



PROFEIS–Mali annual summary report 2018

1. Introduction

The present report is on the activities of two projects: one funded by Misereor, Germany (PROFEIS: Promoting Farmer Innovation & Experimentation in the Sahel) and the other by the McKnight Foundation, USA (FAReNE: Farmer-led Research Networks).

2. Achievements, challenges and perspectives

2.1. Key activities implemented, with description of achievements

PROFEIS: Promoting Farmer Innovation & Experimentation in the Sahel

This 2018 report is on the second year of Phase 4 (2017–2020) of the PROFEIS programme.

✓ **Joint experimentation June–November**

From June to November, three joint experiments were conducted – two experiments on striga at the Segou site:

- June–November: one student conducted a comparative study to evaluate the efficacy of local products with only the *nééré* (yellow powder of the fruit), the leaves and the bark of *nééré* (*Parkia biglobosa*) to reduce the high infestation of *Striga hermonthica* in cereal (sorghum) in the village of Sirakoro, Ségou Region.
- July–October: three students conducted a comparative joint experiment with different products to reduce the high mortality of guinea fowl chicks at the Ségou site. The products used were: potash solution, neem (*Azadaratata indica*) solution, and *bangoyo* (*Solanum incanum*) solution.

✓ **Farmer exchange visit**

On 8–10 April, an exchange visit by poultry farmers from Djéla, Nayo, Kanouala and KoriKori villages was organised around two innovations: a solar clay incubator and a local product to reduce the high mortality of guinea fowl chicks. The objective of this visit was to strengthen the networking among the poultry farmers. There were 20 participants, including two women. Two local radio stations at Ségou and two other radio stations from Mopti broadcast information about many farmers' innovations.

On 12–15 November, one member of the PROFEIS–Mali technical team took part in the 5th forum of MISEREOR partners at Bankass commune.

On 14–17 October, an exchange visit was organised between farmer innovators working with PROFEIS and those working with the NGO Diobass in Burkina Faso.

✓ **Household economic baseline study**

In July, a study was conducted in four villages (KoriKori, Kanouala, Djela and Nayo). It was found that the average annual income per household in the four villages was US\$156 (by village: KoriKori = US\$51, Kanouala = US\$113, Djela = US\$196, Nayo = US\$307).

✓ **Institutionalising PID**

The implementation of an action plan on the strategy of institutionalisation was worked out in a workshop by identifying the target actors, the expected change from each actor and the actions to be implemented.

The National Research Institute (IER) in partnership with ADAF Gallè conducted a project with a farmer innovation on the use of potash solution and the grains of *Panicum exile* (fonio) to reduce the high mortality of guinea fowl chicks.

Ten university lecturers developed three protocols on three farmer innovations.

Eight structures from NGO and extension services promoted some farmer innovations through other projects and programmes.

✓ **Annual Prolinnova International Partners Workshop (IPW 2017)**

On 20–25 May, two men from the technical team of the Country Platform (CP) took part in the IPW 2017 held in Nairobi, Kenya.

✓ **Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF)**

In early May, the process of the Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF) started with several meetings to explain the fund, followed by training and workshops. Based on that, two types of initiative to strengthen farmer innovation were determined: individual and community ones. The main needs for the fund found from the communities were poultry keeping and vegetable gardening.

With the fund, three improved community poultry houses were built in three villages. To make the clay poultry incubator function for long time, the project provided to each cooperative/association 200 chicks with poultry feed for six months. After six months in the village of Kanouala, 196 adult birds survived, with an estimated value of 490.000 FCFA (1 adult = 2.500FCFA). If US\$1= 500FCFA, the total will be almost US\$1,000.

✓ **Solar clay incubator experimentation**

The main problem with the solar clay incubator is that the heat produced during the cool season is insufficient because the heat from the sun is not enough to keep the eggs and chicks warm for all the night. That becomes worse in the middle of the rainy season (August). There is a need to add more batteries and solar panels.

✓ **Documentation and diffusion**

- From mid-June to mid-July, ten farmer innovations were targeted by four local radio stations. The objective of the wide diffusion was to identify farmers who have used one of the farmer innovations after having learned about it through the radio.
- On 28–30 December, a second national fair on grassroots innovations was held at Ségou.
- Publication of four CP experiences with the support of Bara Gueye, one of the backstoppers from IED–Afrique:

- Building multi-actor partnerships and governance on the processes of participatory innovation development (PID)
- Mutual learning between scientists and resource-poor farmers through joint experimentation
- Grassroots innovation as sustainable solution to increase the income of tomato producers: an experience of innovation process and value chain
- The networking approach between farmer innovators and their communities.

FaReNE (Farmer-led Research Networks)

- One joint experiment was conducted on the evaluation of the performance of sorghum and peanut crops on level-plough land and on ridges.
- The FaReNe coordinator participated in the IPW 2018 in Kenya on 20–25 May.
- The coordinator participated in the annual workshop of the community of practice in West Africa (Collaboration Participatory Research Program / CPRP / McKnight Foundation) in Niger on 24 February–2 March.
- The coordinator took part in a workshop on 29 November–2 December for writing articles on the PID, LISF and farmer networking experiences.

2.2. Difficulties / challenges

- Low mobility in the Mopti Region due to the security crisis
- Insufficient funds for FaReNe.

2.3. Perspectives

- Scaling up PROFEIS project to three new regions (Sikasso, Kayes and Koulikoro)
- FaReNe is in negotiation for a second phase of the project.

3. Self-assessment of network functioning

a) Extent of reaching goals and objectives of the CP

The goals and objectives of the Mali CP were achieved because of good functioning in a collegial partnership framework between the member structures: Association for the Development of Production and Training Activities (ADAF Gallè), Association of Professional Farmers Organisations (AOPP), Institute of Rural Economy (IER) and National Directorate of Agriculture (DNA). The activities developed around community and individual poultry production are working well enough to increase the income and contribute significantly to local food security.

b) Governance

The annual steering committee meeting was held on 22 February with 19 members, including one woman. This was followed by a meeting of multistakeholder partners on 23 February, with 23 participants, including five women.

c) Functioning of CP Secretariat

The secretariat is provided by a technical team composed of two representatives from the following structures: ADAF Gallè, AOPP, IER and DNA. ADAF Gallè is the spearhead structure. Monthly monitoring is provided by regional AOPPs and periodic monitoring by the technical team. Annual activity reports are developed jointly with the technical team and information is gathered from regional AOPP representatives, students and communities. These reports are submitted through the Platform Workshop for improvement, then to the steering committee for adoption. Finally, the financial management through an external audit is provided by ADAF Gallè every six months.

d) Communication between and among partners within the CP

The overall planning and implementation of project activities are carried out during monthly meetings to plan PROFEIS and FaReNe activities. Most of the communications between Mali and Burkina Faso and among local partners are made by phone and email.

e) Relationship with other CPs, Subregional Coordinator (SRC) & international level

- There was no relationship with other CPs except Burkina Faso. There were good relationship of communications and information between the coordinator and the Mali CP partners.
- The SRC gave some support during the writing of the new proposal for FaReNe.
- There was almost no relationship with the International Support Team (IST) or the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG).

f) Achievements in terms of capacity building

Three trainings on PID were organised to build the capacity of university lecturers: on 7–9 March, 4–5 May and 4–6 October. The participants were 60 in total including 20 women.

4. Conclusion

Most of the activities planned were implemented. Significant results were recorded in the implementation of the activities despite the rather difficult security context in the north and centre of the country. The recognition of local knowledge by decision-makers and the development of protocols by university lecturers appear to favour the institutionalisation of the PID approach. Income-generating activities supported by the LISF and the organisations created to carry out these activities are factors of income improvement and stability towards sustainable development.