaffi to the small scale farmers/artisans. The innovator integrates farming to craftsmanship for the prosperity of small agribusinesses in the area. In this respect the innovator had signed contracts with both Gos and Ngos to implement

Massaffi for IDPs and the needy. The innovation had gone across the borders to nearby neighbouring countries, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Organized teams of workmen are now being formed in the Local Industrial Area of Kassala town under the Craftsman Union. They have been linked to the farmers Union and other NGOs. The implication is vocational training of their members and on other developmental issues including gender, HIV/AIDS, female circumcision etc .

7- The objectives of the project:

The objectives of the Pilot Project is to document and disseminate to other small scale farmers the benefits of Massaffi (as a water harvesting local technology) and its socio-economic and organizational aspects of good practices in Sudan. The primary aim is to use still photography as a mechanism to assist poor farmers in Sudan e.g. Khor A/habbil in the White Nile and other regional areas share information and as an add-on to their traditional ways of story-telling. It is anticipated that still photography will facilitate record of activities of the Group which would enhance:

- 1- Capacity building of the small farmer groups grow into small agribusinesses and to use microfinance.
- 2- Cooperative learning process between specialists and small farms/artisans to share indigenous/technical knowledge and for PID processes.

8- Target groups:

A- The main target groups are the small farmers whose lands in Sudan lie on the river side along the Nile and its tributaries for non-affordability of high pump irrigation costs.

B- People living near small ‘wadis’ valleys, streams and lakes with lighter soils in western and northern Sudan e.g., Khor Abu Habil and Ed Deim small farmer communities in the White Nile State.

C- Students and artisan communities targeted for change in technical know-how and for CD processes.

9- Project Methodology:

‘Massaffi’ draws its name from a perforated pipe which is dug in the ground to let water into the well from ground surface and beyond; literally means refinery. Massaffi involves both the traditional equipment (system of pipes, buckets, cylinders, drills, poles, ropes etc) and the digging operation as well as the socio-organizational innovations. The normal way the Group and individuals networks with other communities for Masaffi is usually by oral means or relaxed conversations, say in a visit to relatives in a distant village. So the FLD will involve the following as methods proposed for efficient sharing and dissemination of Massaffi benefits:

- 1- Still photography. This is done by first availing digital cameras to the Group/Farmer Union and then by training them on how to use these for pictures of Massaffi and by,
- 2- Awareness training workshops of the group by putting Massaffi on a technological incubator, on its associated socio-economic and organizational benefits (e.g. budgeting, feasibility study, reporting and meetings management etc).
- 3- Core members of the Farmers Union Group will be responsible for documenting Massaffi both innovation and process, by taking digital photos themselves and then by sharing these with outside communities of similar socio-economic setting.
- 4- Site checking and cross-checking of the areas to where the ‘Massaffi’ had already been adopted or still being adopted in Sudan or elsewhere. This will be done in a ‘look-and-learn’ fashion and exchange visits for sharing information between these and the Massaffi Group using the photos taken as outputs of the Project.

10- Parties to the ‘Massaffi’ Pilot Project:

The Project involves technicians and specialists from both NGOs, GOs and CBOs in Kassala, besides the Farmer Union/Artisan Group. The following table explains major stakeholder analyses of the project:

Person (s) involved	Affiliated organization	Role (s)
Mohammed A. Attalla (plus 3 Group members)	W. Kassala Artisans Union	Implementers
Osman El Sheikh	Farmers Union (Kassala)	Co-organizer
Dr Nageeb Ibrahim Bakheit	Prolinnova	Facilitator
Noureldin A Abdullah	Prolinnova National Coordinator (Practical Action)	Organizers
Liam Morgan and Shadia	Practical Answers Network	(Support networking and dissemination of Project outputs)
Rep of the Agricultural Bank of Sudan	Agric Bank Branch, Kassala (ABS)	Microfinance and Credit Specialist
Abdel Hakim	Min. of Agric, Irrigation & Animal Wealth	Co-organizers, expert for feasibility study, budgeting, etc

11- Budget and Timeline for Implementation in 2009:

Activities	COSTS (SDG)	TIME FRAME											
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1. Purchase of documentary tools: digital cameras	2500												
2. Inception workshop-10 participants in Kassla-lump sum.	3000												
3. Training of members, hiring a trainer, Group taking digital photos	2500												
4. Exchange visits (look-and-learn): A- Kassala	1500												
B- Attbara	1500												
C- Sinnar	1500												
5. Catalogue, Stationary and reporting	2000												
6. Unseen	500												
Total	15000												

(Fifteen thousands Sudanese Guineas only)