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PROLINNOVA
PROMoting Local INNOVation
in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

***Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS)
Project progress report for the period January–April 2019***



Nutrition expert Ms Naomi Zaato (2nd from left) joins hands with innovator Ms Baba Sana (3rd from left) and her group members in experimentation in the Yendi action-learning site to prepare improved and diversified local bean cake (kooshie) recipes (Photo: Gabriel Adabla, agricultural extension officer)

compiled by Joe Nchor, Proli-FaNS project coordinator, ACDEP, Ghana

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INTRODUCTION

This brief progress report describes key achievements under the Proli-FaNS (Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security) project in the period from 1 January to 30 April 2018. The project partners who contributed to the report are the Prolinnova Country Platforms (CPs) in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya. The other partners are the Prolinnova subregional coordinators (SRCs) for the West & Central Africa (WCA) and the Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) Prolinnova platforms, and the Prolinnova International Support Team (IST) based at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in the Netherlands. The Association of Church-based Development Projects (ACDEP) in Ghana coordinates the project on behalf of the Prolinnova network.

The three objectives of the project are:

1. *Rural communities develop their innovative capacities to effectively improve food security, nutrition security and nutritional diversity.*
2. *Women are more widely recognised as innovators and are supported in further developing their innovations, from which they control the benefits.*
3. *Subregional Prolinnova platforms support CPs to develop capacity for collective learning, mobilising resources and effective policy dialogue.*

FIELD ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNTRY PLATFORMS (CPs)

1. FARMER-LED RESEARCH

During the reporting period, CPs have continued to disseminate and promote their chosen local innovations in communities and with other stakeholders, through which 105 innovations out of 160 targeted innovations have so far been disseminated to reach approximately 2400 people. Scaling out of results of 36 completed participatory innovation development (PID) processes and facilitation of four ongoing PID processes (1 in Cameroon and 3 in Ghana) were also continued and will conclude in June 2019. A total of 47 women innovators (58% achievement) have so far been recognised and awarded for outstanding achievement in local innovation; the project target of 80 women is not likely to be achieved because of cultural and gender capacity constraints, particularly in the case of the CPs in Ethiopia and Cameroon. Local innovation and PID processes have so far been documented in brochures, leaflets, catalogues and videos that are used for dissemination activities. Detailed achievements of the CPs are described below.

Burkina Faso

The CP has achieved its target of facilitating five PID processes on bio-pesticides, bio-composts and locally enriched flour for infant nutrition, with the results having been disseminated and promoted to other women and farmers. During the reporting period, the improved products of bio-composts, bio-pesticides and enriched flour for infant nutrition were subjected to laboratory analysis by the Institute for Research in Applied and Technological Sciences (IRSAT). The parameters of the bio-compost product being evaluated are carbon (C), nitrogen (N), phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium pH, total organic matter, C/N ratio, micro-organisms and temperature. Similarly, chemical analysis was conducted on the main materials of dried leaves of *Cassia nigricans* and *yuliyouga* (local herb). Analysis and testing of the nutritional content of enriched flours for children is also still ongoing. The parameters being evaluated are fat, protein, total sugars, moisture and ashes. The results of all the laboratory analyses and tests will be ready by end of June 2019. Scientific validation should facilitate the promotion and commercial production of these products to enhance household food nutrition (for enriched flour) and food production in more ecologically sustainable ways.

Cameroon

Sixteen of the CP's target of 20 innovations have so far been selected and validated and are being continuously disseminated and promoted among farmers and other stakeholders. They include nine innovations by women and seven by men. Three innovations have undergone PID and one is currently ongoing, with one not successful: the PID process that involved Dschang University on beekeeping and breeding performance characteristics of bee colonies in the LUMICAM Network was discontinued

because the University did not pursue the original objectives set for the joint research. The fourth and ongoing PID process is with a woman innovator who is using a special method of preparing shallots before planting in order to hasten growth and increase the yield, and is being done in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. Initial results of the experiment revealed the cutting method to have a positive effect on initial growth of the plant. This result was shared with other members of the woman's group who have faced a problem of inadequate shallot material for planting. This last PID process is expected to conclude in June 2019 and results will then be evaluated and disseminated.

Ethiopia

Inputs and materials such as protective clothing and shoes, plastic containers, gloves and 1-litre sprayers were supplied to farmers in the Axum action-learning site, which enabled them to organise farmer field schools (FFSs) at their individual level. Inputs were also provided to farmers in the Enebe Sar Midir (ESM) action-learning site to implement farmer-owned research activities and PID processes. A national workshop organised on 28 February included farmer innovators and officials from the Ministry of Innovation and Technology to share farmers' innovations for possible funding to develop the innovations to a commercial scale. Government criteria for selection of innovations for funding include innovations that involve women and youth and can be developed and expanded locally to reduce foreign exchange on imports of food products. After the workshop, the CP submitted a list of eligible local innovations based on these criteria to the Ministry for consideration.

Ghana

Six PID cases had earlier been completed and results shared at community level and with other stakeholders in agricultural research and development (ARD). During the reporting period, implementation of three more PID processes was continued. Two are at the Bongo learning site: a PID case with a women's group on preserving Bambara beans using shea butter processing liquid waste and another case with a male innovator on using concoctions of two local herbs to manage African swine fever in pigs, involving different concentrations and forms (liquid/powder) and different ways of propagating the herbs. The ongoing PID process in Yendi is on improving the nutritional value of local bean cake (*kooshie*), working with a woman *kooshie* seller. All three cases will be concluded and evaluated by end of June 2019 and results disseminated thereafter. The CP in Ghana will not be able to achieve the targeted ten PID cases because the local nongovernmental organisation (NGO) partner at the Yendi site is poorly resourced.

Sensitisation on and sharing of the improved *Tree Chief* social innovation in Bongo for protecting community vegetation and economic trees took place in three new communities, including Bunbong in the Yendi learning site. As a result, one of the new communities in Bongo has adapted the concept by contextualising the bylaws to their local situation. The project provided two toasters to support the processing activities of two new shea butter-making groups that had adopted the shea butter processing methods improved through PID. The two groups were further trained by the original innovative women's group to manage and use the toasters effectively and sustainably. The groups were happy and encouraged, as the toasters will improve their processing capacity as well as help reduce the drudgery and stress associated with toasting of crushed sheanuts.

At the Yendi learning site, the Sunsong Suhadoo women's group, which had been supported in PID to improve the quality and market for their soap products for income to supplement household food security, was trained during the reporting period in packaging of their products. Their soaps are now packaged in different forms and well labelled, making them more attractive to compete with other soaps in the market. With the skills gained, the women have reported increased commercial scale of their business. Two female first-degree students of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the University of Development Studies (UDS) in Tamale undertook their final-year thesis work to further validate and promote consumption of nutritious *wasawasa* food and sweet potato products developed through PID. They were supervised by their lecturer, who is a member of the ProInnova-Ghana technical team and had facilitated the main PID processes with the women innovators to improve the two local foods. The students conducted interviews on the PID in the communities and on campus, did recipe demonstrations and sensory evaluation of the recipes on campus, and thereby promoted

awareness and consumption of local nutritious foods, and contributed to institutionalisation of the PID approach within the Department.

Kenya

Eleven local Innovations (above the target of 10 innovations) have gone through the joint experimentation process and the outcomes were documented. The process of sharing the outcomes is still ongoing; interest and adoption levels by the local communities in the action-learning sites have increased. During field monitoring visits to the learning sites, four new innovations (3 by women, 1 by a man) were identified in the Kisumu and Makueni sites. The new innovations identified were: ant killer pesticide (developed by a woman at the Makueni site), organic pesticide using Mexican marigold (woman, Makueni site), cross pollination of eggplants (man, Makueni site) and improved cassava production (man, Kisumu site). In February, some of the previously identified innovators in Makueni shared their experiences and challenges with the three newly identified innovators at that site; this provided insights and motivation to the newcomers.

2. DOCUMENTATION

Documentation efforts and products have enabled CPs to undertake wider dissemination and advocacy on the project approach and PID outcomes, leading to increased awareness and interest among farmers and local ARD stakeholders and policymakers. Activities and outputs accomplished in documentation are described below.

Burkina Faso: None was reported.

Cameroon

Six documents were prepared; four of them have been produced as brochures. The four documents produced with 300 copies each are:

- a) Local innovation on the use of *kanwa* to reduce cocoa bitterness in chocolate products
- b) PID process on the use of *kanwato* reduce cocoa bitterness in chocolate products
- c) Local innovation on local bee-colony multiplication
- d) Local innovation on preparing shallots for planting.

The first three above-mentioned documents have been posted on the Prolif-FaNS project webpage (www.prolinnova.net/fns). Copies of the brochures will also be shared during the marketplace exhibition at the International Partners Workshop (IPW) in May in Senegal.

Ethiopia

Twenty local innovations from both learning sites were documented; the documents are being edited for printing. Videofilms were made during the Farmer Innovation Fair and the National Workshop held on 9 February and 29 February, respectively. The final videos will be ready for use in the next quarter.

Ghana

The CP printed 500 calendars on local innovation and PID and distributed them to institutional stakeholders, CP members, local multistakeholder platform (MSP) members, local innovators, traditional authorities etc. The calendars included photographs and captions about PID processes undertaken in the two action-learning sites. The CP also produced a total of 500 brochures on six completed PID cases and distributed them to participants at the two local innovation fairs and to CP members and institutional stakeholders. The brochures will also be distributed at the IPW in Senegal in May and will be uploaded on the Prolinnova website for the general public in June. By end of July, the CP will finalise the PID process reports on nine cases and a catalogue with all the selected and profiled innovations.

Kenya

The CP provided orientation to 20 selected innovators in techniques of farmer-led documentation to enable them to document their own innovation processes. Thirty-seven of the 40 innovations identified have been comprehensively documented into a catalogue, which has been published and shared at events and among stakeholders. The development of a catalogue on the 11 PID cases is ongoing; a draft is being reviewed for finalisation.

3. ADVOCACY

Various advocacy and policy-dialogue activities were undertaken by CPs at local and national level to influence ARD policies and programmes towards institutionalising the PID approach. Although institutionalisation is a very long process, the involvement of key local ARD partners and policymakers in the activities undertaken was very significant and should contribute to sustaining and upscaling the approach to improve food and nutrition security for rural households. Key activities and outputs achieved during the period are as follows.

Burkina Faso

A national farmers' day was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture on 25–28 April in Gaoua in southwestern Burkina Faso. Farmer innovators involved in the Proli-FaNS project participated in the event by exhibiting bio-composts and food crops produced with the products, GRA Misola (flour for malnourished children) and phytoveterinary remedies for controlling ectoparasites and diarrhoea in hens and guinea fowl. The CP also shared posters, flyers and photos on local innovations at the event.

Cameroon

The CP is improving its collaboration with the University of Maroua for farmer-led joint research through involvement of a student intern on a new PID process which will help women small producers who have limited access to productive land to increase plant population in small plots. The CP is also consolidating its partnership with the Agriculture, Rural Development and Livestock Production Programme (ACEFA) through increased joint training and learning activities on local innovation and intends to organise a joint national innovation fair in the next quarter.

Ethiopia

Mini-farmer innovation fairs were organised in both Axum and ESM in February. The Axum fair took place at the Taitaimaichew Agriculture Office with participation of 38 people (34m/4f) including innovative farmers and other farmers, and staff of the Agricultural Office, Aksum University, *Woreda* (District) administration, and the water resource sector. Speeches from the learning site coordinator and the *Woreda* agricultural director emphasised the importance of local innovation and the need for stakeholders to adopt the PID approach in ARD programmes and activities. The farmer innovators exhibited and presented their innovations and experiments on controlling crop pests including fall armyworm, liquid organic fertilisers for vegetable production, tomato-fruit products and a fuel-saving cookstove.

The mini-fair at the ESM site had representatives from ESM *Woreda*, Agricultural Office, Government Affairs Communication Office, Mertulemariam Technical, Vocational and Education Training College (TVET), Mertulemariam Agricultural College, innovative farmers from 17 rural *kebeles* (wards) of the district, FFS members, ABSHCBDA (local community-based organisation) Board members and staff. A total of 29 people (including 7 women) attended the event. Innovative farmers presented, explained and displayed six innovations to the participants, namely: control of crop produce and vegetable pests (man), soap preparation (women's group), rat control on field crops and stored grain (mixed group), control of ticks on animals (mixed group), treating cough in animals (woman), and an irrigation technique with plastic layering to reduce water logging and loss (man).

Ghana

Two farmer innovation fairs were organised in April in the Bongo and Yendi action-learning sites for innovators to exhibit and share their local innovations with other farmers, institutional stakeholders, policymakers, traditional authorities and the general public. In both events, the participants also included National Steering Committee (NSC) members, local MSP members, women's groups, bank officials, local entrepreneurs and media people who published about and also broadcast the events. Approximately 500 participants attended both events, in which 14 innovations were exhibited in Yendi and 13 in Bongo. The innovations were on food processing and nutritional improvement, income-earning products, ethnoveterinary medicines, organic and climate-resilient crops, fuel-efficient cookstoves and crop storage. More than half of the exhibitors at the fairs were women. The innovators shared their innovations and innovation processes with the guests and stakeholders, and also learnt from each other. This helped to increase awareness on the approach of promoting local innovation and

PID, exposed important innovations for wider adoption or adaptation by other farmers, and revealed business opportunities for the local entrepreneurs who attended the events. The women's innovativeness and achievements in food and nutrition were highly recognised and appreciated in the speeches of the guest speakers, thereby drawing attention of government and political authorities to commit funds and the political will to support farmer innovation and the PID approach for sustainable improvement of the lives of the rural people.

Kenya

Sixteen women innovators have been recognised by the County Governments of both Kisumu and Makueni through their Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. The women innovators were awarded certificates of recognition for their outstanding contributions in food and nutrition security of their areas through their local innovations.

4. PROJECT COORDINATION AND MONITORING

Coordination and monitoring activities pursued by the CPs with the support of the subregional coordinators (SRCs), ACDEP and the IST members have made a significant change in the quality of management and implementation of the project towards achieving the objectives. It has also strengthened CP governance and networking among platform members. Activities and outputs achieved within the period that contributed to this outcome are described below.

Burkina Faso

The NSC held four meetings to review progress and to plan project activities. One of the meetings was held in January to coincide with the monitoring and backstopping visit of the project coordinator, Joe Nchor, and the SRC in WCA, Georges Djohy. The two MSPs in Gourcy and Gomponsom held their quarterly meetings in January and February, respectively, to share experiences and to plan new activities. The members also held wrap-up meetings with the Proli-FaNS monitoring/backstopping team and hosted an exploratory team from NABOCADO (Prolinnova–Ghana local NGO partner) to explore for a visit of its farmers to Burkina Faso to learn about climate-smart agricultural practices. Lastly, in March, the CP and MSPs hosted a member of the end-of-project evaluation team for data collection through interviews and focus group discussions.

Cameroon

The CP hosted a backstopping visit in January by Georges Djohy (SRC for WCA) and Ann Waters-Bayer (IST member), who provided technical advice on CP coordination, governance and Proli-FaNS implementation, visited innovators and met with the host institution staff and CP partner institutions. They then made recommendations for further improvement in operation of the CP and implementation of the Proli-FaNS project. The mission report has been shared on the project website. The CP also provided information and data for the evaluation of Proli-FaNS by external consultants. Three concept notes were submitted to identified donors / programmes and are awaiting responses.

Ethiopia

An NSC meeting was conducted in Best Practice Association office on 28 January to discuss institutional arrangements to support Proli-FaNS coordination and implementation, and to plan the national workshop and mini farmer innovation fairs. In March, the project coordinator visited the ESM learning site and had discussions with farmers from three *kebeles* involved in FFSs.

Ghana

The CP coordinator and the focal point for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) undertook regular field monitoring visits and held review meetings at the action-learning sites. The site-based NGOs and implementation teams also visited and backstopped the local innovation and PID processes. The end-term evaluation of the Proli-FaNS project was undertaken from January to April by a consultant team led by Rosaine Yegbemey from the University of Parakou in the Republic of Benin. The team was selected from three bidders through a competitive process. It made field visits to Burkina Faso and Ghana (of the five CPs in the project) for interviews and data collection. The draft report was reviewed and improved by project partners – ACDEP, Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG) co-chair, IST members,

SRC for WCA and the five CPs involved. The lead consultant was asked to present the findings at the Proli-FaNS partners meeting in Senegal in May. The final report will be submitted to Misereor by end of June.

Kenya

In February, the Local Steering Committee (LSC) at the Makueni action-learning site held a meeting with four newly identified innovators and oriented them on the PID approach. During the meeting, some experienced innovators shared their experiences and achievements with the new innovators. The LSC at the Kisumu site met and discussed progress of the joint experimentation (i.e. PID) activities. In March, staff of the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), which is a member organisation of ProInnova–Kenya and also the Proli-FaNS M&E focal organisation, conducted M&E visits to the Kisumu and Makueni sites. They assessed the progress of achievement of project objectives and implementation of the local innovation processes and their impact on the households/local community's food security and dietary diversity. In April, KALRO and the CP coordinator conducted another M&E exercise in Kisumu, during which they also interviewed four innovators and six community members who have adopted various innovations.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROLINNOVA SUBREGIONAL COORDINATORS

a) Eastern & Southern Africa Subregion

The SRC for ESA, Amanuel Assefa, voluntarily resigned from his position on 31 March because he lacked sufficient time to effectively carry out his duties under Proli-FaNS. Brigid Letty, ProInnova–South Africa coordinator, was officially engaged from 1 April as a temporary replacement to continue and complete the subregional activities for the remaining project period. The following are the major achievements in the reporting period.

Technical support to ProInnova–Ethiopia: Amanuel provided support to the CP in the planning and organisation of a national policy-dialogue event that took place in February. He assisted in preparing the workshop content and facilitation plan, and in identifying key participants and preparing farmers to present their innovations. One key issue discussed at the workshop was the need to include key government institutions in the NSC, in which the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Technology and Innovation showed much interest. The CP coordinator was to follow up with invitation letters to the two ministries.

Fundraising: This is still a challenge for the network. Follow-up have been made on the proposals submitted to FAO and World Bank but with no concrete result. The World Bank Group seems to be indecisive, although it has great interest on the concept of agribusiness innovation. These two cases are not closed yet and require further follow-up by the new SRC. ILRI was also requested to reconsider the proposal submitted to it during last year. The contact person has promised to arrange a meeting with ILRI officials to discuss how to repackage the proposal and approach other donors. ProInnova–Tanzania has also submitted several proposals to donors but no green light is yet reported. The SRC also contributed to preparing a short proposal to Misereor for funding some members of the subregional network who are not in Proli-FaNS project so that they can participate in the IPW in May in Senegal.

b) West & Central Africa Subregion

Policy dialogue and networking: The SRC, Georges Djohy, met and exchanged with subregional and international partners on opportunities for collaboration and/or funding. These included RESCAR-AOC (*Réseau des Services de Conseil Agricole et Rural d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre* / Network of Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services in West & Central Africa), GFAR (Global Forum for Agricultural Research), IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), WRF (World Rural Forum), Oxfam International, Compassion in World Farming, Swedbio, ActionAid, SIANI (Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative), ROPPA (*Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest* / Network of Farmer and Producer Organisations in West Africa) and ILC (International Land Coalition). He provided advice and technical support to CPs (using email, phone calls and field visits) to strengthen the implementation of their projects such as Proli-FaNS, FaReNe (Farmer-

led Research Networks) and PROFEIS (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel), so as to achieve good results for sharing with a wider audience to enhance upscaling and policy dialogue.

Documentation and information sharing: The SRC developed, translated into French and shared various documents such as 15 Prolinnova guidelines, two policy briefs, one working paper (booklet), one action plan, one draft Charter for Prolinnova WCA, one WCA regionalisation process report and the 2018 annual subregional report. Consequently, communication, interactions and access to information have improved at subregional level through the combination of improved information channels and translation of Prolinnova documents/emails into French and English.

Monitoring and backstopping of CPs: The SRC made a backstopping visit together Joe Nchor (project coordinator) to Burkina Faso on 13–17 January and with Ann Waters-Bayer (IST member) to Cameroon on 21–27 January. The back-to-office reports were shared with partners. He also provided project information to the external consultants for the evaluation of Proli-FaNS. Backstopping visits so far to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal have facilitated integration and boosted trust and relationship with WCA taskforce members and CP coordinators.

Fundraising: The SRC contributed to drafting a concept note and full proposal to Misereor for the Proli-FaNS follow-on project. He also led the drafting of the Proli-WaSaFa (Promoting local innovation in Water Management by Family Farmers in the Sahel) proposal to Misereor together with the CP coordinators in Burkina Faso and Senegal. In addition, he supported development of a proposal for FaReNe Phase II to McKnight Foundation for the CPs in Burkina Faso and Mali.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM AT KIT

The following is a summary of the activities undertaken by the Prolinnova IST members attached to KIT, Chesha Wettasinha and Ann Waters-Bayer, in the period December 2018 to April 2019. It also includes support provided by Annie Secretario in the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) on a voluntary basis in maintaining the Prolinnova website with attention to the Proli-FaNS webpage.

The main inputs of the IST in this period were related to key activities in 2019, including the Proli-FaNS annual partners meeting, the IPW, the external evaluation of Proli-FaNS and the follow-up project to Proli-FaNS. In addition, they provided general support to the Proli-FaNS coordinator at ACDEP, to the two Prolinnova SRCs in Africa and to the CPs as and when necessary.

a. Proli-FaNS external evaluation

- Provided comments on the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the external evaluation drafted by Joe Nchor (ACDEP) and helped circulate the ToRs to a wider audience
- Participated in selecting the evaluation team to be awarded the assignment from among the potential candidates
- Provided feedback on the inception report of the evaluators before data collection started
- Provided specific information to the external evaluation team in regards to Proli-FaNS (Ann participated in a Skype interview and Chesha gave feedback through an online questionnaire) and more general information to orient them with Prolinnova and its approach
- Commented in detail on the first and second drafts of the evaluation report.

b. Proli-FaNS annual partners meeting and IPW 2019

- Supported the project coordinator in selecting the CP for hosting the IPW and in finding a suitable venue in Senegal for the meetings
- Helped him prepare and detail a programme for the IPW and Proli-FaNS partners meetings
- Drafted a budget for the Proli-FaNS/IPW meeting and supported ACDEP and Agrecol–Afrique (host organisation in Senegal) in arranging logistics accordingly
- Supported the SRCs and Agrecol–Afrique in developing a proposal and budget to acquire additional funds for the events
- Provided follow-up to Agrecol–Afrique on organisational issues related to hosting of the meetings

- Supported Proli-FaNS partners and those from other CPs in developing their presentations for the partners meeting and IPW.
- c. Proli-FaNS follow-on project**
- Supported the proposal development team in developing and finetuning the follow-on project proposal by being involved in Skype and email discussions to get clarity and consensus on the content and by providing comments on several drafts of the proposal and accompanying documents; this also included facilitation of a lengthy virtual discussion in the POG to decide on the CPs to be included/excluded from the follow-on project.
- d. General support to Proli-FaNS coordinator and Prolinnova SRCs for Africa**
- In addition to the above, Ann and Chesha provided support to Joe, Georges and Amanuel, mainly through email, as and when needed. This included:
- Supported ACDEP and the POG in finding a suitable short-term replacement to continue the work of the SRC for ESA until at least the end of the Proli-FaNS project period (with the resignation of Amanuel in March)
 - Ann joined Georges (SRC for WCA) on a backstopping trip to Cameroon in January to provide support to the CP coordinator, COSADER as the host organisation and the NSC (details in separate backstopping report submitted to Misereor)
 - Provided the SRCs with information about potential sources of funding through calls for proposals and linking them with relevant partners
 - Supported the SRCs and CPs in ongoing acquisition efforts and in writing proposals and concept notes, and communicating with donor contacts
 - Supported Georges (SRC) to conduct an election among CPs in WCA to fill the seat for this subregion falling vacant in the POG
 - Edited project (narrative) reports of the SRCs, CPs and ACDEP.
- e. Coordination and management support**
- *Project reporting:* Chesha prepared a short narrative report on the activities undertaken by the team at KIT in the period August to October 2018, and also supported the financial officer at KIT to prepare the financial reports for the period.
 - *Proli-FaNS reports:* Ann gave feedback and provided editorial support on the quarterly reports (August–November 2018) of the project partners.
 - *Prolinnova website and Yahoogroup:* Annie (IIRR) and Ann continued to provide support to all the CPs in preparing and uploading news and documents onto the Prolinnova webpage, and Ann continued to share relevant news and publications via the Prolinnova Yahoogroup.
 - *Long-distance support to the CPs and ACDEP:* Ann and Chesha maintained communication, mainly through email and Skype, with ACDEP and the CP partners and supported them as and when necessary on Proli-FaNS implementation and reporting. Ann provided several rounds of feedback and editorial support to improve the local innovation catalogues prepared by the newly appointed CP coordinator in Ethiopia, and provided comments on the local innovation catalogue prepared by the CP coordinator in Kenya.
 - *POG elections and preparation of POG meeting in May:* Ann and Chesha called for nominations and conducted an election to fill the seats of two independent POG members falling vacant in mid-2019. They also, together with the POG co-chairs, prepared a draft agenda for the POG meeting to take place in May 2019.

KEYLESSONS LEARNED

Women at the action-learning sites have become more confident and are now coming out more often to share their innovations at public events. Their targeted involvement in the project and PID process has built their capacities for food and nutrition improvement and have made them more valued and appreciated by male community members and by other ARD actors than before.

Through vigorous and extensive dissemination activities, various stakeholders and the local communities have recognised the importance of local innovation in ensuring food and nutrition

security. Local ARD institutions at the action-learning sites are beginning to view the approach as very integral and strategic in strengthening the innovative capacity of rural farmers for increased resilience to climate change effects. However, sustained collaboration among different players such as farmers (innovators), NGOs, CBOs, government agencies, research institutions and multinational institutions is critical to achieve lasting results and impact from the PID approach.

Although the host NGOs and on-site implementing NGOs are faced with inadequate project budgets to involve more farmers and communities, involve more other stakeholders and undertake wider learning and scaling-out activities, they have constantly supplemented the project activities through cash and in-kind contributions. This is a positive sign for sustainability of project activities and the approach when donor funding ceases to come over time.

CONCLUSION

The project is on course toward achieving its objectives and most of its targets by 31 July 2019. The final project period (May–July) will be dedicated to concluding field activities, preparing various documents for sharing and preparing the Year 3 and the end-of-project reports. Major documentation to be produced will include catalogues of PID cases, catalogues of local innovations identified and promoted, and success stories. Approval by Misereor for a follow-on project would enable the project partners to build on the lessons to expand and consolidate the gains made in order to have greater impact on the food security and livelihoods of rural women and their families.

ACHIEVEMENT OF TARGETS UP TO MAY 2019								
Project objectives	Indicators	Targets per action-learning site	Progress of achievement of targets from Aug 2016–May 2019					
			Burkina Faso	Cameroon	Ghana	Kenya	Ethiopia	Total
Rural communities develop innovative capacities to effectively improve food security nutrition security and nutritional diversity	Number: Identification, validation and documentation of relevant local innovations	20 innovations per site (i.e. 40 innovations each in Ghana, Ethiopia and Kenya; 20 each in Burkina Faso and Cameroon) (total=160)	20	16	38	40	40	154
	Number of local innovations studied in PID	5 innovations per site studied in PID (i.e. 10 innovations each in Ghana, Ethiopia and Kenya; 5 in BF and Cameroon)(total=40)	5	4	9	11	9	37
	Number of farmers who participate in sharing and learning events	20 innovations per site (160 total) shared with at least 600 local men and women farmers	20	16	29	37	10	105
	Number of farmers M/F who have adopted/adapted local innovations shared		320	1000	682	795	575	2408
Women are more widely recognised as innovators and are supported in further developing their innovations from which they control the benefits	Women's innovations identified, documented, developed and shared	10 women's innovations per site documented and shared (total=80)	17	8	20	16	10	69
	Women innovators recognised and awarded from relevant government and other bodies at community and higher level	10 women innovators per site receive awards or certificates from relevant bodies (total=80)	7	4	20	16	0	47
Subregional Prolinnova platforms support CPs to develop capacity for collective learning, mobilising resources and effective policy dialogue	Number of subregional platforms established and strengthened	Subregional Coordinators provide capacity support to CPs in governance, implementation, networking etc	Two subregional Prolinnova platforms have been established and are making progress towards an Africa Prolinnova network by 2021. Communication and information exchange among the five project CPs have improved, while their linkage with non-project CPs has been strengthened. The CPs have become better coordinated and networked under Prolinnova with improved governance (except Ethiopia) and country networking on farmer innovation and research issues. Significant progress has been made in creating or strengthening links and interactions with actors in formal ARD, for mutual benefit.					

	CPs ensure flow of financial and in-kind support from public agencies to help farmers develop their innovative ideas	3 of the CPs raise an equivalent of at least €50,000 per country for promoting local innovation	0 Amount 2 pro- posals submitted	0 Amount 1 proposal submitted	0 Amount 2 pro- posals submitted	0 Amount 1 proposal submitted	0 Amount 1 proposal submitted	0 Amount
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List of acronyms

- ACDEP Association of Church-based Development Projects
- ARD agricultural research and development
- CBO community-based organisation
- CP Country Platform
- ESA Eastern & Southern Africa
- ESM EnebseSarMidir
- FaReNe Farmer-led Research Network
- FFS Farmer Field School
- IPW International Partners Workshop
- IST International Support Team
- KIT Royal Tropical Institute
- LSC Local Steering Committee
- M&E monitoring and evaluation
- MSP multistakeholder platform
- NGO nongovernmental organisation
- NRM natural resource management
- NSC National Steering Committee
- PID participatory innovation development
- POG Prolinnova Oversight Group
- Proli-FaNS Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security
- Prolinnova Promoting local innovation ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM
- SRC Subregional Coordinator
- ToRs Terms of Reference
- WCA West & Central Africa