

PROLINNOVA

Ghana

PROmoting Local **INNO**Vation
in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management



**PROMOTING FARMER
INNOVATIONS AND INNOVATORS**

PROLINNOVA NETWORK

PROLINNOVA is an NGO-initiated international multi-stakeholder platform to promote local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management (NRM). PROLINNOVA partners build on and scale up farmer-led approaches to participatory development that start with finding out how farmers create new and better ways of doing things and support these innovations through a process of farmer-led joint research supported by other agricultural research, development and education stakeholders. PROLINNOVA Country platforms (CPs) are currently active in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, South India, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. See www.prolinnova.net

Prolinnova-Ghana

The Ghana Country Platform (Ghana CP) is hosted by Association of Church-based Development Projects (ACDEP), a national NGO located in Tamale in the Northern Region of Ghana with field operational offices in the Upper West, Upper East, Bono and Bono-East administrative regions. The CP is governed by an eight-member National Steering Committee with representatives from Animal Research Institute and Savanna Agricultural Research Institute – both of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), University for Development Studies, Department of Food and Agriculture, private sector and farmer organization. A core technical team (Working Group) comprising of experts in gender, development, formal research, education and entrepreneurship, mostly from the CP's network, provides technical support for implementation of project and network activities.



Preparation of quality shea butter from bad shea nuts using kenaf leaves by Paulina Guma from West Mamprusi

SULCI-FANS PROJECT

Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security (SULCI-FaNS) is a three-year (October 2019–September 2022) project funded through Misereor, Germany and is being implemented by Prolinnova Country Platforms (CPs) in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana and Kenya in seven action-learning sites to scale up and consolidate the farmer-led research and innovation approach and results achieved under the previous Proli-FaNS project. SULCI-FaNS is being coordinated by Association of Church-based Development Projects (ACDEP) the host NGO for Prolinnova-Ghana, whilst the International Support Team of Prolinnova network backstops the project implementation.

The goal of the project is to strengthen the innovation capacities of rural communities, particularly of women and to improve food and nutrition security and increase local resilience to change, as well as to contribute to building multi-CP platforms in two sub-regions in Africa – in West and Central Africa and in Eastern and Southern Africa.

In Ghana, SULCI-FaNS project is being implemented in Bongo District (Bongo action learning site) and West Mamprusi Municipal (Walewale action learning site) in partnership with two local NGOs. These are Navrongo-Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Development Organization (NABOCADO) which responsible for the Bongo learning site and Center for Ecological Agriculture and Livelihood (CEAL) responsible for the Walewale learning site. A local multistakeholder platform (MSPs) is established at each learning site which provides capacity building to farmers, promote learning and engage in policy-dialogue for institutionalizing farmer innovation and participatory innovation development (PID) approach. The MSPs are made of representatives from Department of Agriculture, Forestry Commission, formal Research, Local Government, farmer organization, women groups, traditional leaders, private sector and other relevant institutions.

Main activities of the project:

1. Identifying and documenting relevant local innovations in the area of food and nutrition security and promoting local innovation.
2. Facilitating PID or joint experimentation to improve and add value to relevant innovations of women, men women's groups and mixed-gender groups, and scaling out the approach and the outcomes.
3. Dissemination of local innovations and outcomes of PID processes, widely within local communities and at the broader stakeholder level, using farmer innovation fairs, farmers learning workshops and media etc.
4. Promoting gender equality and women's development by building capacities on PID and gender issues to increase women's participation in and benefits from PID, and improving recognition and increasing rewards for outstanding women innovators in order to gain greater support for women's roles and innovation in food and nutrition security.
5. Supporting farmers to use their innovations directly to increase food and nutrition security (production of, access to and use of nutritious food) by applying the locally developed innovations at a broader scale to achieve tangible benefits such as increasing food production, nutrition, generating income.
6. Engaging in policy dialogue for scaling up farmer innovation and participatory research approach. The purpose is to institutionalize the approach within formal research and extension, development services and projects, and academic institutions in order to scale up and sustain the approach in the long term
7. Strengthening country-level governance, networking among CP partners, expanding CP membership, networking with like-minded networks and linking with institutions of research and learning through joint fora and field programmes to promote participatory agricultural research and development approach.



Improved local malt processing
by Anafu Aduko in Bongo District

Why promote local innovation and farmer-led joint research or PID approach with farmers

Members of the ProInnova network have been promoting farmer-led innovation and participatory research and development for many years. The entry point for this approach are local innovations ie new and better ways of doing things, developed by small-scale farmers to find solutions to their challenges and problems, to seize new opportunities and thus to improve their local farming and land-use systems and their livelihoods.

The network members appreciate the immense creativity of small-scale farmers and work with the hypothesis that local innovation processes can be intensified and accelerated when diverse actors in agricultural research and development (ARD) holding different types of knowledge come together in the spirit of sharing and learning based on mutual respect.

Recognizing local innovation by ARD actors serves as an entry point to joint learning by farmers and the actors about local innovations (product) and how they can be improved, as well as about the process of local innovation and how it can be improved. PROLINNOVA refers to the art of coordinating and facilitating this concerted action as “participatory innovation development” (PID)

Facilitating PID helps to improve interactions between small-scale farmers and other knowledge holders so that ARD is driven by the farmers and benefits them and their communities. The ultimate aim is to enhance the local capacity to innovate – and thus to adapt to new challenges and opportunities. The PID process pursues answers to the questions of farmer innovators and other local community members who seek support from other actors with specialized expertise to further develop a local innovation. Building agricultural improvement technologies and interventions on farmers and communities' ideas, knowledge systems, innovations, and within the local context makes the technologies more appropriate, sustainable and more acceptable by farmers.



Preparation and use of organic pesticide from neem seeds, dawadawa seeds, and local botanicals to control pests in crops by Imoro Yakubu in West Mamprusi

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