

Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2014–15



Farmer explaining her innovation at West Africa Farmer Innovation Fair (Photo: Hassane Ouedraogo)

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List of acronyms

AAS	CGIAR CRP on Aquatic Agricultural Systems
ABSHCBDA	Alem Berhan Self-Help Community-Based Development Association
ACDEP	Association of Church-based Development Projects
AE+6	Agroecology Plus Six
AFAAS	African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
AGC	A Growing Culture
ANSO	Association Nourrir Sans Détruire
APF	AgriProFocus
ARD	Agricultural Research and Development
BOKU	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria
BPA	Best Practice Association
CA	Constituent Assembly
CCA	climate-change adaptation
CCAFS	CGIAR CRP on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CCRP	Collaborative Crop Research Program
CEDAC	Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CLIC–SR	Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research
CP	Country Platform
CRP	CGIAR Research Program
CSO	civil society organisation
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DoA	Department of Agriculture
EU	European Union
EPRDA	Evangelical Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency
FaReNe	Farmer-led Research Networks
FFS	Farmer Field School
FIPAO	<i>Foire de l’Innovation Paysanne en Afrique de l’Ouest</i> (West African Farmer Innovation Fair / WAFIF)
FL-ARD	Farmer-led agricultural research and development
FSG	Farmer Support Group
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation

GRC	Global Resilience Challenge
IFID	International Farmer Innovation Day
IFSA	International Farming Systems Association
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
INHERE	Institute for Himalayan Environmental Research and Education
INR	Institute of Natural Resources
IPRs	intellectual property rights
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IST	International Support Team
IYFF	International Year of Family Farming
JOLISAA	Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture
KIT	Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands (Dutch acronym)
LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development
LINEX–CCA	Local Innovation and Experimentation for Climate-Change Adaptation
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
LSC	Local Steering Committee
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NGO	nongovernmental organisation
NRM	natural resource management
NSC	National Steering Committee
Nuffic	Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education
PE	PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
PK	PROLINNOVA–Kenya
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PPT	PowerPoint
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
QUNO	Quaker United Nations Office
SOLLINKKA	Social Learning LINKing Knowledge with Action
WAFIF	West African Farmer Innovation Fair (<i>Foire de l’Innovation Paysanne en Afrique de l’Ouest</i> / FIPAO)
WN	World Neighbors

INTRODUCTION

The period 2014–15 was one of many challenges and changes within PROLINNOVA. This, in short, explains why it was not possible to produce an annual report for 2014. As the dust has settled and the network has agreed on its course of action for the period 2016–20, we have tried to compile a report that covers the main activities and events of 2014 and 2015.

Among the highlights of the two-year period was the West African Farmer Innovation Fair (WAFIF) or *Foire de l'Innovation Paysanne en Afrique de l'Ouest* (FIPAO), which brought together farmer innovators from eight countries in West Africa. The event was coupled with a workshop on farmer-led research that targeted professionals in agricultural research and development (ARD) from the region. Initially planned for 2014, the events were postponed to May 2015 because of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The fair and workshop took place in Ouagadougou on 12–16 May 2015. During the WAFIF, we also did a quick study on farmers' views on capacity to innovate. The fair attracted more than 500 visitors and the workshop was attended by 33 participants and supported by six donor organisations.

Since 2010, PROLINNOVA has not had core funding and all of its work has been accomplished through small, separately funded projects and partners' own contributions. The Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC–SR) project funded by the Rockefeller Foundation continued implementation in four Country Platforms (CPs) in Eastern Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. In Mali, the work in PROFEIS (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel, as some of the PROLINNOVA CPs in francophone West Africa call themselves) continued with support from Misereor (Germany). In terms of acquisition efforts, there were some successes and some failures. With funds from the McKnight Foundation (USA), a new project was launched in Mali and Burkina Faso to strengthen farmer-led research networks (FaReNe) in West Africa. PROLINNOVA joined hands with Groundswell International to submit a proposal to the Global Resilience Challenge (GRC) programme on strengthening community resilience to climate change through agroecology. PROLINNOVA partners in Senegal are participating in this project, called "Agroecology Plus Six" (AE+6), which started in 2015. A second project proposal submitted to GRC by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) and other Asian partners was not selected.

In 2015, PROLINNOVA was commissioned by the International Development Innovation Network of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to undertake a research study on the Development Outcomes of Local Innovation (DOLI). The study is being carried out in three countries – Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Vietnam – with three PROLINNOVA International Support Team (IST) members being part of the research study team. The study started in 2015 and is to be completed in December 2016.

An unexpected change in late 2014 was brought about by the decision of the Board of ETC Foundation – the host of the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat from the network's inception – to close down operations on account of financial insolvency. The PROLINNOVA team in ETC had three months to find alternative arrangements for hosting the network. This was a huge challenge and the best and only feasible offer in the short term came from the Royal Tropical Institute (Dutch acronym: KIT), which agreed to provide PROLINNOVA a

transitional home until a more sustainable solution could be found. The PROLINNOVA International Secretariat moved to KIT on 30 June 2015.

There were also several changes in the CPs. In some of them – for example, in the CPs in Kenya and Sudan – new coordinators were taken on board. Others, as in the case of Nepal, moved the CP secretariat to a different organisational host. Some CPs continued to be proactive in seeking new avenues for continuing their work, whilst others became somewhat passive because of a perceived lack of funding.

Meanwhile, during the International Partners Workshop (IPW) of 2015, discussions began on PROLINNOVA's strategy for 2016–20. After reflecting on the outcomes of PROLINNOVA's strategy for 2011–15, participants shared their ideas on the direction that the network should take in the next five years. A small team involving people from the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group and two volunteers from CPs took up these ideas and worked on a draft strategy for 2016–20.

As in the reports in past years, this report provides an overview of the activities of the CPs in Chapter 1, summarises the key network-wide activities in Chapter 2 and closes with a perspective on the future.

1. COUNTRY PLATFORMS

1.1 BOLIVIA

In the period 2014–15, several attempts were made to revive the PROLINNOVA–Andes regional platform (covering Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru). As a result of these efforts, the CP in Bolivia was reactivated through coordination by Bolivia-based staff of World Neighbors (WN). Having seen that the Andes regional platform was more or less inactive, the partners in Bolivia at the national level (Agregol–Andes, PRODII, PROSUCO¹, WN and several keen individuals) started to meet and discuss the future of the CP. After several meetings in 2014 and 2015, the partners developed a strategic plan for PROLINNOVA–Bolivia for the period 2015–18. They organised training in Participatory Innovation Development (PID) in August 2015. The first national farmer innovation fair, held in Cochabamba in December 2015, brought together 51 small-scale farmers who showcased their innovations.

1.2 BURKINA FASO

In 2014, there was little active communication from this CP. In 2015, a transitional period started in WN – one of the major NGOs involved in this CP – with a change in leadership. The CP became involved in the inception phase of the project, together with PROFEIS–Mali, for supporting farmer-led research networks (FaReNe); further details about this project funded by McKnight Foundation can be found later in this report. ANSD (*Association Nourrir Sans Détruire*), another of the NGOs involved in the CP in Burkina Faso, is partnering with Groundswell International in the GRC project AE+6. ANSD was also involved in making a video on farmer innovation in the face of climate change, with funding support from CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation). The film was made in French with English subtitles and was shown at the WAFIF/FIPAO. Several farmer innovators from Burkina Faso were involved in this fair, which was held in Ouagadougou, and the CP was heavily involved in organising it.

1.3 CAMBODIA

Partners in PROLINNOVA–Cambodia continued to implement the Local Innovation and Experimentation for Climate-Change Adaptation (LINEX–CCA) project until the end of December 2014. Nearly 300 farmers from five districts in three provinces were engaged in a variety of experiments to find ways of adapting their farming practices to climate change. Some tried out biochar and various mixes of organic manure on vegetable plots to increase the moisture-holding capacity of the soil. Others experimented with raised vegetable beds as a means of protecting vegetable crops, mainly salad crops, from flooding and rain damage. Yet others found various ways of adapting the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) to fit their own conditions. PROLINNOVA–Cambodia partners, such as CEDAC (Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture) and the Provincial Department of Agriculture, organised many training and sharing events to allow farmers from different communities

¹ PRODII: *Programa de Desarrollo Integral Interdisciplinario* (Interdisciplinary Integrated Development Programme); PROSUCO: *Promoción de la Sustentabilidad y Conocimientos Compartidos* (Promotion of Sustainability and Shared Knowledge)

and communes to exchange information. Some of these experiences were captured in a video “Vegetable growing using climate-smart agricultural innovations” and in a practice brief published by the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat in early 2015.

PROLINNOVA–Cambodia was involved in a Climate Change, Innovation and Gender pilot of the CGIAR Research Program (CRP) on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) supported by CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture). This project was concluded in 2014. It was implemented in ten villages in two districts of Cambodia. It sought to enhance farmers’ capacity to experiment with bio-char and bio-slurry compounds as soil conditioners to improve the fertility and thus the water-retention capacity of the soil. The project also looked at possible changes in gender relations caused by the introduction of new technologies and management practices, and mitigation of climate change through increased carbon capture in the soil and reduced use of fuelwood. CCAFS included this experience in one of its blog posts in 2014 (<https://ccaafs.cgiar.org/blog/project-pioneers-understanding-how-women-farmers-lead-way-mitigation-activities#.WL0qxYUr2Uc>).

In May 2014, CEDAC and PROLINNOVA–Cambodia hosted the IPW in Phnom Penh, celebrating the 10th anniversary of PROLINNOVA as an international network. As always, it was a well-organised event with some interesting field visits to Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Speu Provinces. This was the first time that a delegation from the University of Virginia, USA, joined the IPW to start building a partnership with PROLINNOVA. After taking part in the IPW, one teacher and two students from the Global Development Studies programme stayed on for a field internship of two weeks. This initial experience was very successful and led to a repeat visit of three students as interns to PROLINNOVA–Cambodia in the summer of 2015.

CEDAC submitted a proposal to *Brot für die Welt* (Bread for the World), Germany, to continue the work started under the LINEX–CCA project on promoting local innovation for climate-change adaptation (CCA). This proposal was approved for the period 2015–17.

1.4 CAMEROON

In 2014 and 2015, PROLINNOVA–Cameroon did not succeed in finding funds to move its agenda forward. This caused a decrease in motivation among some of the partners, which was manifested in poor participation in meetings. Nevertheless, the CP – primarily the host nongovernmental organisation (NGO) COSADER (*Collectif des ONG pour la sécurité alimentaire et le développement rural* / NGO Collective for Food Security and Rural Development) – continued without external funding to undertake several activities concentrated in the Adamawa and Central Regions of the country.

In the districts of Dir and Mbé in Adamawa, PROLINNOVA–Cameroon collaborated with the *Académie Paysanne d’Afrique Centrale* (Peasant Academy of Central Africa) in disseminating the concept of independent units (“atomisation”) in order to reduce household food insecurity and to support increased agricultural production. This activity, which provided 2000 families in Dir District with access to nearly two tonnes of maize seed, was supported by Senator Djoel Nguiebe, who also supported the celebration of the International Farmer Innovation Day (IFID), described below.

In the Central Region, work was continued with the innovative beekeeper Serge Ayangma, who installed apiaries in the locality of Nkometou. Support was also given to Teresa Bilounga

and the women's group in Akonolinga, who are exploring different ways to market clear liquid rock salt made from banana peel. In the town of Dir, two potentially widely useful innovations were identified: the production of alcohol from honey and the extraction of *kimba*, a flavouring for cooking, from the fruit of a local shrub.

In 2014, PROLINNOVA–Cameroon celebrated IFID. Various types of innovation related to white yam were presented, including both farmer innovations and farmer-led research findings from joint experimentation with staff from the University of Ngaoundere. The involvement of two senators in organising this IFID mobilised more administrative support from Mbé and the Department of Vina. In 2015, the celebration of IFID was an occasion to celebrate the innovations of beekeepers in the area of Nkometou. A four-day training session on building beehives helped popularise the farmer innovation of splitting bee colonies among beekeepers in the Central Region. By splitting the colonies, the beekeepers can develop their apiaries at lower costs and increase honey production.

No-one from PROLINNOVA–Cameroon could take part in the IPW in 2014 because of visa problems. However, Jean Bosco Etoa, the coordinator of PROLINNOVA–Cameroon, managed to join the IPW in 2015 in Axum, Ethiopia. He also held the seat for francophone West Africa on the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) for the two-year period 2014–15.

Six innovative farmers from PROLINNOVA–Cameroon travelled to Burkina Faso for the WAFIF/FIPAO in May 2015, and one of them won a prize. Preparation for this fair allowed the CP to explore farmer innovation in northern Cameroon, as the WAFIF focused on the Sahel region.

1.5 ECUADOR

No reports were received from Ecuador in the period 2014–15 and there were no responses to attempts made to revive contact.

1.6 ETHIOPIA

In 2014–15, PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia (PE) was in transition from hosting by PANE (Poverty Action Network Ethiopia) to a new host: Best Practice Association (BPA). CLIC–SR was the main externally funded activity; other activities were done with local partners' funds. BPA focused on documenting local innovations in Tigray Region, while Alem Berhan Self-Help Community-Based Development Association (ABSHCBDA) documented several in Amhara Region.

In August 2014, the Axum PE team held a 2-day training for 54 participants (47 men and 7 women) from civil society organisations (CSOs) in identifying local innovation and facilitating PID. Some farmers saw a threat from inappropriate use of agrochemicals on honeybees and their pollination role in farming and wanted to do research on this. In Mertulemaria, Amhara Region, ABSHCBDA held a 2-day training of CSO and local government staff in PID, involving 100 participants (85 men, 15 women).

In Tahtay Maichew District near Axum, 21 farmer innovators (including one woman) were trained to share their PID work on honey and wax production with other farmers. Some farmers did trials in making biofertiliser from local plants, dung and urine and in pollination of faba beans by bees (as evidence for their lobbying to reduce agrochemical use). A few farmers who were at the Eastern Africa Farmer Innovation Fair in Nairobi (2013) tried an innovation they saw there: using the shape of eggs to determine the sex of chicks before

they hatch. In Mertulemariam, ABSHCBDAs organised a PID meeting for three Farmer Field School (FFS) groups to identify local innovations and stimulate PID by farmers and technical advisors, focused on pest management and goat keeping. It also organised a district competition and gave awards to ten outstanding local innovators, including one woman.

In March 2015, a 2-day workshop on PID to escape poverty was held in Tahtay Maychew District with 11 poor rural women, three poor rural men and 11 local innovators, local administrators and development agents. The farmers learned to recognise local opportunities to innovate, e.g. by planting fruit trees or using irrigable land. Also in March, 28 men and 6 women farmers and advisors visited an experiment with irrigated teff using conventional, organic and ecological techniques. Four farmers tested locally adapted teff varieties in their irrigated plots. Axum Agricultural Research Centre supplied inputs (seed, fertiliser, poultry manure). Sixty farmers, mostly women, tried identifying chick sex by egg shape and now use this technique to plan market supply of hens and cocks. Some farmers did an experiment on the best season for planting *shibaka* (*Ficus thonningii* Blume) cuttings to increase vegetation cover and animal feed.

In 2014–15, various experience-sharing events were organised: a public lecture at Addis Ababa University on endogenous development initiatives; visits by students from Aksum University and local schools to see farmer innovations; a public lecture by woman innovator Haregu Gobeze at Mekelle University Agriculture Faculty about how she used desmodium (originally introduced for animal feed) to deal with saline soil and striga; celebration of IFID 2014 in Hawassa, southern Ethiopia, focused on managing soil fertility; and an IFID 2015 celebration in Addis Ababa on identifying chick sex by egg shape and farmers' contribution to higher food production by using biofertiliser.

Three policy-dialogue meetings on mainstreaming PID into policies and programmes were held, involving farmers, government agencies, NGOs, researchers, media and university staff and students: in Mekelle for Tigray Region, in Bahir Dar for Amhara Region and in Addis Ababa for the whole country. For these occasions, PE created a 6-page policy brief: http://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/Ethiopia/2015/prolinnova_policy_brief_may_2015_updated_agr.pdf

In 2015, on behalf of PE, BPA hosted and organised the PROLINNOVA IPW in Axum, as well as the annual regional CLIC–SR meeting and the POG meeting.

1.7 GHANA

After externally funded work of PROLINNOVA, e.g. piloting Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs), came to an end in Ghana, NGO partners – who have mainstreamed local innovation and PID approaches into their agriculture and food-security projects – continued to promote farmer innovation and build small-scale farmers' capacity to achieve greater productivity and climate resilience. The coordinating NGO Association of Church-based Development Projects (ACDEP) and the CP's core members from different stakeholder organisations are also actively involved in like-minded local platforms to ensure that climate-change responses and adaptation strategies and activities build on farmers' knowledge and innovation.

Highlights of activities during 2014 and 2015 were: local innovation and PID activities promoted by NGO partners among small-scale farmers; participation in the annual National

Farmers Day celebration by NGO partners and associated farmers to showcase top innovations and give awards to top innovators, organised by the Ministry of Food & Agriculture (MoFA); participation of ACDEP and core CP members in local climate-change innovation platforms, including those of CCAFS, the CIAT-led Water-Land-Ecosystems project and MoFA's Climate-Smart Agriculture Food Systems project.

Navrongo-Bolga Catholic Diocesan Development Office in the Upper East LISF zone entered into partnership with the Centre for Development Research of the University of Bonn, Germany, to implement a three-year "Local Innovation Contest" project, after a one-year pilot, covering all 13 administrative districts of the region. The partnership focused on organising an annual local innovation contest for interested farmers who wish to showcase their locally developed innovations. The contest has been mainstreamed into Ghana's National Farmers Day, which takes place on the first Friday of December each year. Other local partners involved in planning and facilitating the contest were the Department of Agriculture (DoA), Savanna Agricultural Research Institute, the Animal Research Institute and representatives of farmer organisations.

In 2015, the Bolgatanga Zonal Innovation Committee participated in the WAFIF/FIPAO in Burkina Faso. Ghana was represented by four farmers who had previously won awards in the Local Innovation Contest, three researchers, six DoA staff members and one NGO representative. The fair afforded an opportunity for the CP to exhibit several farmer innovations, and one Ghanaian innovator won an award.

Five farmer innovators were supported by the Evangelical Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (EPRDA) in the Northern Region of Ghana to sustain their innovations in ethnoveterinary medicine for treating various diseases of ruminants and poultry. As a result, 70 additional farmers (including 10 women) began to use these innovations for treating their livestock. Field staff members of EPRDA and DoA have continued to pay serious attention to training and promoting farmer innovation in soil fertility management, livestock production and environmental management.

A member of the IST worked directly with the CP members in the country to go through the stocktaking exercise funded by GFAR that looked at the previous decade of the CP's work (more details about this are given in Section 2.3).

1.8 INDIA

PROLINNOVA-India continued implementation of the LINEX-CCA project and concluded it in December 2014. Some of the experiences and lessons from this project related to local innovation and CCA were included in a practice brief that was published by the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat. In order to continue the activities started under the LINEX-CCA project, INHERE (Institute for Himalayan Environmental Research and Education) – the host NGO of PROLINNOVA-India – submitted a proposal to Misereor for a follow-up project. This was approved and implementation began in January 2015.

PROLINNOVA-India celebrated IFID in November 2014 and 2015 by organising a gathering of more than 200 farmer innovators, government functionaries, research scientists, people's representatives, and members of parliament and legislative assembly at the INHERE campus in Chinoni. Farmer innovators shared their experiences and were honoured for their

creativity. In 2014, Sonali Bisht, CP coordinator, participated in several events within and outside the country to share PROLINNOVA–India’s experiences, mainly through the LINEX–CCA project. These included a state consultation on gender and climate change in the Indian Himalayan region organised by IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), the IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements) conference on organic and ecological agriculture in mountain ecosystems in Bhutan, a workshop on tools for assessing climate-change resilience of the Jablapur Diocesan Social Service Society, and global policy consultations on formation of the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture in Vietnam and the Netherlands.

1.9 KENYA

PROLINNOVA–Kenya (PK), hosted by WN, focused on promoting local innovation to strengthen community resilience to change in the CLIC–SR work in Machakos and Baringo Counties. In 2014, Baringo farmers were introduced to the concepts of local innovation, PID and LISFs to support farmer-led experimentation. A Local Steering Committee (LSC) was set up with four male and four female farmers and five *ex-officio* members from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), the Network for Eco-Farming in Africa and two Marigat Sub-County administrators. In a 2-day training in 2015, the LSC learned about managing LISFs, vetting proposals from farmers, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The existing LSC in Machakos and the new one in Baringo called for proposals to the LISFs. The LSCs vetted the proposals and sent 12 to the National Steering Committee (NSC) for funding; ten were awarded LISF grants. The LSCs met several times for M&E of the activities and to share information on local innovations.

In February 2015, Joseph Righa and Eunice Karanja (CP coordinator) made a 2-day visit to Machakos to document lessons from the farmer-led joint experimentation on a local innovation involving transplanting finger millet from nurseries. This process, facilitated by PK member INADES²–Formation, involved farmer innovators and local MoA staff. In July 2015, they visited Machakos and Mwingi for two days to discuss with the LSCs the progress of old and new local innovations and to update documentation on the joint experimentation.

In 2014, PK took part in a WN workshop “*Strengthening farmer organizations and market development for improved livelihoods*” for farmer innovators and support services in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. As member of the National Committee for the International Year for Family Farming (IYFF), PK was involved in the IYFF celebrations in November 2014 in Machakos: a 2-day conference and fair with 212 participants including farmers, development agents and policymakers. Here also the IFID was celebrated. In 2014 and 2015, PK members including local innovators took part in several farmer/agricultural fairs organised by the Kenya Livestock Producers Association and AgriProFocus (APF) in various counties including Baringo and Machakos. The 2015 IFID celebrations were held by PK member Community Rehabilitation Environmental Protection Programme (CREPP) in Kisumu to showcase work of farmer innovators in Machakos, Kisumu, Baringo, Busia and Mwingi Counties.

² INADES: *Institut Africain pour le Développement Économique et Social* (African Institute for Economic and Social Development)

Joe Ouko, a farmer innovator in the PK network, participated actively in an international Expert Consultation on Small-scale Farmer Innovation in Bio-diverse Food Systems held by QUNO (Quaker United Nations Office) on 26–27 May 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The NSC held three meetings in 2014 and five in 2015 to discuss network issues, appraise progress and guide the network. In December 2015, a meeting of PK members (15 people from 11 organisations) was held to galvanise new partnerships and strategise for 2016.

1.10 MALI

Although 2014 and 2015 were politically challenging years for Mali, PROFEIS–Mali work supported by Misereor continued. Farmer-led joint experimentation continued at several locations on ways of eradicating Striga, grafting of *npégou* and *ngounan* trees, making biopesticides from the *potokolonibo* plant, improving the germination of *niama* seeds, improving and disseminating the clay incubator etc. In fact, the clay incubator is now being used in 12 villages, where farmers continue to adapt the innovation. Djela, the farmer who initially developed the clay incubator, has formed a poultry-farming cooperative of 24 farmers working with his innovation.

In November 2014, PROFEIS–Mali celebrated IFID at the Hampaté Ba Centre with a 2-day exhibition of 17 farmer innovations that was open to the public. Six private radio stations and a national TV station provided coverage of the exhibition. In addition, radio stations in Mopti and Ségou aired programmes related to PROFEIS.

In February 2015, Assétou Kanouté, the national coordinator of PROFEIS–Mali, was named Special Advisor to Assétou Migan, the Malian Minister for Scientific Research. This provides an excellent opportunity to integrate the concepts and approaches of promoting farmer innovation and farmer-led research and development into the agricultural research system in Mali.

Several farmer innovators and support staff from PROFEIS–Mali took part in the WAFIF/FIPAO in Burkina Faso. With funding from CTA, a video on the clay incubator was made in French (with English subtitles) and was shown at the fair.

Since 2015, ADAF-Galle, the host organisation of PROFEIS–Mali, is involved in the FaReNe project, which is discussed later in this report.

PROFEIS–Mali created a three-tiered governance and coordination structure: i) an NSC with 13 members, who meet once a year to examine the annual programme and budget; ii) a multistakeholder platform of over 200 partner organisations, who meet twice a year, mainly on technical issues related to implementing the annual plan; and iii) a 4-member technical team to supervise implementation. This change was made according to a recommendation in the external evaluation of the two previous phases of PROFEIS–Mali funded by Misereor.

1.11 MOZAMBIQUE

There had been little communication between the IST and PROLINNOVA–Mozambique, even though a volunteer living in Germany who is fluent in Portuguese has been helping to transcend the language barrier. Only shortly before the current report was completed did a report in Portuguese reach the IST about this CP's activities in 2014–15. The Catalan NGO

CIC-batá has been supporting small-scale farmers in southern Mozambique in efforts to achieve long-term food security and sovereignty. It recognised synergies in the activities of PROLINNOVA–Mozambique around recognising and promoting local innovation. It supported some local NGOs that are CP members through a programme called “Contributing to achieve food security and sovereignty in the provinces of Maputo and Gaza in Mozambique”.

This programme allowed CP partners – including ADCR (Association for Rural Community Development), the NGO that hosts the CP – to organise some exchange visits for farmer-to-farmer sharing of local innovations, mainly in crop production, environmental protection, soil conservation, pest control and post-harvest storage of crop products. In 2015, almost 100 farmers – over 70% of them women. Members of several farmer associations in Chigubo and Chibuto Districts of Gaza Province and in Marracuene District of Maputo Province showed each other how they made and used woven-grass containers for nurseries and biopesticides derived from local plants to apply in crop fields and in grain storage. They also showed how they used basketwork to store vegetables. Innovator farmers mentored other farmers who wanted to try out these innovations and these farmers, in turn, agreed to share the ideas with still more farmers. At one site (Guemulene), farmers plan to teach pupils at the local primary school how to make and use woven-grass containers for nurseries. This innovation is low-cost, uses local materials, is environmentally friendly and helps retain soil moisture for the plants in the nurseries. Visiting farmers were particularly impressed by the way in which farmers in Marracuene in Maputo District manage to produce crops in sandy soils, using manure and biopesticides.

1.12 NEPAL

PROLINNOVA–Nepal, through its host organisation LI-BIRD (Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development), continued the work on LINEX–CCA. It was a challenging project for the partners, as the two districts selected for the work were among the most vulnerable to climate change. Moreover, political unrest that continued throughout the reporting period caused some disruptions to fieldwork. The CP could not achieve as much as it set out to do under the LINEX–CCA project, but some of the interesting farmer innovations related to CCA were included in the practice brief published in 2014.

PROLINNOVA partners from Nepal participated in the IPWs in 2014 and 2015.

After the LINEX–CCA project came to an end and there was a change of management within LI-BIRD, interest in PROLINNOVA began to wane. This was compounded with the devastating earthquake of April 2015, after which all development organisations operating in the country turned to relief operations to deal with the aftermath. In October 2015, Suman Manandhar, who had been CP coordinator for several years, left LI-BIRD to take up a new position with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Having had several large projects awarded to them, LI-BIRD felt it was not able to give PROLINNOVA the attention it required. Moreover, with no funding for PROLINNOVA, it was even more difficult to continue hosting the CP secretariat. Thus, the CP partners began a discussion on the best way forward. Pratap Shrestha, POG member and former PROLINNOVA Country Coordinator of Nepal, facilitated the discussions within the CP, which continued until the end of 2015.

1.13 NIGER

No reports were received in the period 2014–15 and there were no responses to attempts made to revive contact. The CP coordinator was doing his PhD in Nigeria and was therefore unable to give time to networking.

1.14 NIGERIA

As the coordinator of PROLINNOVA–Nigeria, hosted by the NGO Development Resource Initiative (DRIVE), was studying for his doctorate, activities were minimal. However, in May 2015, four CP members published the paper “Role of local innovation in mechanisation of maize shelling: evidence from Igabi, Chikun and Kajuru Local Government Areas, Kaduna State, Nigeria” in the *Journal of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development*.

1.15 PERU

No reports were received in the period 2014–15 and no responses were received to attempts made to revive contact. However, according to local informants, the partners are using all opportunities that arise to promote local innovation and farmer-led research.

1.16 PHILIPPINES

PROLINNOVA–Philippines is a relatively new CP and has not yet managed to find any dedicated funding for its network-building activities. In 2015, it became a partner in CCAFS and is implementing a project in building a “climate-smart municipality” in Guinayangang, Quezon. It has integrated a community innovation fund, based on the principles of LISFs, into the climate-smart agricultural approach used in this project.

PROLINNOVA–Philippines celebrated IFID in 2014 and 2015. In 2014, IIRR, the host of the CP, in partnership with the Local Government of Guinayangan, organised an exhibition to honour farmers who continue to promote sustainable approaches and innovation in their farms and in managing natural resources. Rice farmers showcased their innovations with low-external-input techniques such as green leaf manure and rainwater harvesting. Others presented innovations in low-cost livestock farming through alternative housing and feeding. Also fishermen shared their good practices in mangrove reforestation.

In 2015, IFID was celebrated with two activities that encouraged farmers to learn from each other: 17 farmers from Guinayangan, Quezon, took part in a “roving workshop” with a special emphasis on coffee and cacao production, and 70 farmers took part in a “farmer learning event” in which farmer trainers shared innovations in livestock management.

1.17 SENEGAL

In 2013, Misereor terminated its funding support to PROFEIS–Senegal. Although the NSC had drawn up a Phase 3 programme and submitted it to a number of potential donors, no funding could be acquired. However, the NSC continued to seek funding to implement the project, believing that is an important phase required to institutionalise PID.

During 2014, several planned activities could not be implemented, but the collaborative project with CCAFS continued with work in the Kaffrine area on the climate-smart village approach. PROFEIS–Senegal hosted monitoring missions with partners interested in farmer

innovation, such as the visit from the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation of the Embassy of Belgium. The joint experimentation on the recovery of salt-affected land continued despite the tensions in the Thionck Essyl Valley. This innovation tries to recover saline lands to boost rice production. Although PROFEIS-Senegal's follow-up is limited because of the lack of funds, the farmers involved in developing the innovation reported more land reclaimed.

PROFEIS-Senegal joined the celebrations of IYFF in 2014. A large meeting was held in Séssène on 29 November (IFID) with the purpose of demonstrating the importance of family farming in achieving food security in Senegal. More than 300 people from ten regions of Senegal took part in this celebration supported by Fastenopfer (Switzerland). In addition, PROFEIS-Senegal coordinated three radio broadcasts in 2014 aimed at facilitating exchanges among farmer innovators.

For lack of funds, PROFEIS-Senegal could not participate in the IPW in 2014. However, one member of Agrecol-Afrique joined the IPW in 2015. He presented the mango and *nguiguiss* innovation and provided inputs to develop a tip sheet on how to use video to document farmer-led innovation.

PROFIES-Senegal sent a delegation of six people to the WAFIF/FIPAO and one of them took part in the workshop on farmer-led approaches to ARD. One NSC member and five farmer innovators showcased local innovations at the fair using posters, models and samples. More than 500 people visited their stand. With funding from CTA, PROFEIS-Senegal designed and produced a documentary film on an innovation related to planting of mango in dry areas.

In November 2015, PROFEIS-Senegal took part in an international symposium on agroecology held in Dakar and presented some farmer innovations related to the theme.

Agrecol-Afrique is a member of the consortium headed by Groundswell International that was awarded a GRC grant for their AE+6 proposal, which is detailed later in this report. In Senegal, the project is being implemented in three communities in Kaffrine Region.

The NSC remains active and met twice in 2014 to discuss common actions, to evaluate the second phase of PROFEIS funded by Misereor and to provide feedback about a possible third phase. During 2015, the NSC held three meetings to prepare for the WAFIF/FIPAO.

1.18 SOUTH AFRICA

The PROLINNOVA-South Africa platform was not very active in the reporting period, although many of the members continued to engage in farmer-led research and development activities. For example, the NGO Mdukatshani continued to work with farmers to develop and test systems for providing goat kids with access to feed in order to reduce mortalities, while the Farmer Support Group (FSG), the outreach arm of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, continued to support farmers and farmer networking through the Sivosimpilo Farmers Forum in the Bergville District. The Institute of Natural Resources (INR), which coordinates the CP, has also been finding ways to integrate farmer experimentation into various projects. Some examples include experimentation on winter supplementation of livestock and the introduction of agroforestry practices and new multipurpose tree species that communities can try out.

In 2015, ETC Foundation teamed up with PROLINNOVA–South Africa to submit a proposal to Nuffic (Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education) to give PID training in South Africa. Since INR was to provide rather than receive training, Mahlathini Organics, a small trust, joined INR to develop and submit the proposal to the Netherlands Embassy in Pretoria and then to Nuffic. Having won a grant, the first of a two-part training was held in August 2015 with participants from several NGOs (Mahlathini, INR, Zimele, Sinethemba, Lima, SaveAct and FSG) plus two extension officers from the Provincial Department of Agriculture. After the first workshop, participants were invited to submit proposals for funding to support PID pilots that would allow them to integrate the PID principles into their work programmes. PID pilot activities were initiated in late 2015 and continue into 2016.

1.19 SUDAN

During 2014–15, PROLINNOVA–Sudan was not involved in any project coordinated under the umbrella of the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat. However, the CP undertook a few activities to promote local innovation and farmer-led participatory research that were financed by partner organisations within their regular work and also sought external funding for some activities. These included a national workshop in El Obeid Agricultural Research Station, North Kordofan, to promote the newly released, farmer-selected pearl millet variety *Wad El Bashir*. This variety was then promoted in White Nile State through FFSs of PROLINNOVA–Sudan partners.

A proposal was submitted to the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) to disseminate improved technologies released by the Agricultural Research Corporation, a member of PROLINNOVA–Sudan. One of the proposed technologies was the above-mentioned pearl millet variety. The proposed budget was endorsed by AFAAS but there were challenges in receiving the money because of the USA embargo on Sudan regarding money transfers.

PROLINNOVA–Sudan is currently overseen by an NSC made up of 20 persons from NGOs and state institutions.

1.20 TANZANIA

PROLINNOVA–Tanzania’s main involvement in the network in 2014–15 was through its implementation of the CLIC–SR project. Of the seven innovations that were earmarked for farmer-led joint research, five were implemented. Several training workshops in PID were conducted for community groups. Almost 150 farmers, roughly half of them women, took part in these workshops. In addition, 85 staff members of government research and extension and CSOs were trained in promoting local innovation, PID and CCA.

One participant from CP member INADES–Formation attended the IPW in 2014 and 2015.

1.21 UGANDA

Uganda was one of the CPs implementing the CLIC–SR project in the period 2014–15. The work continued in two districts – Nakasongola and Moyo. Eleven innovative farmers, men and women, were supported to improve their innovations by staff of KULIKA and Environmental Alert and researchers from MUZARDI (Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute) and ABIZARDI (Abi Zonal Agricultural Research and Development

Institute). Training in PID and CCA was given to 88 women and 52 men in the two districts. Farmers were also given training in LISFs in order to make them more aware of the possibility of using the fund for their research. Five innovators and two innovator groups received LISF grants for their research.

With funding obtained through Nuffic, ETC Foundation provided tailor-made PID training to a group of PROLINNOVA partners through a two-step programme – a five-day PID training workshop in March 2014, followed by several months of field practice and a follow-up training in June 2014. The field visits during the training was done in Kikandwe, a community in which PROLINNOVA–Uganda had initiated work nearly ten years before and which is now a thriving community of innovators. Ronald Lutalo, a former CP coordinator, co-facilitated the training with Chesha Wettasinha of the International Secretariat.

The NSC and the Core Team met once each in 2014, mainly to review the progress of the network and to find ways to maintain the network's vibrancy.

KULIKA represented PROLINNOVA–Uganda at a conference on community-based adaptation and resilience organised by CARE International in Ethiopia in September 2014.

2 NETWORK-WIDE ACTIVITIES

2.1 ONGOING AND NEW INITIATIVES

SOLLINKKA: Social Learning Linking Knowledge with Action

2014 marked the second year of collaboration between PROLINNOVA and the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) under the title "Social Learning **LINK**ing Knowledge with **Action**" (SOLLINKKA). This fitted into CCAFS' theme "Integration for decision-making", aimed at making knowledge useful for policymakers and ensuring effective engagement of rural communities in research. In SOLLINKKA, PROLINNOVA partners engaged in social learning on the ground to demonstrate the value of the PID approach in strengthening resilience of farming communities in the face of climatic and other change, e.g. through: facilitation of multistakeholder platforms for joint learning, transdisciplinary collaboration in PID, scaling up LISFs as mechanisms to change the power balance in decision-making about ARD, and process documentation and farmer-led documentation as tools for joint learning. The partnership with CCAFS gave PROLINNOVA a chance to expand its social-learning activities and CCAFS a chance to explore how the PID approach enhances community resilience to change. The SOLLINKKA-supported activities in 2014 were at international level:

- Joint learning from assessment of PROLINNOVA's ten years of experience with PID
- Collaboration between PROLINNOVA, CCAFS and Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS) in a study on the impact of farmer-led research approaches in strengthening local capacities to innovate
- Support to partners in organising the WAFIF/FIPAO and workshop on farmer-led research approaches, originally scheduled for late 2014 but postponed to early 2015 on account of the Ebola crisis
- Website inputs and blogs on farmer-led research approaches in strengthening social learning and community resilience to continuous change.

Although the Memorandum of Understanding with CCAFS had been for three years (2013–15), changes in the structure and funding of CCAFS meant that the SOLLINKKA activities planned for 2015 could not be financed. An overview of SOLLINKKA can be found at: http://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/thematic_pages/climate_change_pid/sollinkka_for_ipw_2013_pdf.pdf

PID for strengthening resilience to change

Two projects under this theme continued in the period 2014–15. The LINEX–CCA project supported by Misereor, Germany, that was being implemented in Cambodia, Nepal and India was concluded in December 2014. Some of their experiences were captured in a practice brief "Innovative farmers adapting to climate change in Asia" and shared widely (http://prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/linex_cca/practice-brief29juni-lr.pdf).

Implementation of the CLIC–SR project continued in 2014 and 2015 in four countries in Eastern Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. During the annual meetings of project partners that were held back-to-back with the IPWs, the partners discussed various issues

related to documentation, M&E of farmer-led joint research process and using the evidence for policy-influencing activities.

Partners in both projects joined hands to share their experiences with others in the network through special sessions at the IPWs: in 2015, a session on “Joint experimentation for adaptation to change” and in 2014 a session on “Strengthening resilience through local innovation and PID”.

More information on these projects can be found at: <http://prolinnova.net/clic> and <http://prolinnova.net/linex>

Study on development outcomes of farmer-led ARD

PROLINNOVA was commissioned by AAS and CCAFS to undertake a desk study on the impacts of farmer-led agricultural research and development (FL-ARD) supported by CSOs. Based on 11 case studies from Africa, Asia and Latin America selected from over 100 cases identified, the study team – consisting of five members of the International Secretariat at ETC Foundation – assessed the extent to which farmer- or community-managed processes of research and innovation in agriculture and natural resource management (NRM) led to improvements in rural livelihoods. It analysed available evidence on the impact of farmer-led approaches in terms of food security, ecological sustainability, economic empowerment, gender relations, local capacity to innovate and adapt, and influence on ARD institutions. It then drew lessons related to: the process of FL-ARD and supporting it; sharing and spreading results of FL-ARD; scaling out the FL-ARD process; scaling up FL-ARD as an approach; gender and other equity issues; roles of formal research, advisory services and education; roles of CSOs; and roles of funding agencies. These lessons provide guidance for better integration of “formal” and “informal” research in the midst of agricultural and rural development by smallholder farming communities. The report can be found at: <http://www.worldfishcenter.org/content/study-impacts-farmer-led-research-supported-civil-society-organizations>

A PowerPoint presentation (PPT) and a 4-page paper based on the study were presented at the Tropentag in Prague in September 2014 (see below).

Farmer-led Research Networks (FaReNe)

This initiative, funded by the McKnight Foundation (USA) under the PROLINNOVA network, seeks to strengthen and support farmer-led research networks (FaReNe) in which small-scale farmers take the lead in experimentation jointly with formal researchers for agro-ecological intensification, building on local knowledge and innovation. FaReNe’s objectives are: i) to identify and analyse existing local innovation processes and innovations and to improve and spread them through PID and LISFs; ii) to create/strengthen farmer-led research networks that take the lead in PID, LISF management and related innovation activities; and iii) to gain deeper insights into how farmer-led research networks function and to share lessons about this widely.

The one-year inception phase in 2014–15 strengthened the partnerships between the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat and the main partners in Burkina Faso: WN, *Centre National de Recherche Scientifique et Technologique* and three NGOs; and in Mali: ADAF-

Gallè, *Institute d'Economie Rurale* and the farmer organisation AOPP. The project started in Passoré and Gnagna Provinces in Burkina Faso and in Ségou and Mopti Regions in Mali.

In Mali, 17 farmer innovations were identified and four of these were analysed in detail as having potential for farmer-led joint experimentation. These are innovations related to environmental protection and better management of natural resources: i) sustainable production of shea butter; ii) restoring degraded land by planting *Acacia senegal*; iii) managing land for natural regeneration and protection of the vegetation using multipurpose species; and iv) restoring degraded land by burying plant debris in furrows. In Burkina Faso, 12 innovative farmers are focusing on: i) soil and water conservation measures; ii) restoring and maintaining vegetation cover through Assisted Natural Regeneration, planting endangered species and establishing nurseries; and iii) increasing the forage availability.

Already during the inception phase, research on farmer-led networks started. National networks bring together the local networks, and a regional network will link the two national networks. The project forms part of the West African Community of Practice within the Collaborative Crop Research Program (CCRP) of McKnight Foundation.

In November 2015, a three-year FaReNe project was launched. Further farmer innovations were identified, characterised and selected for farmer-led joint experimentation. National teams trained field staff members in PID and in documenting innovations and innovation processes. The experimenting farmers and researchers designed their experiments jointly. LISFs are being piloted to channel resources to farmers for these joint experiments. Communication and policy-dialogue activities are meant to scale out the findings and institutionalise farmer-led approaches within formal ARD. Learning and reflection on the joint innovation processes and the farmer-led networks are integrated in all project stages.

Global Resilience Challenge (GRC)

Out of almost 500 applications submitted to the GRC in 2014, Groundswell International, in collaboration with ETC Foundation, Sahel Eco, ANSD and Agrecol-Afrique, was selected by the Rockefeller Foundation as one of 17 teams to identify resilience problems and produce transformative solutions in agriculture. The project “Agroecology Plus Six” (AE+6) aims to disseminate and strengthen the AE+6 approach in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal: agroecology, people’s savings for change, gender, empowerment and food and nutrition security.

In early 2015, when ETC Foundation started to wind down operations, Groundswell terminated the contract with ETC. In late 2015, after KIT became host of the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat, it was agreed with Groundswell that an IST member specialised in farmer organisation would be involved in the GRC AE+6 project. To strengthen collaboration between Groundswell and PROLINNOVA around this project, some members of the AE+6 team planned to join the IPW in 2016.

Partnerships with Access Agriculture and A Growing Culture

In 2015, the PROLINNOVA network signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Access Agriculture, an international NGO registered in Kenya with a global mandate to promote the sharing of videos in support of sustainable agriculture and NRM in developing countries. PROLINNOVA and Access Agriculture plan to collaborate in promoting the production,

translation, distribution and use of high-quality farmer training videos in local languages. PROLINNOVA members will be able to upload their videos on farmer innovation and farmer-led research on the Agtube web platform (www.agtube.org).

Also in 2015, the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat was contacted by A Growing Culture (AGC) about a farmer innovation library. AGC is a US American initiative to create a web-based community of family farmers and sustainable agriculture advocates. It is setting up an online repository of written, video and audio documents, technical brochures, slide shows etc. It wants to help farmers articulate their innovations in a way that makes sense to other stakeholders, although most of the documentation thus far is not being done by farmers. It is also interested in hosting documents from other organisations, e.g. PROLINNOVA and PELUM (Participatory Ecological Land Use Management). It hopes to add useful details such as creator, date, subject and keywords to make the documents searchable and to be able to link them. AGC is forming a library steering committee with various stakeholders, including farmer organisations and lead farmers, who will influence the trajectory of the library.

During the annual St Ulrich Group meeting in Austria in September 2015, the idea of starting off with a study on “Best practices to document farmer innovation” was developed, as a first phase in triggering interest for the farmer innovation library and building a community of practice. Together, AGC and PROLINNOVA drew up an outline for the study, made an inventory of donor organisations, formulated a cover letter to CTA (which was regarded as a possible donor) and planned outreach to potential members of the steering committee.

2.2 POLICY DIALOGUE AND MAINSTREAMING

International Farmer Innovation Days in 2014 and 2015

In 2014, the CPs in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal and the Philippines organised diverse events to mark IFID (29 November each year). Farmer innovators were central in all of these events, which mainly took the form of workshops or exhibitions, giving the farmers a platform to present their innovations and address other ARD stakeholders. Some of the events were thematic, such as the workshops on soil health in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia, where farmers showcased their innovations in improving degraded soils. In other IFID events, a broader range of farmer innovations was demonstrated. This provided a space for interaction of farmer innovators with policymakers, academics, government research and extension staff and the wider public. The Netherlands-based members of the IST co-organised a half-day event with several student organisations including Boerengroep, Otherwise and Rural Wageningen Foundation. The agenda included lectures, stories from innovative farmers and an excursion to the Wageningen University experimental farm.

Also in 2015, several CPs celebrated IFID in November. The Philippines, Bolivia, Cameroon, Kenya and India were among the countries that organised events similar to those of 2014. More information can be found at: <http://www.prolinnova.net/content/international-farmer-innovation-day-29-november-each-year-1>

West Africa Farmer Innovation Fair and workshop on farmer-led research

On 12–16 May 2015, a West African workshop on approaches to farmer-led research and a West African Farmer Innovation Fair (WAFIF) / *Foire de l'Innovation Paysanne en Afrique de l'Ouest* (FIPAO) was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. This was an initiative of PROLINNOVA in collaboration with APF Netherlands, CCAFS, McKnight Foundation's CCRP Community of Practice in West Africa, Misereor (Germany) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The event raised great interest from the authorities in Burkina Faso and involved several policymakers, including the Prime Minister, Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation and Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources, Sanitation and Food Security.

The workshop on farmer-led research preceding the fair brought together 35 participants from development organisations, farmer organisations, universities and research institutes from five countries in West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal) and four from the Global North (Belgium, Germany, Netherlands and USA). It focused on issues of technology supply and demand in African agriculture and intellectual property rights (IPRs) related to farmer innovations. Participants also shared experiences related to processes of introducing external innovations, co-developing innovations, innovation emerging from multistakeholder platforms and autonomous innovation by farmers. The workshop culminated in a statement "The Ouagadougou Declaration", challenging all stakeholders to further promote research led by small-scale farmers. It can be read at: http://prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/news/2015/rapport_atelier_fipao_july_2015_final.pdf

During two days, 50 innovations of small-scale farmers in the Sahel were exhibited in a pavilion of the International Crafts Fair of Ouagadougou (SIAO). The innovators came from eight countries: Burkina Faso, (northern) Cameroon, (northern) Benin, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal and (northern) Togo. The innovations involved crop and livestock production techniques, NRM, processing of agrosilvopastoral products, crop conservation and storage, agricultural mechanisation, communication and other institutional innovations. The WAFIF/FIPAO Organising Committee gave prizes to five top innovators and special mentions to encourage three more innovators. These awards recognised the originality, relevance and viability (technical, environmental and economic) of the innovations.

Side events included panel discussions on access to training for rural development workers, the importance of journalists and communicators in disseminating innovations, networking between and with innovators, strategies for ecological intensification, and protection of farmer innovators' IPRs. Three videos in French (with English subtitles) showed innovations developed by small-scale farmers to help address the effects of climate change; these films were products of collaboration between CTA, PROLINNOVA and the WAFIF/FIPAO Organising Committee and were viewed by over 120 people during the fair. Watch the videos at: <http://fipao.faso-dev.net/?cat=18>

At the fair, IST member Jean-Marie Diop interviewed farmer innovators to learn about their perspectives of what enhances and constrains local innovation. The farmer innovators also gave their recommendations about how farmer-led innovation processes could be strengthened. The French report *Les perceptions des paysans innovateurs sur la capacité à innover : notes d'entrevues à la Foire de l'innovation paysanne en Afrique de l'Ouest*

(<http://fipao.faso-dev.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Notes-sur-les-interviews-des-paysans-innovateurs-final-2015.pdf>) was summarised in English; the summary can be found: www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/news/2015/report_fi_interviews_c2i_dr_aft_for_aas_15_july_2015.pdf

AAS workshop on capacity to innovate

In March 2014, IST members Laurens van Veldhuizen and Ann Waters-Bayer attended a workshop on "Innovation in the System CRPs", organised by AAS and hosted by KIT in Amsterdam. The workshop brought together mainly people from the CRPs but also a few people from universities and NGOs who are keen to understand, enhance and measure capacity to innovate as part of "Research in Development". An important outcome of this workshop was agreement on what the CRP Intermediate Development Goal "Capacity to innovate" entails and how it could be measured. More details at: http://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/news/2014/capacitytoinnovatebrieffinal_010514.pdf

International Farming Systems Association Symposium

In April 2014 at the 11th European IFSA (International Farming Systems Association) Symposium on "Farming systems facing global challenges" held in Berlin, Germany, Ann Waters-Bayer presented PROLINNOVA's experience in piloting LISFs. The symposium was hosted by Humboldt University and attracted 280 people from 35 countries, including some from Africa, Asia and Latin America. The presentation "Multi-level joint learning about locally managed innovation funds" showed how social learning was stimulated and facilitated at local, district, national and international level in the process of piloting the local fund. The presentation formed part of the session on "Collaborative learning to solve problems and develop innovations in complex systems", convened by the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture, which focused on methods for enhancing collaborative learning in agriculture and NRM. The paper on the LISF piloting can be downloaded from: http://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/news/2014/waters-bayer_et_al_ifsa_2014_paper_ws1.7.pdf

At IFSA 2014, Ann joined a contact group for continuing and deepening collaboration between IFSA-Europe and the CRPs on agricultural systems. During a Global Issues session, participants re-examined Farming Systems Research in the context of reform in the CGIAR system. PROLINNOVA is partnering with two of the CRPs: with both AAS and CCAFS in the study on the impact of farmer-led agricultural research and development and with CCAFS in SOLLINKKA. For more information about the group set up to enhance exchange and learning to rebuild a systems capability in ARD, see <http://ifsa.boku.ac.at/cms/index.php?id=137>.

GIZ Workshop on Assessment of Smallholders' Demand for Agricultural Innovations

On 7–8 May 2014, Brigid Letty, coordinator of PROLINNOVA–South Africa, and IST member Ann Waters-Bayer took part in the final workshop in the study of demand for and supply of agricultural innovations for smallholder farming, hosted by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and icipe (International Centre of Insect and Ecology / African Insect Science for Food and Health) in Nairobi, Kenya. Participants included farmer

organisations, NGOs, private and public sector, international agricultural research centres, FAO, European Union (EU), regional agencies and GIZ staff. Brigid had made the assessment in southern Africa. The workshop participants discussed findings from the assessment of the demand-supply match for agricultural innovations in Africa and drew lessons regarding best options for strengthening innovation systems. They discussed three major pathways for this: i) through extension services; ii) through innovation platforms; and iii) through farmer-led participatory research and development such as supported by PROLINNOVA. More information about the workshop and the papers presented can be found at: <http://www.icipe.org/itaacc/index.php/2013-12-03-07-06-24/2013-12-03-07-07-26/final-gfa-itaacc-workshop>

CCAFS M&E Workshop: Evidence Gathering on Social Learning

On 16–17 June 2014, Climate Change and Social Learning Initiative of CCAFS organised an M&E workshop in London, UK, on social learning. Ann Waters-Bayer presented PROLINNOVA's approaches and experience related to social learning. The workshop gathered evidence on how social-learning methodologies and approaches contribute to development targets. With PROLINNOVA and other partners, the intention was to establish a common M&E framework for systematically collecting evidence, analysing results and sharing learning on when and how organisations could use a social-learning approach in the context of CCA and food security.

Agrinatura Science Days

Susan Kaaria, FAO Senior Gender Officer and Co-Chair of the POG, represented PROLINNOVA at the Agrinatura Science Days “Growing together: family farming and agricultural sciences transforming world food systems” on 5–7 May 2014 in Vienna, Austria. The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) hosted the event in cooperation with Caritas Austria, the Austrian Development Agency, the Commission for Development Research and the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation. In support to the IYFF, the event brought together researchers and practitioners concerned with small-scale farming and food security in exchange, learning, networking and exploring new research and higher education partnerships. Susan was a speaker in a panel discussion on small-scale family farming and, in a later session, told the story of transformative change brought about by promoting local innovation in the field, using an example of women farmers in Uganda.

CGIAR Development Dialogues

IST member Ann Waters-Bayer took part in the CGIAR Development Dialogues on 25 September 2014 in Colombia University in New York City, USA. This event focused attention on the vital role of research in crop and livestock farming, forestry, fisheries, landscapes and food systems in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Dialogues were lively panel debates among research scientists, high-level policymakers, private-sector actors and people from philanthropic organisations, academic institutions and CSOs. Ann spoke in the session on “Resilient systems and communities towards sustainable development: fostering the capacity to innovate”, which explored actions needed to foster capacity to innovate in smallholder farming and key challenges to building inclusive innovation. The session was organised and opened by Kwesi Atta-Krah, Director of the CGIAR's Humid Tropics programme, and moderated by Stephanie Strom, journalist with the *New York Times*.

Tropentag 2014

The above-mentioned desk study on farmer-led research was presented by IST member Ann Waters-Bayer at the Tropentag Conference on International Research on Food Security, Natural Resource Management and Rural Development in September 2014 in Prague, Czech Republic. The paper documented impacts of CSO-facilitated “informal” agricultural research and development in terms of food security, ecological sustainability, economic empowerment, gender, local capacity to innovate and influence on ARD institutions and drew lessons for future partnerships with formal ARD actors. The 4-pager can be read at: http://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/news/2014/waters-bayer_et_al_flr_tropentag_2014.pdf

European Commission workshop on new approaches to research and innovation

At a one-day workshop in Brussels, Belgium, on 7 November 2014, the European Commission Directorate General Development and Cooperation presented its new approach to research and innovation for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. IST member Ann Waters-Bayer presented the lessons learnt in the EU-funded project Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture (JOLISAA) and the continuing work of PROLINNOVA along the same lines. The workshop stressed that agricultural research for and in development requires not only high-quality science but also effective partnerships to ensure that the research has impact in addressing challenges of poverty, hunger and undernutrition. The PowerPoint presentation on JOLISAA and PROLINNOVA can be found at: http://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/news/2014/2014_jolisaa_ec_7_nov_new.pdf

AAS dialogue on scaling partnerships

In early December 2014, AAS convened researchers and development partners for a 3-day dialogue in Rome to explore how the impact of AAS research could be scaled out horizontally and scaled up through institutions and policies. PROLINNOVA experiences were well mirrored through participation in the dialogue by the former POG co-chair Susan Kaaria and by the IST member Ann Waters-Bayer. The dialogue participants chose to concentrate on scaling pathways to achieve three development outcomes: i) economic empowerment of rural women through gender transformative change; ii) mainstreaming participatory action research as a tool to enhance capacity to innovate within farming systems; and iii) creation of equitable aquatic agricultural systems. Together with partners, AAS planned to study innovative models of intervention that have proved successful in improving farmers' livelihoods and to identify and use opportunities to reach greater numbers of people by influencing policy and practice. This was to include collaboration with PROLINNOVA in studying and scaling approaches to support farmer-led research and development.

22nd European Seminar on Extension and Education

PROLINNOVA participated in the 22nd European Seminar on Extension and Education in May 2015 in Wageningen, the Netherlands. Members of the IST and the CPs in Ethiopia and Kenya joined hands in preparing a paper “Facilitating extensionists to learn by doing in promoting local innovation”. Chesha Wettasinha of the IST presented this paper at the

seminar and shared PROLINNOVA's experiences in building the capacity of extension agents in PID. Chesha was also invited to be a panelist at a session hosted by the FAO to present "The State of the Food and Agriculture 2014" report on innovation in family farming. She contributed to the discussion with inputs from PROLINNOVA as a CSO-led network to promote smallholder innovation in agricultural research and development. The paper can be found at: http://prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/news/2015/facilitating_extensionists_to_learn_by_doing_in_prolinnova_-_submitted_to_esee_symposium_april_2015.pdf

Quaker United Nations Office Consultation on Small-Scale Farmer Innovation

In May 2015, Joe Ouko, chair of the Farmer Innovators Association of Kenya, and three other members of the PROLINNOVA international network took part in a consultation in Geneva, Switzerland, on small-scale farmer innovation in agrobiodiverse systems. They were invited by the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO). During two days, the 19 participants from 12 countries explored what drives local innovation, what supports it and what impedes it. QUNO is engaged in policy dialogue at international level and planned to develop an interactive web-based policy tool on small-scale farmer innovation.

European Commission Research & Innovation Foresight Workshop for Horizon 2020

IST member Ann Waters-Bayer was an invitee at a forward-looking exercise on research in the context of Horizon 2020, the EU framework programme for funding research and innovation, held on 26 June 2015 in Brussels. It looked at innovation and competitiveness, environmental sustainability, radical new opportunity spaces and social change expected in the coming decades and implications for research priorities to be funded by the EU.

GFAR Constituent Assembly

Four POG members, each representing his/her constituency, took part in the Constituent Assembly (CA) of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) held on 24–26 August 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand: Sonali Bisht (Asian NGOs constituency and NGO member of the GFAR Steering Committee), Esther Penunia (Asian farmer organisations constituency and small-scale farmer organisation member of the GFAR Steering Committee), Chris Macoloo (African NGOs) and Ann Waters-Bayer (European NGOs). The purpose of the CA was to "reshape" the GFAR and strengthen governance by the stakeholders/partners, including research, farmer organisations, NGOs, organisations of women and youth, educational institutions, extension and the private sector. In her short talk, Esther made a plea for putting small-scale farmer researcher-innovators at the centre of the "GFAR transformative movement" and for focusing agricultural research and innovation on sustainable agroecological approaches. Ann's short talk on "resourcing farmer-led research" was based on PROLINNOVA's experience with community-managed LISFs. After the CA, the POG agreed that the PROLINNOVA network would register as a GFAR partner.

World Rural Forum "Let's Build the Future: Family Farming"

IST member Gabriela Quiroga took part in the 5th Global Conference "Let's Build the Future: Family Farming" organised by the World Rural Forum on 21–23 September 2015 in Bilbao, Spain. In the roundtable on linking family-farmer organisations and research centres,

PROLINNOVA was presented as one example to increase awareness of the relevance of local innovation for meeting the needs of small-scale farming households and communities.

BOKU Global Discourse

“Can grassroots innovation bring global solutions?” was the topic of a Global Discourse in September 2015 at the Centre for Development Research (CDR) at BOKU in Vienna, Austria. The discussants, moderated by Birgit Habermann from CDR, were IST member Ann Waters-Bayer and international consultant Lemlem Sissay Fetene.

CGIAR Research Program work on “Mobilizing Youth within Phase 2”

IST member Ingrid Flink took part in the workshop "Mobilizing Youth within Phase 2 CGIAR Research Programs" organised by the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, the African Development Bank and the CGIAR Consortium in September 2015 in Montpellier, France. After the meeting, the IST reviewed what this could mean for the PROLINNOVA network. With the new thematic cluster suggested by the POG on youth and PID in agriculture and local agribusinesses, this workshop provided an opportunity to gain some insights from other partners who are working on youth and agriculture. The participants in the meeting thought that mechanisms should be put in place to make sure that one always talks with young people and not only about them, and indeed to go one step further: to sit together with youth and design relevant research, M&E and interventions with them.

EXPO Milano 2015

PROLINNOVA was asked to speak at the event “Towards an EU-African Innovation Partnership on Food & Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture – Empowering Youth and Women to be the Game-Changers in Science, Technology & Innovation” on 18 October 2015 at the EU pavilion in the World Expo in Milan, Italy. IST member Laurens van Veldhuizen spoke on behalf of PROLINNOVA. On account of the very tight security measures, only a third of the 80 expected participants could join the meeting. Most presentations focused on the roadmap for EU-Africa collaboration and some of them mentioned innovation systems and even farmer innovation. Aspects from PROLINNOVA’s presentation that seemed to resonate with the audience were the successes in building a multistakeholder partnership and the views on capacity to innovate and community resilience through local innovation and PID approaches.

European Migration Network Conference in Malta

The strong flows of migrants into Europe have raised awareness of the need to promote economic opportunities and development in the Global South in order to address the root causes of displacement and migration. For its Annual Conference in December 2015, the Malta National Contact Point of the European Migration Network invited a presentation on Proinnova’s work with small-scale farmer innovators. IST member Ann Waters-Bayer outlined the importance of family farming for global food and nutrition security as well as for vibrant and equitable economies and societies. She argued that recognising and enhancing farmers’ capacities to experiment, innovate and adapt – also to identify new opportunities in the local economy – can encourage many rural people, including the youth, to remain in farming and/or to engage in agri-food enterprises.

A list of the events and publications in 2014 and 2015 can be found in Annex 1.

2.3 GOVERNANCE AND NETWORK FUNCTIONING

International Partners Workshop 2014, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

On 12–15 May 2014, PROLINNOVA–Cambodia hosted the IPW in Phnom Penh. This celebrated the 10th anniversary of PROLINNOVA as a global partnership. After an inspiring opening by the Director of Agricultural Extension of the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, the workshop participants spent two days reviewing experiences of current projects. First, they zoomed in on how the PROLINNOVA approach contributes to strengthening community resilience to change. Then, reflection on achievements and impacts of PROLINNOVA over the past decade at country and international level fed into sessions to identify priorities for the network for the next 5–10 years. The interaction with farmers, farmer innovators and their groups during the one-day field study was a highlight of the workshop. The workshop report can be read at: [http://prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/About Us/prolinnova reports/2014/ipw report 2014 final august5.pdf](http://prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/About%20Us/prolinnova_reports/2014/ipw_report_2014_final_august5.pdf)

International Partners Workshop 2015, Axum, Ethiopia

PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia hosted the IPW on 27–30 April 2015 in Axum in the north of the country. This was a return visit to Ethiopia, where the first IPW took place in March 2004 in Yirgalem in the south of the country. The IPW 2015 provided a good platform for the CPs in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to share some of their lessons from the ongoing CLIC–SR project with other PROLINNOVA CPs in Africa and Asia, as well as with members of the PROLINNOVA Secretariat in the Netherlands and guests from the USA and from the GFAR Secretariat in Rome. It was also a good opportunity for the CPs in Africa and Asia to reflect on the findings of the stocktaking of PROLINNOVA's achievements over the past more than ten years, an activity supported by the GFAR. The participants also discussed plans and progress on several initiatives that are being developed as follow-up to current projects, e.g. upscaling PID at district level; in-depth studies on CSO approaches to farmer-led research and development in selected countries; and a study on grassroots perspectives on what enhances local capacity to innovate. During the "traditional" Open Space sessions for participant-driven spontaneous exchange and planning, plans were made to do multinational documentation of innovation and experimentation in finger-millet transplanting, to develop a better framework for documenting institutional innovation, and to set up a "Friends of PROLINNOVA" group, among other topics.

PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG)

The POG met several times during 2014–15. Apart from the face-to-face meetings before the IPWs in 2014 and 2015, several Skype meetings were organised to ensure that the network was on course. It was a challenging period for the POG as it provided guidance to the International Secretariat team in moving out of ETC Foundation to a new host, KIT. In 2014, several POG seats – one independent, one for the IST and one for anglophone CPs – were re-filled using the regular process for election of candidates. The following individuals joined the POG: Juergen Anthofer (Germany) and Pratap Shrestha (Nepal) as independent members, Ann Waters-Bayer for the IST and Chris Macoloo for the anglophone CPs. In 2015, Suman Manandhar (Nepal) for the Asian CPs and Jean Bosco Etoa (Cameroon) for the francophone African CPs completed their 2-year terms. Sonali Bisht (India) and Djibril Thiam

(Senegal) were elected to hold these seats in the POG. More information on the POG and its members can be found at: <http://prolinnova.net/content/prolinnova-oversight-group>

Taking stock of PROLINNOVA's achievements

In 2014, the PROLINNOVA network needed to rethink its strategy in a changing context, revisit the activities it undertakes and assess its own functioning. It started a “stocktaking” process to increase insights into accomplishments of PROLINNOVA in the period 2003–13 in relation to available financial resources, to appraise the accomplishments of PROLINNOVA at country level, to help the CPs re-strategise their work and partnerships for the next decade, and to formulate and share lessons, conclusions and recommendations for strengthening global multistakeholder partnerships for ARD within and beyond the network. Co-funding made available by the GFAR made this comprehensive stocktaking exercise possible.

The framework to guide the stocktaking was developed by the International Secretariat. It consisted of a desk study that reviewed all relevant PROLINNOVA reports and documents to obtain answers to the key questions set out in the stocktaking framework. This review was carried out in large part by a student intern from Wageningen University and Research, together with a detailed review of the network's achievements in mainstreaming farmer-led innovation development at international level. Using data from the desk study as a starting point, the International Secretariat summarised all information found in external studies, added more recent data from the network's internal M&E system and complemented this by using a questionnaire to obtain views from 40 staff members of international ARD organisations. A critical self-assessment was undertaken by all CPs based on an assessment form. Fifteen of the 21 CPs completed their self-assessment.

A draft synthesis of initial findings was presented and discussed extensively at the 2015 IPW in Axum, Ethiopia. The final report can be read at:

http://prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/thematic_pages/fld/kit37_opmaak_report_prolinnova_v9.pdf

Development of PROLINNOVA strategy 2016–20

In 2015, a small taskforce consisting of Chris Macoloo (Kenya/POG), Brigid Letty (South Africa), Chesha Wettasinha (International Secretariat) and Ann Waters-Bayer (IST/POG) drafted the PROLINNOVA strategy for 2016–20, based on results of the strategy discussions during IPW 2015. The draft was sent to all the CPs as well as the entire PROLINNOVA e-list (about 650 people) for comments and was revised accordingly. Agreement on implementation of the strategy will be sought at IPW 2016.

Friends of PROLINNOVA

To reinforce its guidance and support to the network, the POG took up a suggestion made at an Open-Space session during the IPW in 2015 and brought together a group called “Friends of PROLINNOVA”, composed of people who have made major contributions to PROLINNOVA's work in the past and are keen to continue to add value to the network. Their roles include mentoring, assisting in strategy development, helping improve the quality of proposals, linking with new partners and funders, and making PROLINNOVA known more widely. The group will initially include 10–15 persons jointly selected by the POG and the IST.

Backstopping to Country Platforms

Despite a lack of core funding for North–South and South–South backstopping, PROLINNOVA IST members managed to support CPs, face-to-face, through trips they made to the countries for other purposes.

Chesha Wettasinha provided backstopping to PROLINNOVA–Uganda in January and September 2014 and to PROLINNOVA–Cambodia in May 2014.

Ingrid Flink visited PROLINNOVA–Ghana in January 2015 and supported them in taking stock of their achievements as part of the stocktaking exercise.

Gabriela Quiroga made a backstopping visit to the CP in Senegal in February 2015.

Ann Waters-Bayer visited PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia in April 2015 and PROLINNOVA–Kenya in May 2014, May 2015 and November 2015.

Ingrid Flink, Jean-Marie Diop and Gabriela Quiroga made backstopping visits to the CP in Burkina Faso during the process of preparing for and implementing the WAFIF/FIPAO and workshop on farmer-led research and innovation in 2015.

Jean-Marie Diop made a backstopping visit to the CP in Mali in September 2015.

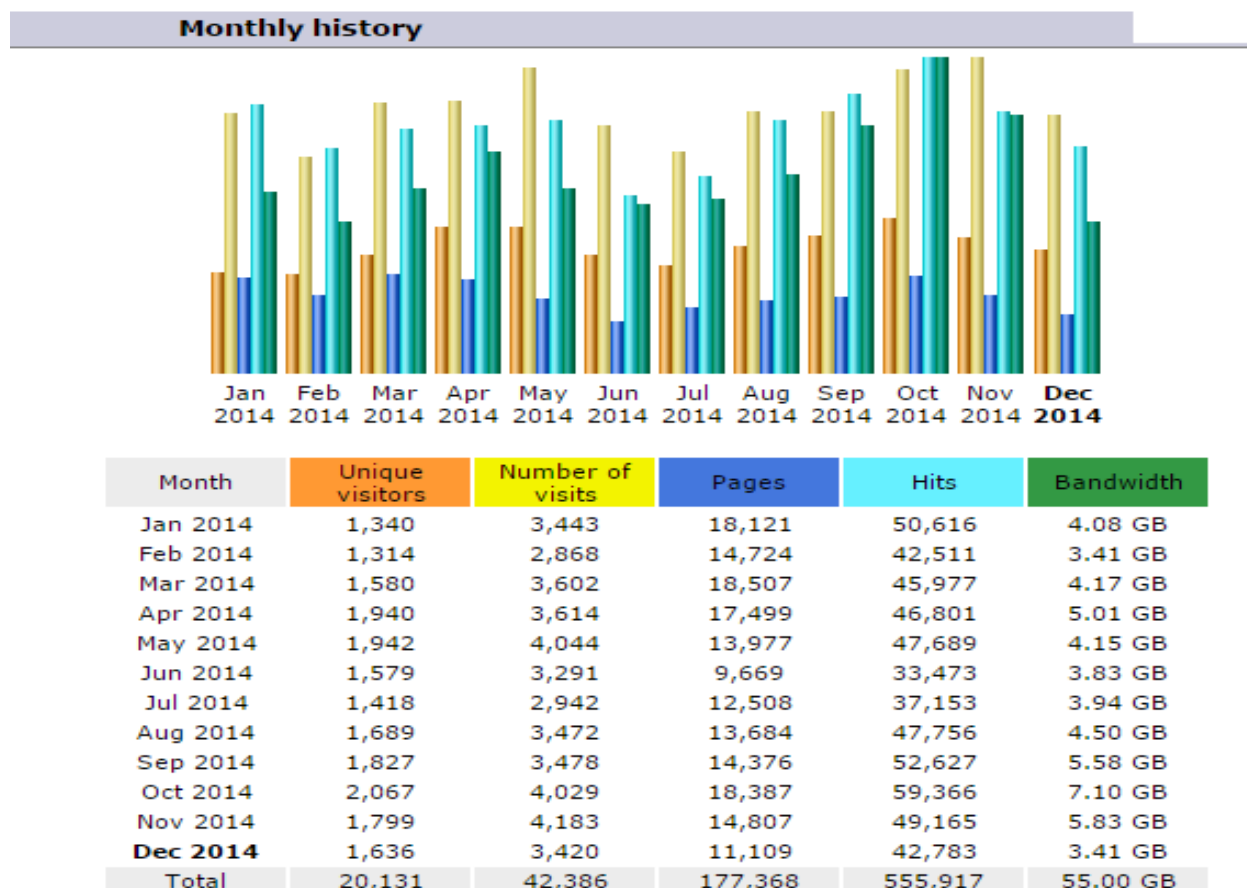
In addition, members of the IST provided regular virtual backstopping through email and increasingly by Skype. Staff of IIRR provided support primarily in network-level M&E and website management.

Monitoring and evaluation

The annual e-evaluation of the network in 2014 and 2015 was facilitated by IIRR. In 2015, ten responses were received from the CPs in India, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nepal, Cameroon, Bolivia, Senegal, Ghana and the International Secretariat at KIT and IIRR representing 15 respondents. IIRR, the International Secretariat and the Kenya CP sent group responses. The network's overall performance was scored at 3.4 out of 5, which was slightly higher than the score of the previous year (2.9). Governance scored the highest at 3.6 followed by functioning of the IST and the International Secretariat at 3.5. The lowest scores were for capacity building and self-assessment of the CPs. The internal evaluation findings were discussed at the IPWs in 2014 and 2015, as were ways to address some of the areas that were perceived as weak. For example, the need for capacity building has been addressed through several PID training workshops organised with funding through Nuffic. More collaborative fund acquisition has been undertaken by the CPs and the IST. The need for more PROLINNOVA material to be translated into other languages has also been taken on board and more documents have been translated into French, when possible.

Website and social media management

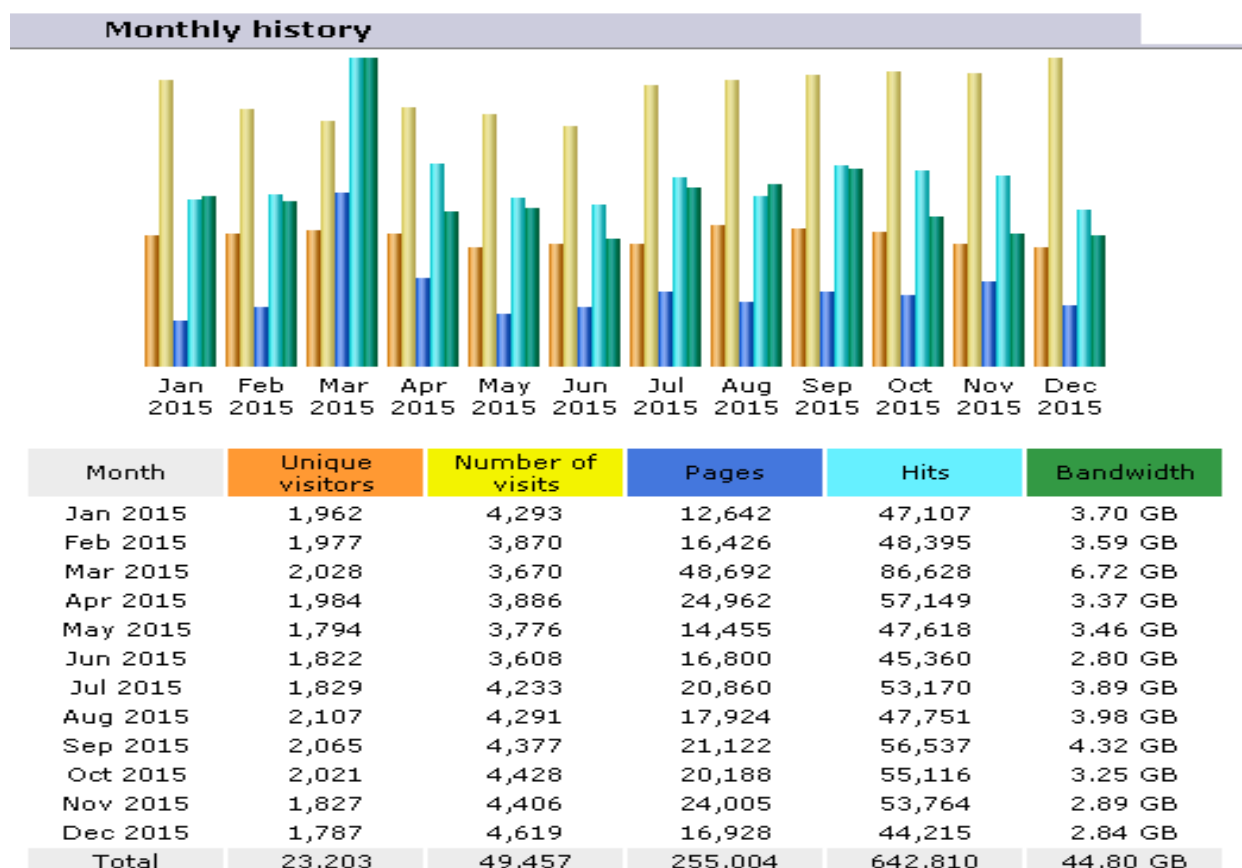
The PROLINNOVA website continues to be managed by staff in IIRR, as has been the case since the inception of the network. It generated the following average statistics for 2014:



Unique visitors: An average of **1678** monthly unique visitors and a total of **20,131** unique visitors were recorded for the year 2014. **Unique visitors** refers to the number of distinct individuals requesting pages from the website during a given period, regardless of how often they visit. (“Visits” refers to the number of times a site is visited, no matter how many **unique visitors** make up those sessions.)

Number of visits: An average of **3532** visits per month and a total of **42,386** visitors to the website were recorded for the year 2014. **Pages:** An average of **14,781** pages were visited per month and a total of **177,368** pages were visited in the year 2014. **Hits:** An average of **46,326** hits per month and a total **555,917** hits for the year 2014 were recorded.

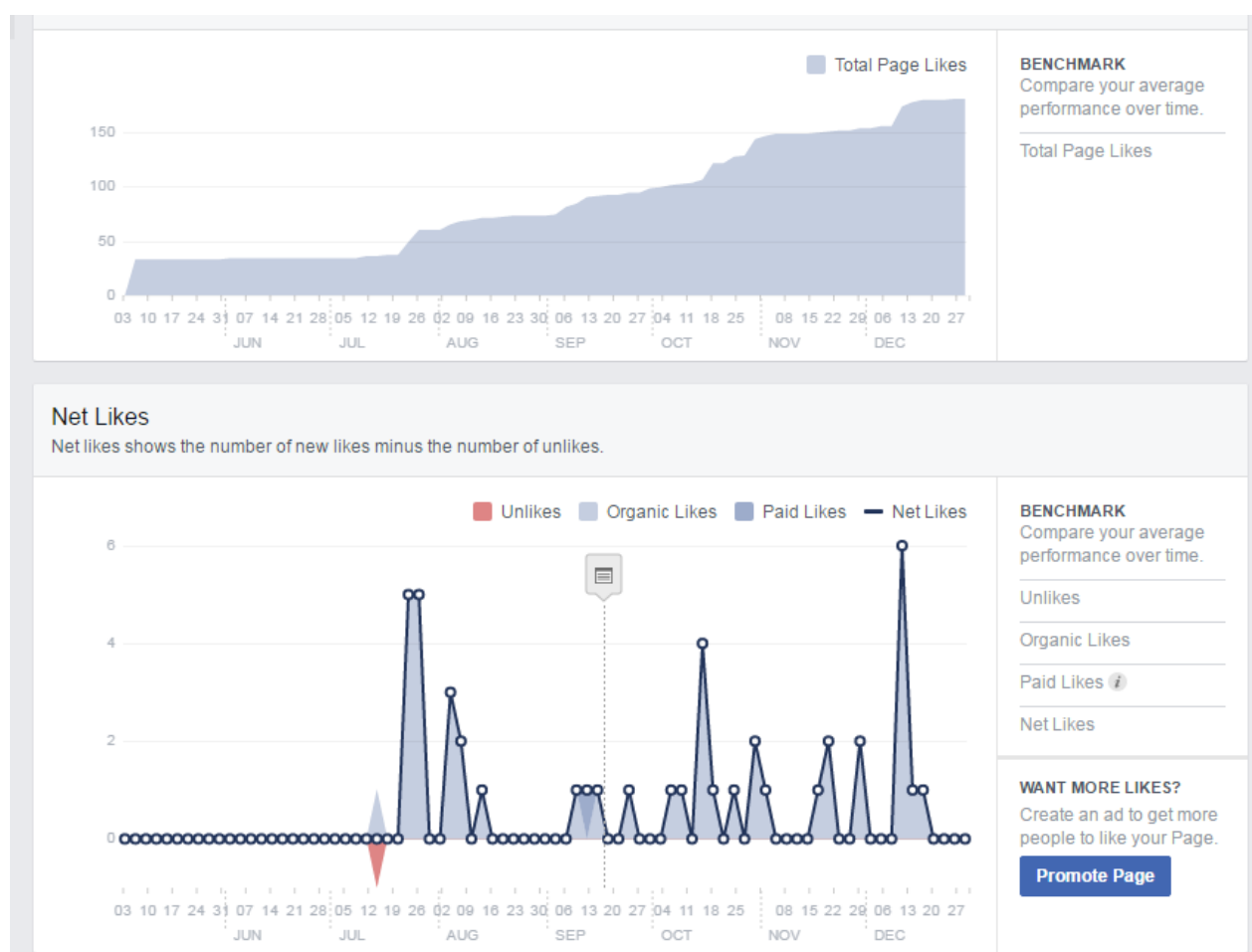
In 2015, the PROLINNOVA website generated the following average statistics:



Unique visitors: An average of **1,934** monthly unique visitors to the website and a total of **23,203** unique visitors for the year 2015 were recorded. **Number of visits:** An average of **4,121** visits were made per month and a total of **49,457** for the year 2015. **Pages:** An average of **21,250** pages per month were visited and a total of **255,004** pages for the year 2015. **Hits:** An average of **53,567.50** hits were made per month and a total of **642,810** hits for the year.

PROLINNOVA's Facebook page has received growing attention. The following graphs show a significant increase in total page "likes" in the period June–December 2014: from 30 to 178 likes. The aim is to engage young people and others interested in such approaches. In the future, it is hoped that partners in the CPs will also post their inputs on the Facebook page. The graphs show that some posts have reached a higher number of visitors than others. This could be because the topic is of particular interest, the post is more visually appealing or the timing of the post attracts more people.

The PROLINNOVA Yahooogroup was used actively during the reporting period (19.5 messages per month on average) for sharing information, above all about publications, training and events related to promoting local innovation and farmer-led participatory research and development. By the end of 2015, the Yahooogroup included around 670 members.



3. CONCLUSION

Despite serious challenges, PROLINNOVA managed to keep its course in 2014 and 2015. At the end of 2015, a draft of the strategy for 2016–20 had been prepared and circulated to members of the network and to the PROLINNOVA Yahooogroup. The draft indicated the preparedness of the network to “Southernise” its operations and to start doing this through a process of regionalisation, i.e. forming clusters of CPs in regions or subregions in Africa, Asia and Latin America to allow for stronger mutual learning and South–South mentoring and to combine voices from several CPs for more effective policy dialogue at subregional and regional level. The new strategy will be presented and plans for its implementation will be made at the next IPW, which will take place in Senegal in May 2016.

PROLINNOVA is at another milestone in its journey. The stocktaking exercise was challenging but also inspiring. The network had made substantial strides towards its goal and is now poised to take new steps that will define its development in the South and by Southern members in the next decade.

Annex: International presentations and publications of the PROLINNOVA network in 2014 and 2015

2014

Action-learning on food sovereignty and nutrition in communities in northern Potosí: research and development approach with participatory methods by Maria Omonte Ferrufino, Fernando Vidal Gongáles & Yesmina Cruz Agudo. Cochabamba: World Neighbors / McKnight Foundation. 2014. 128pp.

Agricultural innovation funds at community level, by Chris Macoloo, Geoffrey Kamau, Righa Makonge, Teresiah Ng'ang'a, Ann Waters-Bayer & Laurens van Veldhuizen. In: Triomphe B, Waters-Bayer A, Klerkx L, Schut M, Cullen B, Kamau G & Le Borgne E (eds), *Innovation in smallholder farming in Africa: recent advances and recommendations* (Montpellier: Cirad), pp146–150. 2014.

Bridging the gap between formal and informal research in agriculture and natural resource management, by Ann Waters-Bayer, Chesha Wettasinha, Laurens van Veldhuizen, Gabriela Quiroga & Kees Swaans. Tropentag, 17–19 September 2014, Prague, Czech Republic. 4pp + PPT.

Capacity to innovate from a system CGIAR research program perspective, by Cees Leeuwis, Marc Schut, Ann Waters-Bayer, Remco Mur, Kwesi Atta-Krah & Boru Douthwaite. Penang, Malaysia: CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems. Program Brief: AAS-2014-29. 2014. 12pp.

Celebrating farmer creativity around the world by Ingrid Flink. Blog, 27 November 2014 (<http://foodtank.com/news/2014/11/gfar-celebrating-farmer-creativity-around-the-world>)

Farmer-managed funds stimulate farmer-led participatory innovation processes, by Chris Macoloo, Geoffrey Kamau, Righa Makonge, Teresiah Ng'ang'a, Ann Waters-Bayer & Laurens van Veldhuizen. In: Triomphe B, Waters-Bayer A, Klerkx L, Schut M, Cullen B, Kamau G & Le Borgne E (eds), *Innovation in smallholder farming in Africa: recent advances and recommendations* (Montpellier: Cirad), pp36–46. 2014.

Foreword by Ann Waters-Bayer & Niels Röling. In: Faure G, Gasselin P, Triomphe B, Temple L & Hocdé H (eds), *Innovating with rural stakeholders in the developing world: action research in partnership* (Arnhem: LM Publishers / CTA), pp 13–15. 2014.

Innovation et gestion de la biodiversité agricole, by Fetien Abay, Edson Gandarillas, Pratap Shrestha, Ann Waters-Bayer & Mariana Wongtschowski. *Agridape* (2014) 30 (1): www.iedafrique.org/Innovation-et-gestion-de-la.html

Innovation in smallholder farming in Africa: recent advances and recommendations. Proceedings of the International Workshop on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (AISA), 29–31 May 2013, Nairobi, Kenya, edited by Bernard Triomphe, Ann Waters-Bayer, Laurens Klerkx, Marc Schut, Beth Cullen, Geoffrey Kamau & Ewen Le Borgne E. Montpellier: Cirad. 2014. 226pp.

Multi-level joint learning about locally managed innovation funds, by Ann Waters-Bayer, Chesha Wettasinha & Laurens van Veldhuizen. 11th International Farming Systems Association (IFSA) Symposium, 1–4 April 2014, Berlin, Germany. 11pp.

Multi-stakeholder innovation processes in African smallholder farming: key lessons and policy recommendations from Benin, Kenya and South Africa, by Bernard Triomphe, Anne Floquet, Ann Waters-Bayer, Jolanda van den Berg, Geoffrey Kamau, Brigid Letty, Roch Mongbo, J Stevens, Todd Crane, Connie Almekinders, Nour Sellamna, SD Vodouhe & Nicolienne Oudwater. In: Triomphe B, Waters-Bayer A, Klerkx L, Schut M, Cullen B, Kamau G & Le Borgne E (eds), *Innovation in smallholder farming in Africa: recent advances and recommendations* (Montpellier: Cirad), pp 51–65. 2014.

Study on impacts of farmer-led research supported by civil society organizations by Wettasinha C, Waters-Bayer A, van Veldhuizen L, Quiroga G and Swaans K. Penang, Malaysia: CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems. Working Paper: AAS-2014-40 by (<http://aas.cgiar.org/publications/study-impacts-farmer-led-research-supported-civil-society-organizations#.VK3bFidGNN0>). 178pp.

The Feldafing principles for enhancing agricultural innovation systems edited by Ann Waters-Bayer, Michel Bernhardt, Piers Bockock, Patrick Dugan, Joerg Lohmann & Sidi Sanyang. Eschborn: German Agency for International Cooperation / CGIAR. 2014. 5pp.

What we learned during the EU FP7 project “Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture” (JOLISAA), by Ann Waters-Bayer, Workshop on Operationalizing an EU Approach to Research and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture and Food & Nutrition Security: Drawing on Lessons Learned, 7 November 2014, Brussels, Belgium.

2015

Assisting small-scale farmers: building on local strengths, presentation by Ann Waters-Bayer, European Migration Network Malta Annual National Conference, 3 December 2015, Sliema, Malta. 6pp.

Attaining and sustaining food security through farmer-led research, presentation by Ann Waters-Bayer, Food Security Centre in Dialogue, 30 July 2015, University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany. PPT.

Collaborating for development impact: learning from research partnership experiences, by Anna Schwarz, SM Cole, Bill Downing, ML Perez, Kevin Kamp, Charlie Crissman, G Johnstone, Rodrigo Paz-Ybarnegaray, N Aleem, Marina Apgar, F Golam, Andrea Rodericks, C Longley, J Lunda Kalembwe, S Mulele, C Muyaule, A Mulanda, D Mwasi, F Nasilele, MM Songe, AD Sumaya, J Wang, A Ward & Ann Waters-Bayer. In: Douthwaite B, Apgar JM, McDougall C, Attwood S, Sellamuttu S & Clayton T (eds), *Research in development: learning from the CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems* (Penang: AAS Working Paper 2015–16), pp25–40.

Creating a space for local innovation in agriculture: linking policy and farmers. PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia policy brief. Addis Ababa: Poverty Action Network in Ethiopia (PANE). 2015. 6pp.

Le développement de modules méthodologiques et pédagogiques de développement participatif de l'innovation : processus et résultats par Jean-Marie Diop, Atelier Ouest-Africain sur les Approches des Recherches par et avec les Paysans, 12–14 mai 2015, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Poster.

Développement participatif de l'innovation: une approche pour une recherche participative en agro-écologie basée sur l'innovation paysanne par Ibrahima Diedhiou, Symposium International sur l'Agroécologie pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle en Afrique subsaharienne, 5–6 novembre 2015, Dakar, Sénégal.

- Enabling rural innovation**, by Tom Pircher, Amos Owamani, Michael Hauser & Ann Waters-Bayer. *GFRAS Good Practice Note for Extension & Advisory Services* 5. Lindau, Switzerland: Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS). 2015. 8pp.
- Exploring the impact of farmer-led research supported by civil society organisations**, by Ann Waters-Bayer, Patti Kristjanson, Chesha Wettasinha, Laurens van Veldhuizen, Gabriela Quiroga, Kees Swaans & Boru Douthwaite. *Agriculture & Food Security* (2015) 4:4 (www.agricultureandfoodsecurity.com/content/4/1/4/#ins3).
- Facilitating extensionists to learn by doing in promoting local innovation**, presentation by Chesha Wettasinha, Ann Waters-Bayer, Amanuel Assefa, Geoffrey Kamau, Hailu Araya, Righa Makonge & Laurens van Veldhuizen. 22nd European Seminar on Extension & Education, 28 April–1 May 2015, Wageningen, Netherlands.
- Factors influencing local innovation in ecological agriculture in the central development region of Nepal** by SM Bhattarai, Dharma R Dangol, SB Srivastav & Pratap K Shrestha, *Nepalese Journal of Agricultural Sciences* (2015) 13: 69–84.
- L’innovation: plantation de manguiers dans les touffes d’arbustes de Nguiguiss** par Assane Guèye, Atelier Ouest-Africain sur les Approches des Recherches par et avec les Paysans, 12–14 mai 2015, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. PPT.
- Resourcing farmer-led research**, presentation by Ann Waters-Bayer, Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) Constituent Assembly, 24–26 August 2015, Bangkok, Thailand. 2pp.
- Role of local innovation in mechanisation of maize shelling: evidence from Igabi, Chikun and Kajuru Local Government Areas, Kaduna State, Nigeria** by Adeleye O, Bako S, Afiemo OG, Alli-Balogun K & Agbo R, *Journal of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development* (2015) 7 (5): 170–175 (DOI: 10.5897/JAERD2013.0557).
- Some examples of best practices by smallholder farmers in Ethiopia**, Book 2, by Hailu Araya & Yohannes GebreMichael. Addis Ababa: Best Practices Association & Institute for Sustainable Development. 2015. 82pp.
- Understanding how multistakeholder partnerships work: PROLINNOVA experiences in East Africa**, by Laurens van Veldhuizen, Ann Waters-Bayer & Chesha Wettasinha. PROLINNOVA Working Paper 36. 2015. 28pp.
(www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/resources/working_paper/prolinnova_wp_36_msp_in_east_africa_0.pdf)
- West African Fair shows off farmer innovations** by Ingrid Flink & Gabriela Quiroga Gilardoni, *Appropriate Technology* (Sept. 2015) 42 (3): 38–39.

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