

PROLINNOVA

PROMoting Local INNOVAtion
in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

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Natural Resource Management

ANNUAL REPORT

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*Woman innovator in Cambodia discussing her experiments in vegetable growing with Prolinnova Cambodia staff member.
Photo: Chesha Wettasinha*

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACDEP	Association of Church Development Projects (Ghana)
AgTraIn	Agricultural Transformation through Innovation
ARD	Agriculture Research and Development
BCR	Building Climate Resistant communities in Cambodia (project)
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CCAFS	Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CCIG	Climate Change, Innovation and Gender
CEDAC	Cambodian Centre for the Study and Development of Agriculture
CLIC-SR	Combining Local Innovation Capacity with Scientific Research
CP	Country Programme
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation (The Netherlands)
EED	Evangelical Development Organisation of Germany
FAIR	Farmer Access to Innovation Resources
GCARD	Global Conference on Agricultural Research and Development
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Development
IED Afrique	Organisation for Innovation, Environment and Development (Senegal)
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (the Philippines)
INHERE	Institute for Himalayan Environmental Research and Education
INSARD	Including Smallholders in Sustainable Agricultural Research and Development
IPW	International Partners workshop
IS	International Secretariat
IST	International Support Team
JOLISAA	Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture
KARI	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
LSC	Local Steering Committee
LINEX-CCA	Local innovation and Experimentation for Climate Change Adaptation
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
Misereor	The German Catholic Bishop's Organisation for Development Cooperation
MRDT	Mdukatshani Rural Development Trust
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NSC	National Steering Committee
NWG	National Working Group
PANE	Poverty Action Network Ethiopia
PDA	Provincial Department of Agriculture
PE	PROLINNOVA Ethiopia
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
RF	Rockefeller Foundation
SCI-SLM	Stimulating Communities Initiatives in Sustainable Land Management
SOLLINKA	Social Learning Linking Knowledge and Action
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
ToF	Training of Facilitators
VDC	Village Development Committee (Nepal)



INTRODUCTION

2012 was a year of significant change for PROLINNOVA (International Network for Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management). As the grant of the Netherlands Directorate of International Cooperation (DGIS) came to an end in mid-2011, so did the external core funding to cover network activities at national and international level. At the International Partners Workshop (IPW) in Tanzania in March 2011, members of the Country Platforms (CPs), the International Support Team (IST) and the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) expressed their commitment to keep the network functioning at national and international level with minimum or even no external funding.

Although the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) had expressed interest to support the functioning of the International Secretariat at a very minimal level, this did not materialise during 2012. Some CPs succeeded in mobilising funding for national activities through projects. Activities in Mali and Senegal related to Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel (PROFEIS) continued to receive support from Misereor. In addition, two proposals for regional projects building on the work done in the CPs received funding and started implementation in 2012. The first, Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC-SR), covers four countries in East Africa - Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda – and is financially supported by Rockefeller Foundation. The second, Local Innovation and Experimentation: an entry point to Climate Change Adaptation for sustainable livelihoods in Asia (LINEX-CCA) is financed by Misereor in Germany and covers activities in three countries - Cambodia, India and Nepal. The situation regarding funding for 2012 is found in Annex 1.

Work related to the Farmer Access to Innovation Resources (FAIR) initiative continued in several countries. Some CPs completed activities related to FAIR 2 on a budget neutral extension of six months (January to June 2012) granted by Rockefeller Foundation, whilst four CPs were included in FAIR 3 for one year, also funded by Rockefeller Foundation, to develop feasible models for scaling up local innovation support funds (LISFs) taking into consideration the specific policy conditions in each country.

PROLINNOVA continued as a partner in two European Union supported projects: "Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture (JOLISAA)" and "Including Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development (INSARD)".

Currently the IST consists of ETC-AgriCulture, the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction in the Philippines (IIRR) and IED Afrique in Senegal. The International Secretariat (IS) is hosted by ETC.

The annual report for 2012 consists of three chapters: chapter 1 provides a summary of CP activities as drawn from reports received; chapter 2 highlights network-wide activities that involve more than one CP as well as the IST, at regional or at international level. Chapter 3 provides some general conclusions.

1. COUNTRY PLATFORMS

1.1. BURKINA FASO

No report received.

1.2. CAMBODIA

PROLINNOVA Cambodia succeeded in finding funds for continuing its activities through two projects: "Building Climate Resilient Farming Communities in Cambodia (BCR)" and LINEX-CCA funded respectively by the German donors EED and Misereor.

The CP organised two network meetings at CEDAC head office in Phnom Penh. 21 participants (13 men, 8 women), from 17 institutions attended the first meeting on March 6, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to review the results of farmer experimentation in 2011 and to introduce the new projects (BCR and LINEX-CCA), which focus on farmer experimentation, and build on experiences in LISFs. The second meeting was held on July 3, 2012, to review LISF funding management and learn about the concept of climate change, guidelines to document best practices, and farmer successes. 15 men and 6 women participated in the meeting.

Within the framework of the BCR project, the CP organised a 3-day training on concepts of climate change and climate smart agriculture in July 2012 for 32 participants (20 men, 12 women) from among CP partner organisations. This included the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension, Royal University of Agriculture, Prek Leap National School of Agriculture, Kampong Cham National School of Agriculture, several NGOs, commune councils, Farmer and Nature Net and CEDAC. In addition, 17 students (11 men, 6 women) were trained in climate smart agriculture and 11 students among them (7 male, 4 female) will continue learning with the project. The other six students completed their internships with CEDAC on innovative agriculture in adapting to climate change. On three days in February and March, Sam Vitou, CEDAC Program Director and coordinator of PROLINNOVA Cambodia, participated in the Farmer Congress organised by the General Directorate of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries. The main objective of the congress was to enable innovative farmers to share their best practices and to expose researchers, extension workers and educators to farmer innovation.

Implementation of the LINEX-CCA activities began with the selection of project sites and a baseline study. 10 villages each were identified in three selected provinces (Kampong Speu, Takeo and Kampong Chhnang). At each site, baseline studies were conducted to find out the perceptions of the communities in regards to climate change and their ways of coping with changes. Furthermore, in each village, the project staff conducted a general meeting to explain the objectives of the project and to identify farmers interested in conducting experiments on innovative practices that could adapt to the climate-related changes taking place. Initial, half-day orientation workshops on climate change adaptation and participatory joint experimentation were held for interested farmers. In all, 114 such workshops were conducted to cover the 30 villages. 208 farmers started experiments in 2012, 83 of them completed their experiments and drew conclusions on them.

Most of the innovations that were identified for further experimentation and delivered positive results fell into two large categories:

- Adaptations for SRI (system of rice intensification) such as the use of bio slurry to retain moisture, planting of single rice seedling in rows as opposed to multiple seedlings, transplanting small seedlings versus tall seedlings, ploughing-in the stubble after harvest to retain soil moisture and to increase organic matter in the soil, growing green manure crops in the rice field.

- Growing vegetables using bio-char (burned rice husk), bio-slurry, liquid compost, bio extracts and botanical pesticides. The main objective of these experiments was to find ways of retaining moisture to combat the sudden dry periods (in the rainy season) and to combat increases in pests related to climate change.

1.3. CAMEROON

No report received

1.4. ETHIOPIA

PROLINNOVA-Ethiopia (PE) spent a lot of time finding a new host organisation that meets the legal requirements and conditions set out by the current Civil Society Law of the Ethiopian Government. This law requires that all Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) design their budget structure in such a way that 70% is for programme costs and maximum 30% for administrative costs. The latter include all activities like training, capacity building, conferences, meetings, research and related activities. Finally the Secretariat was moved to Poverty Action Network Ethiopia (PANE), a network of more than 60 CSOs in Ethiopia with a particular interest in promoting policy ideas and practices to alleviate poverty. In principle, networks are not required by law to meet the 70% and 30% budget division, because they are supposed to coordinate the work of their member organisations and thus have no "own programme costs".

However, this meant that some of the organisations that were part of PE but not of PANE, had to apply for membership and await approval of the PANE General Assembly at its annual meeting in March 2013. Only after that meeting can PE officially become part of PANE. Because of these complex policy constraints, it was a big challenge for PE to expend funds to implement FAIR3 activities in 2012 and to start up the CLIC-SR activities.

Despite all the constraints described above, PE decided to continue reviewing the experiences made by LISF at the three pilot sites and to publish separate case studies. Terms of reference (ToRs) were prepared for the Working Group members, who used them as a guide for making the case studies. The case study papers will be completed and the country paper will be printed in Ethiopia in 2013. One of the important tasks of the FAIR 3 project was to study the favourable policies and identify institutions that could help in scaling up the LISF model in Ethiopia. The policy study is being followed up with further interviews of PE member organisations and decision-makers in key research and development organisations in Ethiopia, and will be incorporated into the CLIC-SR study on policy influencing to be completed in early 2013.

A critical task of the PE Working Group in 2012 was to develop an LISF model relevant for the context in Ethiopia and a strategy to scale it up. Using the FAIR 2 country paper and personal experiences of the Working Group members, a description of a model was made, circulated for comments and finally presented in a review workshop held in December 2012. This workshop was held with financial support from BPA in Addis Ababa on 29 December 2012 to share the experiences gained and lessons learnt in piloting LISFs, to present and discuss the proposed LISF model, and to discuss the way forward in scaling up the LISF.

The CLIC-SR project is one of the activities of PE that will be fully implemented after the agreement between ETC and PANE is signed in late March 2013, following the PANE General Assembly. Nevertheless, some preparatory work was done in 2012 through the goodwill of PANE and the commitment of other PE Working Group members. Initial meetings were made in Enebse Sar Mider District, East Gojjam, Amhara Region with the aim to visit the innovative work of farmers in the area and to discuss the implementation of CLIC-SR project on site. Baseline data were also collected in the Axum area of Tigray Region.

1.5. GHANA

Ghana received a no-cost extension to finalise its FAIR 2 work and implemented the following activities: 1) training in LISF register, M&E and documentation, 2) Writing up recommended models for LISF implementation and LISF up-scaling scenarios, 3) Completing current LISF grant cycles, and 4) Mobilising the support and commitment of key stakeholders.

Two-day practical training workshops were organised in Yendi, Bolga, Walewale and Tamale in May-June 2012 for each zonal committee including farmer representatives. 34 people (28 men, 6 women). PROLINNOVA-Ghana formed a three-person team consisting of a researcher, a government district extension coordinator and an NGO staff member (and Ghana Country Platform coordinator) to write up the Ghana LISF model based on existing documentation and to draft the LISF upscaling scenarios. Partners concluded that the scenario with best chances of success in Ghana would be an NGO-led upscaling approach. A strong link with or integration into the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) was a second option while, in the longer term, LISFs could also become part of district administrations, funded partly by their common funds.

LISFs were continued in the Yendi and Bolga zones, selected for their excellent performance in previous phases. Following the usual process of community sensitization and call for proposals, funds were disbursed to selected proposals. The local LISFs committees did the field monitoring and backstopping of the innovators.

The Core Working Group and the Zonal LISF committees organised a series of meetings and workshops in Tamale (Northern Region), Bolga (Upper East) and Wa (Upper West) in November. The team held briefing meetings with the three Regional MoFA directors on the FAIR/LISF approach and achievements, discussed possible areas and activities for collaboration and explored funding opportunities for setting up local innovation funds and mainstreaming LISF in the MoFA extension system. Similar meetings were held with regional Research & Extension Liaison Committee coordinators, the director of the Savannah Agricultural Research Institute and regional directors of the Environmental Protection Agencies as well as the managers of GIZ (German International Cooperation Agency) and CARE in Tamale. Project publications including posters, calendars, brochures and policy briefs were distributed at the meetings.

PROLINNOVA-Ghana, through the coordinator at ACDEP (Association of Church Development Projects), participated in a Regional Steering Committee workshop of the SCI-SLM (Stimulating Communities Initiatives in Sustainable Land Management) project held in Tamale, which brought together partners from South Africa, Uganda, Morocco and Ghana, as well as the international technical team. In addition, PROLINNOVA-Ghana through the Bolga LISF committee assisted Bonn University, Germany, to plan and hold an innovation contest under the auspices of MoFA for farmers in the Upper East districts. The process involved meetings with all eight MoFA district officials, use of radio announcements to sensitise and call for proposals, selection of best innovators based on total scores, and awarding of prizes to winners on National Farmer's Day in November.

1.6. INDIA

Formed in 2011, PROLINNOVA-India was formally welcomed into the international network during the POG meeting in March 2012. PROLINNOVA-India's main involvement in 2012 (with INHERE as the lead organisation) was through the regional project LINEX-CCA, together with partners from Nepal and Cambodia. A project inception and planning meeting was held back-to-back with the IPW in March 2012. Two districts in Uttarkhand were selected for field work, namely Almora and Chinoni. A baseline study was conducted in selected villages of these two districts to appraise the perception of local communities in regards to climate change and to identify local innovation in adapting to climate change. Five innovations to adapt to climate change have been identified for further improvement through a process of joint experimentation. In addition, farmers have also opted to try out some of the drought-tolerant crop varieties

developed by research, specifically for mountain conditions. INHERE feels that this is also a way of stimulating experimentation among mountain communities who need to constantly adapt to changing conditions, including climate change. Several NGOs in Uttarkhand as well as one of the key research institutes (VPKAS) are being brought into partnership through interaction in this project. Contrary to perception, several scientists/researchers at VPKAS, including its director, have shown interest in being involved in joint experimentation with farmers.

As a member of the organising committee of the Global Conference on Agricultural Research and Development (GCARD 2), Sonali Bisht, country coordinator of PROLINNOVA-India, made a presentation at the IPW. She presented the GCARD process and the opportunities it offered for organisations working with smallholders to influence ARD policy at global level. Within India, Sonali has participated at several events (such as the Indian Budget Initiative, Mountain Day Celebration etc.) to get recognition for local innovation and its importance in adapting to climate change.

Several concept notes and pre-proposals submitted to various donors in 2012 to raise more funds to expand the work of PROLINNOVA-India did not yield positive results. However, the efforts to raise funds continue.

PROLINNOVA-India celebrated International Farmer Innovation Day, as agreed on by the network, on 29 November at INHERE's training centre in Chinoni, bringing together farmers, NGO workers and government stakeholders for a discussion on the importance of farmer innovation and its role in knowledge creation for ARD.

1.7. KENYA

In 2012, PROLINNOVA-Kenya was involved in finalising FAIR-related activities (FAIR 2 and FAIR 3) and starting up CLIC-SR.

Two training sessions (in Machakos, Mwingi, Nyando and Busia districts) were held to build the capacity of PROLINNOVA-Kenya members, specifically the LISF Coordinator and the Local Steering Committee (LSC) members on how to use of the innovation register. Two workshops were conducted in the pilot regions of eastern and western Kenya to enhance the capacities of the LSCs to support innovators at the district level and to discuss ways of sustaining the LISFs.

PROLINNOVA-Kenya in collaboration with Kenya Broadcasting Corporation and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) developed four 15-minute documentary films on farmer innovations. These were on raising of finger millet in nurseries, water harvesting, land reclamation and rock burger manure. These documentaries are being used to promote local innovation and to support scaling up of LISFs.

As a means of developing a model for scaling up LISFs, PROLINNOVA Kenya conducted a survey in the LISF pilot districts and organised a workshop to discuss the survey findings in August 2012 at the Agricultural Information Center in Nairobi.

Two innovators from LISF pilot districts (Nyando and Machakos) participated in the 13th Biennial Scientific Conference and Exhibition organised by KARI in October 2012. The theme of the conference was – Agricultural Innovation Systems for Improved Productivity and Competitiveness in pursuit of Vision 2030. The conference provided a forum for raising the profile of PROLINNOVA-Kenya and its activities such as promoting LISFs, networking and knowledge sharing.

The CLIC-SR project seeks to enhance and build on the achievements of PROLINNOVA-Kenya, specifically the FAIR/LISF project. CLIC-SR activities were initiated in two counties - Baringo and Machakos - that are vulnerable to change including that of climate change. To start with, baseline surveys were to be conducted in the two target counties to identify changes the

communities experienced and their local responses. This was done in Baringo in November 2012 and will be followed in Machakos in early 2013.

In preparing for implementation, PROLINNOVA-Kenya conducted a three-day training in October 2012 to build the capacity of partner organisations involved in the CLIC-SR project on farmer-led innovation and research. Ten men and seven women participated in this training workshop. PROLINNOVA-Kenya also undertook a review of experiences in policy influencing which looked at constraints, challenges and opportunities. The findings of this review will be used to finetune the policy influencing activities of PROLINNOVA-Kenya, also through the CLIC-SR project.

1.8. MALI

Mali suffered from political insecurity and instability throughout the year 2012, which had a direct effect on the work of the CP. Despite this setback, the CP continued several activities. Being in the concluding year of the second phase of PROFEIS, funded by Misereor, an evaluation of PROFEIS phases 1 and 2 took place in October 2012. Funding for a follow-on phase will depend on the outcomes of this evaluation.

Farmer-led experimentation continued in 2012 on several innovations namely: 1) setting up nurseries with seeds from grafted trees; 2) locally developed solution for pest control; 3) improvement of survival rate of guinea fowl chicks, and 4) improvement of seed germination of *Niama*. Due to the interest of many in the clay incubator for guinea fowl eggs – a local innovation that is being disseminated – 10 training sessions on the subject were held in different locations reaching a total of 125 participants including 16 school children, 75 women and 44 men. An additional 83 students (from Tchad, Bénin, Niger, Burkina and Mali) and 10 teachers from the Agriculture Department were trained on the use of clay incubators and ways to increase the survival rate of guinea fowl chicks.

The 13th PROLINNOVA IPW was held on 12 -14 March, 2012, hosted by PROFEIS-Mali under the auspices of ADAF/galle at Bamako, Mali. More than 100 people including 20 farmer innovators from two districts of Mopti and Ségou participated in the event which was covered by the national media.

Four PID training workshops were conducted during the months of May and July with a total of 77 participants. Four farmer innovators participated in the agricultural fair called Foire Agricole de Sikasso (FASKO) in Sikasso District. 19 farmers from Sikasso and Koulikoro districts visited several innovators in their areas in September.

The coordinator of PROFEIS – Assetou Kanoute – was awarded the “Terre de Femmes” prize 2012 from the Yves Roche Foundation for the work on supporting innovations in grafting of Npégou/Ngounan trees. The prize money has been put into a fund to support further joint experimentation and training activities related to the innovation.

1.9. MOZAMBIQUE

PROLINNOVA- Mozambique could not undertake any activities in 2012 due to lack of funds. However, the partners have been involved in fund raising and are confident that at least one of their attempts would be successful and will lead to activities in 2013.

1.10. NEPAL

PROLINNOVA-Nepal reported only on progress in the LINEX-CCA project. No general information on the CP's activities was received.

The initial activity for LINEX CCA was to identify the field sites. Two village development committees (VDCs) within two selected districts i.e. Rampur VDC in Ramechhap district and

Asanpur VDC in Siraha district were identified. This was followed by a baseline survey in the two VDCs using a questionnaire-based household survey and several focus group discussions in each VDC. The main purpose of this study was to review the perceptions of the local people in relation to climate change and to identify any innovations in adapting to the changing climate. The draft report was ready by the end of the year.

Initial training in Local Innovation, Participatory Innovation Development (PID) and climate change adaptation was carried out in both VDCs for the farmers as well as the local stakeholders. This training took place in the first week of December 2012. In Siraha district, training was conducted from 3-5 December for rural farmers (47 farmers including 7 female participated). In Ramechhap, the training was organised at the end of the year for local farmers and members of the Agriculture, Forestry & Environmental Committee. A total of 55 participants (including 28 women) joined the training programmes.

1.11. NIGER

No annual report received.

1.12. NIGERIA

In 2012, PROLINNOVA-Nigeria continued with supporting local innovations and assessed the benefits of a mechanical maize sheller made by a local artisan based on data from 90 farmers selected randomly from Igabi, Chikun and Kajuru local government areas of Kaduna State, Nigeria. This was a follow up to the outcome of the survey on local innovations conducted by the network in previous years. The assessment showed that 76.7% of the farmers who participated in the study had adopted the maize sheller made by the local artisan as compared to 23.3% still engaged in hand-shelling of maize.

In 2013, PROLINNOVA-Nigeria will work with women goat farmers from selected local government areas in Kaduna State to identify local innovations in goat rearing and critical issues for multi-stakeholder intervention.

1.13. SENEGAL

In Senegal, the CPs activities were supported by PROFEIS. Three National Steering Committee (NSC) meetings were held during the year hosted each time by a different partner. Several meetings were also organised by the CP to generate new dynamism within the network. Djibril Thiam participated in the PROLINNOVA IPW in Mali in March 2012.

Joint experiments based on innovations continued throughout the year and included Mango tree planting in Keur Ndiogou Ndiaye (Thies), reclamation of salinated land in the valley of Thionck Essyl and trying out a seedless and early maturing variety of pawpaw in Thionck Essyl (Casamance). However, due to continuing tensions in the Thionck Essyl area, monitoring visits had to be postponed and contact with the partners was only through telephone.

A farmer innovation day was held at Keur Ndiogou Ndiaye in May 2012 which attracted more than 150 people including farmer innovators, other farmers, development agents and decision makers. The main objective of this event was to share experiences and results of some of the joint experiments with a wider group of farmers and other development stakeholders. Further, in terms of dissemination, five radio broadcasts were aired during the year. A live and interactive broadcast was made with a local community radio station in September 2012, and in October, a joint broadcast was recorded on the premises of AGRECOL Afrique with four community radio stations in Thiès region. These broadcasts were meant to share the PID approach and the achievements of the programme with local people. Several flyers and posters were translated into local languages such as Wolof, Serer and Toucouleur to enable wider dissemination of PROFEIS' experiences.

Misereor commissioned an overall evaluation of the two phases of PROFEIS in Senegal which was carried out by a team of external evaluators in June 2012. The aim was to analyse the organisation, the approach, the achievements, the effects/impacts as well as the prospects for PROFEIS–Senegal. The evaluation helped the NSC to draw lessons and overall conclusions and formulate recommendations for the future of the project.

1.14. SOUTH AFRICA

Although, PROLINNOVA-South Africa was not very active as a network, activities of its members continued within their own organisations.

Brigid Letty attended the PROLINNOVA IPW, which was held in Bamako, Mali, in March 2012. Brigid attended as an outgoing member of the POG as well as a representative of the SA Country Platform. PROLINNOVA-SA continued its involvement in the JOLISAA project, where two members of the coordinating team, Brigid Letty and Gerrit Rootman, bring the focus on encouraging farmers to be active members of innovation development processes, as contributors of ideas, skills and local knowledge.

SCI-SLM, a PROLINNOVA-related project, was implemented in South Africa during 2012. Four community initiatives on sustainable land management were documented. Cross-visits were organised to allow sharing among the groups. PID is being implemented at community level to improve the practices identified at community level. In recognition of the relationship between SCI-SLM and PROLINNOVA, the latter is represented in the SCI-SLM National Steering Committee.

The Southern and East African Association of Farming Systems Research and Extension had its conference in Johannesburg in November 2012. There is a strong representation of PROLINNOVA-SA on its new council and, in addition, there was a strong drive to consider changing the name of the institution to include the concept of innovation systems, thus highlighting the relevance of PROLINNOVA.

The provincial forum established in Limpopo to foster networking and support of farmer innovators has continued to function throughout 2012, which highlights the perceived benefits for its member organisations, which include farmers' organisations CAMOSEVEWHA, University of Limpopo and Limpopo Department of Agriculture. In KwaZulu-Natal, a research symposium was arranged by Mdukatshani Rural Development Trust (MRDT) and Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies to facilitate sharing of research results from KwaZulu-Natal between key stakeholders. While this was not a PROLINNOVA activity, there was sharing of cases of local innovation and joint experimentation from Msinga by MRDT staff.

The key input of PROLINNOVA South Africa during 2012 (also in 2013) was support to Grain SA, a commodity organisation in South Africa, in developing their programme to support farmer innovation.

A joint proposal with PROLINNOVA-Kenya and a researcher at Embrapa in Brazil was submitted in response to a call for pre-proposals through the Brazil-Africa Innovation Market Place. The project was titled: Development of low-cost feed supplementation options for smallholders' ruminants in South Africa and Kenya by combining scientific and local knowledge and drawing on locally available resources but it was unfortunately not successful. The team considered revising and resubmitting the proposal to the next call.

While the network has been quiet since there has not been funding for coordination-related activities or for joint experimentation activities, the concepts and principles of PROLINNOVA are still definitely relevant within South Africa. The members continue to implement activities that are aligned with the network within their own programmes and organisations, but the level of sharing between organisations and individuals has declined substantially. Efforts will be made during 2013 to enhance the networking and sharing activities – for example, the possibility of a

joint learning and sharing event with a programme coordinated by Monique Salomon, Tshintsha Amakhaya, could provide such an opportunity.

1.15. SUDAN

Abdelrahim Salih was announced as the new PROLINNOVA-Sudan coordinator in 2012 with Noureldine Abdalla, the former coordinator, taking on the role of advisor to the CP. Two NSC meetings were held in 2012.

A key achievement reported by the CP is the approval in June 2012 of the Sudan National Variety Release Committee of a farmer-selected early-maturing pearl millet variety named Wad el Bashir. Preparations were made by PROLINNOVA-Sudan partners including SOS Sahel-Sudan, El-Obied Research Station and the Climate Change Network to organise a workshop in January 2013 to mark the release of this farmer-selected variety and to create awareness on farmer innovation/experimentation among a wider group of stakeholders.

1.16. TANZANIA

No country report was received. However, the CLIC-SR project started in September. For project implementation purposes, a partnership was established between INADES-Formation Tanzania (the coordinating NGO) and the other main partners, namely Sokoine University of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock in the District Councils of the two areas selected for this project: Chamwino and Kondoa.

The only activity that took place was the CLIC-SR inception workshop. This workshop was attended by 9 people (two researchers, two farmer innovators, two staff members from government organisations in the targeted districts and one person each from Sokoine University of Agriculture, INADES-Formation and PROLINNOVA IST).

1.17. UGANDA

PROLINNOVA-Uganda has continued some of the activities such as documentation and dissemination of local innovations. In collaboration with Grameen Foundation Applab Uganda, several new innovations have been identified, documented and shared with farmers and other stakeholders through the Applabs' Community Knowledge Workers Network. Two of these innovations have also been published through TECA, an FAO knowledge exchange platform. In October, PROLINNOVA Uganda organised an exhibition on indigenous crops through PELUM Uganda at which two men and one woman presented innovative products made from indigenous crops.

The secretariat has kept in touch with the partners through e-mail and telephone contact. It has also continued to disseminate PROLINNOVA-Uganda publications at various advocacy and lobbying meetings attended by partners. The contact with the National Agricultural Research Organisation/ Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute continues on joint research.

PROLINNOVA-Uganda was also involved in completing activities under FAIR (completing FAIR 2 and FAIR 3). In the period April to June, all eight CBOs involved in FAIR 2 were supported to update the FAIR Register. This provided an overview of the innovations supported through FAIR (288) and helped in compiling the Uganda country paper on FAIR experiences which was published on the PROLINNOVA website. The experiences were shared among partners at a forum that took place in August. Some of the innovations supported through LISFs have been documented visually (on DVD) for wider dissemination. As part of the FAIR 3 transition year, PROLINNOVA-Uganda developed a possible scenario for scaling up LISFs taking into consideration the lessons learned and challenges faced in piloting LISFs. Ten partners were involved in this exercise. Monitoring by the secretariat revealed that involvement in FAIR had led to stronger partnerships between partners. Six of the eight CBOs involved in piloting LISFs had started some

form of income generating activity to sustain the LISF, whilst a quarter of the CBOs had sourced funds through the Community-driven Development Fund at sub-county level. In November, a meeting was organised with staff of the Uganda National Farmers Federation (a national farmer organisation) with a view to handing over the leading role of managing the LISFs to them. The chairperson supported the idea and follow up meetings are to be held.

PROLINNOVA-Uganda is also a partner in the CLIC-SR project funded by Rockefeller Foundation. An inception meeting with 11 partners was held in November 2012. Two districts – Nakasongola (main support through Kulika Uganda) and Moyo (main support through Environment Alert) – were selected for the field study on local perceptions of change and on local innovation in addressing these changes. The study will be conducted in 2013.

2. NETWORK-WIDE ACTIVITIES

2.1. On-going and new initiatives

Piloting Local Innovation Support Funds

Eight country papers (Ethiopia, Ghana, Nepal, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda) and a synthesis report which capture the experiences and the lessons from the FAIR 2 sub-programme of PROLINNOVA were finalised and published in 2012. Apart from dissemination within the network, these papers were posted on the PROLINNOVA website and circulated via several listserves to enable access by a wider audience. Four of the countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana and Uganda) involved in FAIR 2 were also involved in the FAIR 3 transition year funded by Rockefeller Foundation. The main objectives of this transition year were: a) to consolidate and operationalise the findings of the FAIR action research into promising model(s) for implementing and upscaling; b) to design country-specific ways of upscaling; and c) to get the involvement of key organisations and decision-makers in taking responsibility for upscaling. The activities were carried out as intended and the organisations involved in the countries have managed to develop a clear sense of direction for upscaling LISFs and have set in motion a process to make it work within their context. They will certainly have to continue following up this process to see tangible results.

PID for strengthening resilience to change

In 2012, two projects that build on PID as a means of adapting to and strengthening resilience to change were initiated. Both projects are engaging the partners of the country networks in activities and sharing.

In Asia, the regional partners of PROLINNOVA – Cambodia, India and Nepal – began implementation of the Misereor-funded project LINEX-CCA. The overall goal of this project is to contribute towards increasing the security of livelihood sources of climate-change vulnerable rural communities, particularly women, who depend on agriculture and the use of natural resources. The countries have selected the communities for this project and carried out a baseline to assess the perceptions of communities on climate change. They have also identified local innovations that are specifically intended to adapt to these perceived changes and are conducting farmer-led experiments with other relevant stakeholders to further develop and improve them. The project also intends to share the experiences gained at field level with policymakers to bring their attention to PID as a relevant approach for building the adaptive capacity of communities to climate change. This project has a duration of three years and will continue until the end of 2014.

Based on acceptance of the concept note submitted in 2011, PROLINNOVA partners in Africa (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania) and ETC submitted a full proposal to Rockefeller Foundation in 2012 titled: *Strengthening Community Resilience to Change: Combining Local Innovative Capacities with Scientific Research*. The proposal was accepted and implementation of the project began in September 2012. This project too intends to strengthen the resilience to change of smallholders and their communities, especially women, by enhancing their innovative capacity and their livelihood security through PID. The project also seeks to build the capacity of organisations working with smallholders to support the efforts of smallholders and to mainstream PID as an accepted approach within targeted national and international policy and organisations involved in ARD. During the start-up phase, inception and planning meetings were held in all countries. The field studies for

assessing the perceptions of smallholders in relation to change have been designed and the fieldwork commenced in late 2012 and will continue in 2013.

Collaboration with CCAFS

In May 2012, PROLINNOVA was invited to an expert meeting in communication and social learning by the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) research program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. Further interactions with CCAFS staff led to a collaboration between CCAFS and PROLINNOVA in the form of joint action research on social learning in the context of climate change. The initiative is called SOLLINKA (Social Learning Linking Knowledge with Action) and will be carried out in the period September 2012 to December 2015). The inception phase of September to December 2012 focused on identifying overlaps between CCAFS and PROLINNOVA partners and sites and opportunities for collaboration. Initially, the action research will commence in two countries – Kenya in East Africa and Senegal in West Africa – as they are the countries in which CCAFS sees opportunities for early collaboration. Another reason is that the funds available as of now do not permit work in more than two countries. The work will be expanded to the two more countries if more funding becomes available and based on how the action research takes shape in Kenya and Senegal.

Later in 2012, interactions between CCAFS and PROLINNOVA led to the co-development of an action research project on climate change, innovation and gender (CCIG). This two-year action research seeks to promote local innovation supportive of low emission agriculture, food security and gender justice. The project commenced in December 2012 with preparations for a workshop in 2013 to establish a framework for action research on the interface between climate change mitigation, innovation and gender. This framework will be tested through several small-scale pilots and lessons will be drawn for expanding on the successful pilots.

2.2. Policy dialogue and mainstreaming

Documenting the experiences, lessons, and challenges of PROLINNOVA initiatives through various forms of publication has been a way of getting these messages to larger audiences, especially policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders in ARD organisations, ministries, NGOs and academia. PROLINNOVA partners collaborated in several publications in 2012 which are listed in Annex 1. All these publications can be accessed through the PROLINNOVA website.

PROLINNOVA partners were invited to several international/regional events at which they presented papers, chaired sessions and provided inputs as resource persons. A list of international events in 2012 to which PROLINNOVA was invited and/or participated in is found in Annex 1.

2.3. Governance and network functioning

International Partners Workshop

The IPW took place in Bamako, Mali, from 12 to 14 March 2012 and was hosted by ADAF-Gallé – the lead NGO of PROFEIS, Mali. As was the case in 2011, funding for the event came through multiple sources. Several CP participants sourced their own funding to participate in the event. Mr Tiassé Coulibaly, president of the Association of Professional Farmer Organisations, was among those who made speeches at the opening ceremony. The key items on the agenda were: lessons from the study on multi-stakeholder partnerships in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and the plans for a synthesis publication; LISFs and the outcomes of FAIR 2; PID in climate change adaptation with an introduction to LINEX-CCA and CLIC-SR

projects. The participants worked in four small regional groups – Asia, eastern, southern and western Africa – to look for opportunities for collaboration in fund raising. The POG, who had met before the IPW, gave a short briefing and stimulated a discussion on the minimum requirements of CPs to remain active within the network in a scenario where there is no more core funding for the network's activities. The IPW concluded on a positive note with all participants wanting to continue the activities of the network and looking forward to the next IPW in 2013.

PROLINNOVA Oversight Group

The 13th POG meeting took place on 10 and 11 March in Bamako, Mali, ahead of the IPW. It formally accepted India's proposal to join the network. The POG discussed the general progress of the CPs and the IST in terms of activities undertaken. It noted the lack of participation and communication from several CPs and provided advice on ways to stimulate this. The POG discussed adding several criteria to the guideline on minimum commitments to sustain the network. Another point that was discussed at length was fund raising and several possible avenues were noted for sharing at the IPW. The POG co-chairs participated in the IPW and briefed the participants on the main outcomes of their discussions. In terms of composition, it was decided to extend Marise Espineli's term until 2014 so that she could be co-chair together with Susan Kaaria until early 2013. A new POG member was elected in 2012 by the non-francophone Country Platforms in Africa: Amanuel Assefa from Ethiopia. Amanuel was named by the POG to represent PROLINNOVA International in the Advisory Committee for the AgTraIn (Agricultural Transformation through Innovation) programme, in which PROLINNOVA is an associate partner, and attend the meeting for selecting doctoral candidates in late 2012.

Country backstopping

In 2012, several backstopping trips to CPs involved in different projects were made by IST members, in some cases piggybacked on travel undertaken for other assignments. These trips were also used to discuss the general situation of the CPs. The following backstopping visits were made in 2012:

Table 1: Backstopping visits from IST to CPs in the period January to December 2012

Dates (2012)	Country	Main topics
22-28 January	South Africa	Discussion on why things are not moving forward in the network and what could be done
12-15 March	Mali	Support to Mali CP in holding the IPW and other matters related to the network in Mali
11-12 May	Ethiopia	Field visit to Amaro and meeting with farmer innovators involved in LISFs; meeting with new Director of ASE; informal discussions with core group members
May	Senegal	Visits to NSC members; improving the networking functions; review of PID activities
12 -21 August	Kenya	FAIR workshop on lessons from piloting LISFs; meeting with KARI Asst Director; meeting with partners of CLIC-SR; feedback from CCAFS on events of the Agricultural Innovation Week to be held in 2013
15 September	Ethiopia	Meetings with several core group members; introductory meeting at PANE on taking over as the host NGO for the country network
5-7 November	Uganda	Participation and technical inputs at CLIC-SR inception workshop; support to partners to finalise FAIR 3; discussion on general CP management and coordination issues

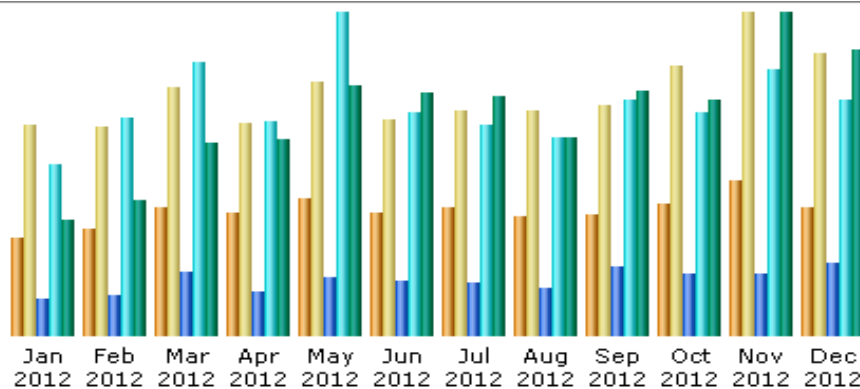
Dates (2012)	Country	Main topics
8-10 November	Tanzania	Participation and technical inputs at the CLIC-SR inception workshop; discussion on general CP management and coordination issues
14 – 27 November	India	Getting to know the CP partners (first visit to India since they joined as CP); follow up to activities related to LINEX-CCA; visits to potential donors
26 November – 4 December	Kenya	Support to PROLINNOVA–Kenya team on FAIR3, CLIC–SR and preparations for Eastern Africa Farmer Innovation Fair; meetings with staff of CCAFS about PROLINNOVA–CCAFS collaboration
5-7 December	Ethiopia	Support to PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia team on FAIR3, CLIC–SR and preparations for Eastern Africa Farmer Innovation Fair

Monitoring & Evaluation

The PROLINNOVA e-evaluation for 2012 was held from 30 January to 8 February 2013. This time, there was only one round of performance assessment by the country platforms (CPs) and international support team. The assessment followed the same e-evaluation format that was used in 2011 which included two items on self-assessment of partnership at the national level. This time, two questions were added on the self-assessment portion: efforts towards fundraising locally and efforts towards fundraising internationally. The PROLINNOVA network assessed its performance as an international network under the same themes covered last year: governance, learning and sharing among partners and CPs, capacity building, functioning of the IST and Secretariat, increased international awareness on PID and partnership functioning at the national level. We received 10 responses from the following CPs: South Africa, India, Ghana, Mozambique, Nepal, Cameroon, Uganda, Mali, the Secretariat (ETC) and a member of the International Support Team (IST), IIRR, representing 15 respondents. IIRR and ETC sent group responses. From a scoring range of 1–5 (low to high), the average performance of the network was scored at 3.05. Governance was rated highest at 3.6, followed by increased international awareness on PID/PROLINNOVA at 3.48. Rated lowest were capacity building at 2.04 and Learning and sharing of information at 2.75. These low scores are attributed to the limitations in funding. Despite the funding-related challenges, it was possible to continue to share, learn and link the platform members through the website and the yahoo group. Some CPs are still able to continue PROLINNOVA work through the regular programming of the member organisations.

Website management

The PROLINNOVA website was maintained and regularly updated throughout the year. More than 75 uploads on news and information were made during 2012. The website contains a large collection of publications, reports and other information material related to the network. The web statistics for 2012 are as follows:



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2012	960	2,066	6,319	28,639	1.67 GB
Feb 2012	1,049	2,046	6,782	36,483	1.94 GB
Mar 2012	1,262	2,441	10,590	45,850	2.78 GB
Apr 2012	1,204	2,076	7,346	35,978	2.82 GB
May 2012	1,349	2,482	9,718	54,225	3.59 GB
Jun 2012	1,205	2,118	9,268	37,409	3.51 GB
Jul 2012	1,255	2,209	8,801	35,333	3.45 GB
Aug 2012	1,165	2,212	8,044	33,277	2.86 GB
Sep 2012	1,187	2,252	11,541	39,704	3.54 GB
Oct 2012	1,285	2,654	10,329	37,625	3.39 GB
Nov 2012	1,523	3,165	10,256	44,628	4.65 GB
Dec 2012	1,251	2,774	12,104	39,688	4.11 GB
Total	14,695	28,495	111,098	468,839	38.31 GB

The website attracted an average of 1224 unique visitors a month and the average number of visits per month to the website was 2374. There has been steady traffic on the website throughout the year. Some of the most visited pages were: Resources, Publications, About us and New items. In terms of CP, the webpages of South Africa, Ethiopia and Nigeria were most frequently visited. *(note: the above figures are exclusive of hits of traffic generated by robots, worms, or ripples with special HTTP status codes.)*

CONCLUSION

Despite starting 2012 on a note of uncertainty due to changes in funding, PROLINNOVA has made overall progress during the year in furthering its agenda of promoting farmer-led innovation and research, both nationally and internationally. Although several CPs have struggled to keep up their activities due to financial constraints, others have managed to secure funding for projects building on the PID-related work done thus far. Several CPs have had the opportunity to develop models for scaling up LISFs and now face the challenge of finding ways to operationalize them by finding allies within the countries. Regional collaboration as in the case of CLIC-SR and LINEX-CCA has opened up new avenues for continuing PID work in a number of CPs. It is noteworthy that nearly half of the participants who joined the IPW paid their own costs which in itself is a show of their commitment to being part of a learning and sharing network.

At the international level, there seems to be a trend towards increased recognition for farmer innovation and an innovation systems approach to ARD. This would be a trend for PROLINNOVA to watch and take advantage of whenever there is an opening, especially as it attempts to mainstream PID.

Funding will however remain a challenge in the years to come – both at country and at international level. Like the farmer innovators who have to be creative in navigating the changes in their circumstances, PROLINNOVA too would have to be innovative in adapting to changing scenarios and finding new ways of funding its work to achieve its goals.

Annex 1

Annex 1: Involvement of CPs/ST in acquisition in the period January 2012 to May 2013

[illegible]

Annex 2

Publications of PROLINNOVA International Secretariat in 2012

Publications (also web-based) 2012

Fanos Mekonnen Birke & Waters-Bayer A. **Institutionalising participatory innovation in agricultural advisory services: the case of Tahtay Maychew District, Tigray, Ethiopia.** Website of Tropentag Conference on International Agricultural Research for Development, 19–21 Sept 2012, University of Göttingen, Germany (poster + 4-pp paper).

Ssuuna J, Gonsalves J & van Veldhuizen L. ***Making partnerships work: insights from Prolinnova's work in three countries in Africa.*** Silang, Cavite, Philippines: International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) / Leusden: PROLINNOVA International Secretariat, ETC Foundation

Triomphe B, Waters-Bayer A, Floquet A, Kamau G, Letty B, Vodouhe SD, Ng'ang'a T, Stevens J, van den Berg J, Selemnna N, Bridier B, Crane T, Almekinders C, Oudwater N & Hocdé H. **Joint learning to enhance innovation systems in African agriculture.** Website of Tropentag Conference on International Agricultural Research for Development, 19–21 Sept 2012, University of Göttingen, Germany. 4 pp.

Triomphe B, Wongtschowski M, Krone A, Waters-Bayer A, Lugg D & van Veldhuizen L. **Providing farmers with direct access to innovation funds.** In: World Bank (ed.), *Agriculture innovation systems: an investment sourcebook* (Washington: World Bank), Module 7, pp117–126.

Veldhuizen L van, Waters-Bayer A & Wettasinha C. ***Farmer Access to Innovation Resources: findings and lessons learnt on facilitating Local Innovation Support Funds.*** Leusden: ETC Foundation. 72pp.

Veldhuizen L van, Waters-Bayer A & Wettasinha C. **Farmers' direct access to R&D resources accelerates local innovation.** *PROLINNOVA Policy Brief.* Leusden: PROLINNOVA International Secretariat. 4pp.

Waters-Bayer A, Wettasinha C, Yohannes GebreMichael, Magagi S & van Veldhuizen L. **Strengthening local adaptive capacity: the key to resilience in the face of climate change.** Website of Tropentag Conference on International Agricultural Research for Development, 19–21 Sept 2012, University of Göttingen (poster + 4pp paper).

Wettasinha C & Waters-Bayer A. **Strengthening local adaptive capacity: the key to sustainability in the face of climate change.** GFAR (Global Forum on Agricultural Research) Voices of Change (http://www.egfar.org/sites/default/files/chesha_wettashina-strengthening_local_adaptive_capacity.pdf)

International conferences, workshops and other events attended by Prolinnova in 2012

11–12 Jan: **Workshop on Development Opportunity Crops**, Rome, Italy: Shreeram Neopane, PROLINNOVA–Nepal; invited and sponsored by GlobalHort.

20 Jan: **Tracking investment in agricultural research for development (ARD)**, Berlin, Germany; Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, presented paper on civil-society organisation (CSO) influence on financing ARD; invited and sponsored by Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR).

25 Jan: **Misereor Study Day on People-Led Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture**, Aachen, Germany; Laurens van Veldhuizen, International Support Team (IST), presented paper on “Strengthening local resilience to climate change: the role of grassroots innovation in the face of climate change”; invited and sponsored by Misereor.

2–3 April: **AusAID Systematic Review of Innovation Grants Workshop**, Wageningen, Netherlands; Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, invited and sponsored by AusAID / Wageningen University and Research.

3 April: **Seminar on Experiences with Innovation Grant Systems for Smallholder Farmers**, Wageningen University, Netherlands: Ann Waters-Bayer; presentation on “FAIR (Farmer Access to Innovation Resources): action learning about farmer-managed innovation funds”; invited by Technology & Agrarian Development (TAD) Group, sponsored by ETC Foundation.

2 May: **NGO and FO participation in agricultural research for development: mechanisms and instances at national, regional and global level and opportunities for NGO/FO coordination**, Brussels, Belgium; Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, presented paper on role of CSOs in European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development; invited by Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires (CSA) / PAEPARD (Platform for African–European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development), sponsored by INSARD (INcluding Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development).

8–10 May: **Strategies, Approaches and Tools to Strengthen Local Decisions on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security: Expert Meeting on Communication and Social Learning**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Chesha Wettasinha, IST; participant invited and sponsored by CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).

30 May–1 June: **International Workshop on Investing in and Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems**, Washington DC, USA; Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, presented on “Farmer-managed funds for local innovation” and “Climate-resilient agriculture and agricultural innovation systems”; invited by World Bank, sponsored partly by World Bank, partly by EU through JOLISAA (Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture).

15 June: I-WEEKS, organised by OtherWise, Centre for Development and Innovation and Communication Sciences, Wageningen University and Research (WUR); Chesha Wettasinha, IST, presented on “Local innovation and farmer/led joint research”.

5 July: **Coady International Institute Public Lecture Series**, Antigonish, Canada; Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, public lecture on “Investing in farmers’ creativity with community-managed innovation support funds: lessons from the international PROLINNOVA network”; invited and sponsored by Coady International Institute, St Francis Xavier University.

10 July: **Food Security Centre in Dialogue**, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Germany; Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, presented on “Farmers as researchers for food security: using locally managed innovation funds”, invited and sponsored by Food Security Centre, University of Hohenheim.

30 July–1 Aug: **Collaborative Crop Research Program Leadership Meeting**, Minneapolis, USA; Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, presented on “Linking technical and social innovation in PROLINNOVA”; invited and sponsored by McKnight Foundation.

13–14 Sept: **ILRI/AfricaRISING Program Workshop on R4D Approach at Farm Level**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, presented on “Getting to demand-led research

for development (R4D)”; invited and sponsored by International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

19–21 Sept: **Tropentag Conference on International Agricultural Research for Development**, Göttingen, Germany: Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, presented paper on “Joint learning to enhance innovation systems in African agriculture” and posters on “Strengthening local adaptive capacity: the key to resilience in the face of climate change” and “Institutionalising participatory innovation in agricultural advisory services: the case of Tahtay Maychew District, Tigray, Ethiopia”; invited by organisers upon acceptance of abstracts.

26–28 Sept: **Third Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) Annual Meeting "The Role of Rural Advisory Services in Agricultural Innovation Systems"**, Manila, Philippines; Marise Espineli, IST; invited by GFRAS; costs covered by IIRR.

27 Oct: **Mobilizing AR4D Partnerships to Improve Access to Critical Animal-source Foods**, Punta Del Este, Uruguay; Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, participant in pre-GCARD2 workshop; invited by CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish; sponsored by Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR).

29 Oct–1 Nov: **Second Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD2)**, Punta Del Este, Uruguay: Sonali Bisht, PROLINNOVA–India, member of GCARD2 Programme Committee & coordinator of pre-conference meeting of CSO; Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, presented on “Direct investment in farmer-led research” in session on New Investments to Transform AR4D and panellist presenting PROLINNOVA approach in session on Innovations for Better Livelihoods; invited & sponsored by GFAR.

4–7 November: **Asia Grassroots Innovation Design Competition and Forum – World Innovation Forum satellite event**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Suman Manandhar and Puspa Tiwari PROLINNOVA– Nepal, Suman Manandhar presented on “Prolinnova programme at a glance”; invited and sponsored by organisers Granma Inc. Tokyo, Japan.