

Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management

Report for the period 2016–17



Neina Naginpoan receives a certificate and farm inputs from the Ministry of Food & Agriculture (MoFA) on National Farmers Day in Yendi District, Ghana, for her innovation on nutritious wasawasa food (Photo: Naomi Zaato, Dept of Agriculture)

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List of acronyms

ACDEP	Association of Church-based Development Projects
ACEFA	Supporting the Competitiveness of Family Farming (Cameroon, French acronym)
AE+6	Agro-Ecology Plus Six
AFAAS	African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
AGC	A Growing Culture
ARD	agricultural research and development
BPA	Best Practice Association
CA	collective action
CCA	climate-change adaptation
CCRP	Collaborative Crop Research Program
CEDAC	Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture
CFS44	Committee on World Food Security, 44 th session
CLIC–SR	Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research
CP	Country Platform
CSO	civil society organisation
DOLI	Development Outcomes of Local Innovation
EA	Environmental Alert
ESA	Eastern & Southern Africa
ESM	Enebse Sar Mider District (Ethiopia)
FALIA	Farmer-led Innovators Association of Kenya
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FaReNe	Farmer-led Research Networks
FIPAO	<i>Foire de l’Innovation Paysanne en Afrique de l’Ouest</i> (West African Farmer Innovation Fair / WAFIF)
GALID	Gender Analysis for Local Innovation Development
GCARD	Global Conference on Agricultural Research and Development
GDP/UV	Global Development Program/University of Virginia, USA
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GFRAS	Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services
GRC	Global Resilience Challenge
IDIN	International Development Innovation Network
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFID	International Farmer Innovation Day
IFSA	International Farming Systems Association
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
INR	Institute of Natural Resources
IOST	Institute of Science and Technology of the University of Tribhuvan, Nepal
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IST	International Support Team
KEA	Kikandwe Environmental Association
KIT	Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands (Dutch acronym)
LFS	Library for Food Sovereignty
LI	local innovation

LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development
LISF	Local Innovation Support Facility/Fund
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, Cameroon (French acronym)
MINEPIA	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries & Animal Industries, Cameroon (French acronym)
MF	McKnight Foundation
MSP	multistakeholder platform
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
NGO	nongovernmental organisation
NRM	natural resource management
NSC	National Steering Committee
Nuffic	Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education (Dutch acronym)
PE	PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia
PID	participatory innovation development
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PPT	PowerPoint
PRODII	Interdisciplinary Integrated Development Programme (Spanish acronym)
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
Prolinnova	Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM
Prolif-FaNS	Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
SRC	Subregional Coordinator
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
WCA	West & Central Africa
WN	World Neighbors
WRF	World Rural Forum

INTRODUCTION

In the period 2016–17, the Prolinnova network pursued the course that it has set out in its strategy for 2016–20, focusing on southernisation and regionalisation of the network.

A highlight in this regard was the successful acquisition of the “**Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security**” (Proli-FaNS) project, which made it possible to start the regionalisation process in Africa and to set up two subregional platforms in West & Central Africa (WCA) and in Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA). Two Subregional Coordinators (SRCs) were hired to coordinate and build up activities with Country Platforms (CPs) in the subregions (more details in Section 2.3).

Meanwhile, the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG) set in motion a process to find a suitable host organisation for the international secretariat in the Global South, which continued until the end of 2017 with no clear outcome.

The CPs within the network functioned at varied levels in this period. Those CPs involved in multi-CP funded projects had better access to funds. This allowed them to undertake more focused activities to continue promoting the local innovation and participatory innovation development (LI/PID) approach among agricultural research and development (ARD) stakeholders. Other CPs continued to use their own funds creatively to promote the approach through their ongoing activities. One new CP, in Timor Leste, joined the network in 2017 and was supported by Prolinnova–Philippines to become better acquainted with the Prolinnova network and its approach. The CPs in India, Nigeria and Niger stayed dormant, as efforts to revive collaborative activities in these countries were not successful.

The network was able to overcome funding challenges, yet again, and could conduct its annual International Partners Workshop (IPW) in both years – 2016 and 2017 – bringing together CP partners from across the network. This face-to-face event has been one of the most appreciated learning and sharing spaces within the network. More details about the events are in Section 2.3.

This report covers the main activities and achievements of the Prolinnova network in the period 2016–17. It provides an overview of the CPs in Section 1 and summarises the key network-wide activities in Section 2.

1. COUNTRY PLATFORMS

1.1 BOLIVIA

In 2016, two Prolinnova–Bolivia meetings were held in June and November at the *Vecinos Mundiales* (World Neighbors/WN) office. Three new organisations joined the network: the women farmers' association *Nueva Semilla* (New Seed), Yapuchiris-FUNAPA (*Federación de Unión de Asociaciones Productivas del Altiplano* / Federated Union of Producer Associations on the High Plateau) and the research institute PROINPA (*Promoción e Investigación de Productos Andinos* / Promotion of and Research on Andean Products). Nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) involved in the CP are WN, PRODII (*El Programa de Desarrollo Integral Interdisciplinario* / Interdisciplinary Integrated Development Programme), PROSUCO (*Promoción de la Sustentabilidad y Conocimientos Compartidos* / Promotion of Sustainability and Shared Knowledge), Agrecol Andes Foundation and Santa Vera Cruz Parish Church. Also three very dedicated individuals are members.

Flyers about the CP were printed and distributed to members for them to disseminate, and two videos and one newsletter about the Bolivian Farmer Innovation Fair (December 2015) were produced: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jajFMKh3Y50>; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhxMTVoOdYY&feature=em-upload_owner

Two proposals were drafted: one to Nuffic (Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education) for training in PID and one to Misereor for supporting paths to innovation in Bolivian valleys. Unfortunately, neither was successful.

The CP celebrated the International Farmer Innovation Day (IFID) on 29 November 2016 and made two interviews on local radio stations on the importance of local innovation in Bolivia. Social media were also used to share messages about this.

The core team of the CP translated several Prolinnova documents about Local Innovation Support Facilities/Funds (LISFs) into Spanish, with a view to focusing new initiatives of the CP on activities supported by such farmer-managed innovation support mechanisms.

In March 2017, WN handed over the CP hosting to PRODII. A new coordinator, Germán Jarro, took over responsibilities from Marie Omonte, who had coordinated the CP for three years. After the handover, the core-team members held some coordination meetings but could not implement the plans because of lack of external funding.

In 2017, exchanges started between Fontagro (a cooperation mechanism between Latin America and the Caribbean and Spain to promote innovation in family farming, competitiveness and food security) and Prolinnova partners in Bolivia and Peru to design a joint proposal in response to the call for “Innovations for sustainable intensification of family farming in the face of climate change”. However, this could not be developed into a funded project.

1.2 BURKINA FASO

Most activities of this CP are facilitated by three NGOs: Réseau MARP, Voisins Mondiaux (World Neighbors/WN) and Diobass under the name of “Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel” (PROFEIS). Réseau MARP was the NGO coordinating the CP since it was formed in 2007. In the course of several meetings in 2017, the CP was restructured with a National Steering Committee (NSC) and a Coordination Team for the day-to-day activities, as shown on the CP's webpage (www.prolinnova.net/burkina/about-burkina-faso-country-programme).

In 2016 and 2017, the CP continued implementing the Farmer-led Research Networks (FaReNe) project (started in 2015) funded by the McKnight Foundation (MF). This 3-year project, carried out in

partnership with the CP in Mali, seeks to improve food security and reduce poverty by way of supporting agroecological intensification and strengthening research networks led by small-scale farmers. In Burkina, WN coordinates the project. In May 2016 in Thiès, Senegal, together with participants from Mali, Do Christophe Ouattara from WN and Siaka Bangali from Diobass were trained in PID and LISFs by Jean-Marie Diop and Gabriela Quiroga from the Prolinnova International Support Team (IST). The participants then gave training and backstopping to their field staff members who are facilitating farmer-led joint experimentation and LISF management, working with three farmer-led research networks set up for this purpose. These networks involve 984 male and 1310 female farmers.

To share experiences about farmer innovation, facilitating PID, setting up farmer innovator networks and managing LISFs, a 3-day study tour to Mali was made in October 2017 by seven Burkinabè farmer innovators and local food processors (including 3 women) and three staff members from Diobass, WN and Réseau MARP. The CP also hosted a visit by the MF regional team, as part of the monitoring of FaReNe activities. More details about this project can be found in Section 2.1

The CP in Burkina is one of five CPs in Africa implementing the Proli-FaNS project. Diobass coordinates this project on behalf of the CP. Three CP members took part in the Proli-FaNS inception workshop in November 2016 in Accra, Ghana. They introduced the project objectives to partners in Burkina. In consultation with farming communities at two sites, 20 local innovations related to food and nutrition security were identified and documented by staff in the technical services for agriculture and health and the facilitators and technical officers of the NGOs working with the innovative farmers. The CP organised and participated in the PID training workshop for the francophone CPs involved in Proli-FaNS (Burkina and Cameroon), which was held in Ouagadougou in January 2017. The project team set up a local multistakeholder platform (MSP) at each of the two sites. It then trained farmer innovators (65 men, 89 women) and local MSP members (34 men, 45 women) in PID. Joint experiments on five innovations by women farmers were carried out in 2017.

Five CP members took part in the IPW in March 2016 in Thiès, Senegal, together with an annual meeting of the CPs involved in the FaReNe project and a meeting about the Global Resilience Challenge (GRC; see below). In May 2017, two CP members attended the IPW in Tamale, Ghana, together with an annual meeting of the CPs involved in the Proli-FaNS project. In July 2017, the CP hosted a backstopping visit by Georges Djohy, the Prolinnova SRC for WCA.

1.3 CAMBODIA

Prolinnova–Cambodia, especially CEDAC (Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture) as the host organisation of the CP, continued promoting farmer-led innovation development by introducing this approach into its projects. The key activities included farmer-led experimentation on various farming techniques in rice and vegetable growing and animal raising, which helped small-scale farmers reduce costs of production, increase productivity and adapt to climate change. CEDAC also supported institutional innovation related to collective marketing and input supply that increased the bargaining power of farmers and their incomes.

The Kampong Cham School of Agriculture continued to expose students to Prolinnova's concepts and liaised with CEDAC for field visits and field research placements for its students. CEDAC also hosted three student interns from the University of Virginia's Global Development Program in 2016, through which they were introduced to the LI/PID approach.

One member of the CP took part in the IPW in Senegal in 2016 and in Ghana in 2017.

1.4 CAMEROON

Up to 2016, Prolinnova–Cameroon had carried out networking and advocacy activities using internal resources. In 2016, it had its first opportunity to be included in a Prolinnova project with external funding, when it became one of the five CPs in Africa involved in Proli-FaNS.

The CP coordinator, Jean Bosco Etoa, took part in the IPW held in Thiès, Senegal, and became part of the taskforce to set up a subregional Prolinnova platform in WCA. In November 2016, three partners from Cameroon attended the inception workshop for the Proli-Fans project held in Accra, Ghana, and shared results of the community consultation with the local MSP of Nkometou/Ekoumdouma. After the IPW, the CP identified eight local innovations related to mushroom growing, maize beer brewing, processing roots and tubers, beekeeping and non-timber forest products with potential for joint experimentation in the framework of Proli-FaNS. These included three women's innovations, four men's innovations and an innovation by a farmer couple.

The CP had a chance to share the Prolinnova principles through involvement in the annual meeting of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) in October 2016 in Limbe, Cameroon. The CP coordinator published a blog on "Identifying local initiatives" during the lead-up to the meeting and presented the Prolinnova network in an oral communication "[Recognizing local innovation in rural advisory services to promote agripreneurship](#)" and a "sharefair" stand during the meeting.

With good media coverage, the CP celebrated the IFID in late November 2016 in Ekoumdouma together with 52 producers from nine member organisations of the local MSP and nearly 200 visitors. The event enabled the CP to exchange with a large number of people and explore possible collaboration with the Project to Support the Competitiveness of Family Farming (ACEFA), a joint initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development (MINADER) and the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries & Animal Industries (MINEPIA).

In January 2017, three CP partners (including a woman) attended the francophone PID training in Ouagadougou. In March, they shared the learning with multiple stakeholders – farmer innovators, academics and ACEFA project staff. The CP coordinator joined the Proli-FaNS partners meeting and IPW in May 2017 in Tamale, Ghana. The eight innovations validated by the CP in 2017 were shared with more farmers and government officials during the IFID celebrations on 29 November 2017 in Ekoumdouma. This event attracted 43 participants, including 24 women. A catalogue describing the innovations was distributed to partners, and seven men and women innovators were given awards.

Djibril Thiam, as POG member for francophone Africa, and Joseph Nchor, as coordinator of Proli-FaNS and Prolinnova–Ghana, made a South–South mentoring trip to Prolinnova–Cameroon in March 2017. The CP coordinator facilitated their visit, which helped strengthen the organisational and functional capacities of the CP and improve implementation of Proli-FaNS. In December 2017, the CP was also visited by the Prolinnova SRC for WCA, who provided advice for improving CP governance and the PID processes.

Already in 2016, the CP had included a male representative of innovative farmers – Serge Ayangma, head of the Common Initiative Group of Beekeepers in Nkometou (GIC-APINK) – as member of the NSC. The CP also developed and adopted its own code of procedures. In 2017, it strengthened its networking and policy dialogue and increased its visibility. At national level, it hosted students from the University of Dschang to do internships with innovative farmers. The local MSP in Nkometou also includes ISAGO (*Institut Supérieur d'Agriculture d'Obala* / Obala Agricultural College) and ISSAEER (*Institut Supérieur des Sciences Agronomiques, de l'Environnement et de l'Entreprenariat Rural* / College of Agricultural Sciences, Environment and Rural Entrepreneurship). The CP regularly involves managers of programmes of MINADER and MINEPIA in its activities, so as to share with them the principles and approaches of Prolinnova, with the aim of institutionalising PID. It also provides

technical assistance to the Farmer Academy of Central Africa and entered into partnership with the Municipality of Somalomo (Eastern Region) in order to promote innovative family farming.

1.5 ETHIOPIA

In 2016–17, Prolinnova–Ethiopia (PE) was hosted by the NGO Best Practice Association (BPA). The main activities carried out in these two years were in the framework of the Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC–SR) and Proli-FaNS projects.

In September 2016, the NSC organised a national stakeholders meeting (including several people from government agencies) to review achievements of the CLIC–SR project and to revitalise the CP. NSC members presented papers on PE over the last ten years and on CLIC–SR’s contribution to research, extension and higher education in Ethiopia. Four farmers spoke about their innovations and experiments. The participants agreed to organise regular experience-sharing sessions among CP members, inventorise local innovations at various sites together with regional agricultural offices and universities, give awards to outstanding farmer innovators, and better inform relevant government agencies and NGOs about Prolinnova. The report on this meeting can be found [here](#). Two cases of PID (on time of planting to control pests in haricot bean and on determining the sex of chicks from the shape of the egg) were documented for the [compilation of PID cases](#) during the CLIC–SR project.

The CP coordinator took part in a gathering organised by A Growing Culture (AGC) in September 2016 in Kikandwe, Uganda, to discuss setting up a Library for Food Sovereignty.

At the Proli-FaNS inception meeting in November 2016 in Ghana, PE was represented by two people from BPA and an NSC member responsible for monitoring and evaluation (M&E). In December 2016, PE held a launching event for Proli-FaNS, attended by 24 people, including three women. A total of 118 farmers (including 46 women) took part in community consultation and innovation identification meetings. In each of the two action-learning sites – near Axum in Tigray Region and in Enebse Sar Mider (ESM) District in Amhara Region – farmers helped identify 20 innovations related to food and nutrition security and selected five of them to be considered for PID. Partners identified for the PID process included farmer innovators; staff from the District Offices for Agriculture, for Women and Youth Affairs and for Health; local cooperative staff; and researchers from the regional research centre and/or nearby university or agricultural college.

In February 2017, two members of PE took part in the anglophone PID training for Proli-FaNS held in Nairobi. They then gave field-based training to multiple stakeholders in Axum in February and April and in ESM in May. Three local innovations in ESM were documented: intercropping, agrobiodiversity management and liquor preparation. Three students from the local Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education Training College were trained in identifying and documenting local innovations together with farmers. Sites were selected for a joint experiment on intercropping. In Axum, a new innovation in using neem (*Azadirachta indica*) extract to control pests in citrus was identified. This is a topic of PID by farmer innovators, the district agricultural extension office, Aksum University, Axum Research Institute and BPA. Three topics related to poultry were also identified for PID in Axum.

In August 2017, PE held a 2-day consultative meeting with media partners in Mekelle, Tigray Region, with 26 participants: 9 journalists (including 3 women), one woman farmer, 12 researchers and academics (including 2 women) and 4 men from private documentation organisations. This served to update the media people about promoting local innovation and the Proli-FaNS project, so that they would include this in their future work.

In October 2016, PE conducted a 2-day training in Addis Ababa on M&E for local communities from the two Proli-FaNS action-learning sites. Ten farmers and agricultural experts (including one woman) attended: four from Axum and six from ESM.

PE also partnered with the University of Virginia to introduce farmers in the Axum area to a solar-powered technology for small-scale irrigation. In May 2016, three students from Virginia worked with 18 farmers (including 3 women) in assembling and deciding on a location for a solar panel and pump, and trying out the system. It did not work well, but the farmers found that the two instruments used independently were useful for other purposes.

Two members of PE's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) took part in the IPW in Senegal in 2016, while one TAG member and the CP coordinator took part in the IPW in Ghana in 2017.

In 2017, PE faced some coordination and governance challenges, leading to delayed implementation and reporting on Proli-FaNS. The SRC for ESA interacted with NSC and TAG members and with the CP coordinator to find ways to improve the situation so that the delays would not jeopardise the performance of the entire project involving five CPs. A new coordinator will be recruited and the NSC will be re-organised. PE is also planning to find a longer-term host (as the NSC regards BPA as an interim host organisation for the network), to expand network membership, to raise more funds for its activities and to expand influence into other parts of the country.

1.6 GHANA

In 2016, Prolinnova–Ghana was included as one of the five CPs in the Proli-FaNS project (for more details, see Section 2.1). ACDEP (Association of Church-based Development Projects), the host organisation of the CP, was invited to coordinate the project on behalf of the Prolinnova network. The project was launched with an inception workshop for all project partners that was hosted by ACDEP in Accra in November 2016.

In Ghana, action-learning sites in Bongo and Yendi Districts were selected for field-level activities of the project. In 2017, 34 innovations by 22 women and 12 men were identified, documented and shared or further developed through PID. Some of these innovations were made known widely through local radio, and ten women presented their innovations at the annual National Farmers Day celebration and were given awards by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Two members of the Prolinnova–Ghana Working Group took part in a 4-day PID training in Kenya supported through the Proli-FaNS project.

In 2017, the CP reorganised its NSC to include seven members with different institutional affiliations. The NSC met two times thereafter to discuss issues related to the Proli-FaNS project, hosting of the IPW 2017, expanding the CP and fundraising.

Prolinnova–Ghana hosted the IPW in May 2017 in Tamale in northern Ghana (base of ACDEP).

1.7 KENYA

In 2016, Prolinnova–Kenya completed the 3-year CLIC–SR project. Kenya was one of the two countries visited by an external evaluator of the project in 2016. Two of the PID cases undertaken by CP partners were included in the overall documentation of CLIC–SR.

In August 2016, the CP in Kenya was chosen to be one of the five partners in the Proli-FaNS project, which was launched in late 2016 with Kisumu and Makueni sub-counties selected as action-learning sites for the project. Community consultation meetings for identification of relevant innovations were held at both sites in October and November 2016.

Implementation of the Proli-FaNS project continued through 2017. Several local innovations were identified and documented, and farmer-led joint research was commenced on a selected few. The PID training-of-trainers for project staff from the three anglophone CPs (in Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya) in the project was hosted by Prolinnova–Kenya in Nairobi. Two farmer innovators and two field practitioners from the two project sites joined the training. This was followed by PID training in

both field locations for farmers and other local stakeholders from both governmental and non-governmental organisations.

In 2016, several members of the CP participated in a gathering in Uganda organised by AGC to discuss their initiative on documenting stories of farmer innovators for inclusion in an interactive, web-based platform. In 2017, AGC worked together with the Farmer-led Innovators Association of Kenya (FALIA) to document 20 innovations from Nyando in western Kenya. Farm Radio International also documented five innovations of the association for sharing through their radio programmes.

Joe Ouku, a farmer innovator supported by Prolinnova–Kenya, won an award from the National Environment Trust Fund for his dairy goat meal innovation. He is in the process of commercialising his innovation.

The NSC in Kenya was very active and met regularly throughout 2016 and 2017 to guide the CP operations in terms of ongoing projects, network performance, strengthening membership and resource mobilisation. This also included a rather long search for a suitable CP coordinator to fill the vacancy that arose in 2016. Vincent Mariadho was appointed coordinator in November 2017 and is based in WN, the host organisation of the CP. In late 2017, the CP submitted a project proposal to the Commonwealth Foundation and is awaiting a response.

1.8 MALI

The activities of this CP in 2016–17 were structured around the two externally funded projects implemented under the umbrella of the Prolinnova network: PROFEIS supported by Misereor and FaReNe supported by MF.

In the PROFEIS project, four cases of farmer-led joint research were conducted in 2016, related to striga control, a vegetable biopesticide, a solar clay incubator for guinea-fowl eggs and trying out a new hybrid chicken breed (*Yassa*). With the aid of the incubator, the Djela women's cooperative is expanding its poultry business. Requests for information about the incubator have come in from various other countries in WCA. The cases were documented and shared through four bulletins in French; two were translated into local languages. The CP also produced a new catalogue of 50 farmer innovations found in Ségou and Mopti Regions.

Eighty people from various national and international organisations, including FAO, attended a one-day roundtable organised by the CP in February 2016 in Bamako. In a one-day workshop in May held in Ségou, 13 men and two women farmers debated on community rights to local knowledge and innovations. In July 2016, 27 male farmers from Djela village were trained for three days in using the solar clay incubator and in poultry healthcare. The CP benefitted from backstopping from Bara Gueye (*Innovations Environnement Développement Afrique, Senegal*) on M&E tools oriented toward institutionalising the PID approach.

The CP submitted a proposal to Misereor to continue the PROFEIS work, and was granted funds for a fourth 3-year phase starting 1 March 2017. The key objectives of this phase are to spread farmer innovations, to optimise farmer innovations through PID and to institutionalise PID.

The CP has actively disseminated innovations that were documented in recent years. It organised a farmer-to-farmer visit to share a local innovation against striga. Two students from the Rural Polytechnic Institute of Training and Applied Research wrote Master's theses on two innovations: striga control and the clay incubator. The CP prepared a national strategy document for institutionalising PID, and the approach has been included in the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. In Bamako, 20 actors in rural development, including a former Minister of Agriculture and people from NGOs, government

technical services, environment commission and an international research institute, were trained in PID and are committed to integrating this approach into their activities.

In the FaReNe project, three farmer innovations in agroecological intensification were documented and over 1000 copies of a flyer presenting the FaReNe vision, mission, objectives and partners were distributed to government agencies and NGOs. Using LISFs set up in the project areas, the CP facilitated four farmer-led joint experiments based on local innovations related to recovering degraded lands through planting *Acacia senegal*, burying organic matter, sowing groundnuts in rows, and ridging. In 2016, 24 participants were trained in operating an LISF, and credit was given to farmer cooperatives for various economic activities, e.g. fattening sheep and planting moringa. By the end of 2017, the two farmer-led research networks had 353 members, including 157 (44%) women.

The experiences were shared through a local exchange visit between the two farmer-led research networks in Mali (in Ségou and Mopti) and a visit by a group of farmer innovators and NGO staff from FaReNe Burkina Faso.

With respect to CP governance and management, after the CP coordinator Assétou Kanouté was named special advisor to Mali's Minister for Scientific Research in February 2016, Diakité Bourama assumed the CP coordination responsibilities. The 13 members in the NSC met once in 2016 and once in 2017 to discuss the CP's orientation and to approve the annual plan and budget. The national MSP of 22 members held a meeting in April 2016 to discuss implementation and impact of the CP's activities. The Coordination Team, comprising a network of farmer organisations, an NGO, a research institute and the national extension service, continues to handle planning, implementation and M&E of the CP activities in collaboration with farmer innovators, local communities and various partners.

1.9 MOZAMBIQUE

In October 2016, the coordinating NGO – *Associação para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais* / Association for Rural Community Development (ADCR) – organised a 2-day seminar for sharing and training on local innovation in Xai-Xai (South Province), supported by the Catalan NGO CIC-Batá. The 25 participants included 14 farmers and staff from local NGOs: Kulima, UNAC (*União Nacional de Camponeses* / National Union of Peasants), GTO (*Grupo Teatral dos Oprimidos* / Theatre Group of the Oppressed), FONGA (*Forum de Organizacoes nao Governamentais de Gaza* / Forum of NGOs from Gaza Province), ASA (Anglican Social Action) and ADCR; and Romuald Rutazihana (chair of the NSC) as mentor. The farmers presented various local innovations, e.g. improved granary made of leaves; plant-based products to control fleas and deworm chickens; using woven-grass containers for tree nurseries, making various biopesticides and applying them using plastic bottles with perforated caps; making wooden wheels for carts, fuel-saving clay stoves and low-cost cisterns; processing and drying vegetables, tubers and moringa; and using old car tyres as drinking troughs for small livestock.

In November 2017, in collaboration with Vicente Zefanias, Romualdo conducted a 2-day refresher course on local innovation and PID for more than 20 participants from CP partner organisations. The following day, the participants took this opportunity to renew and strengthen the NSC and to plan joint activities for 2018. One focal point was elected for each of the three provinces involved thus far in Prolinnova: Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane. Also focal points at district level were appointed. The participants asked Romualdo to chair the NSC, as he has been with the CP from the outset and has the longest institutional memory. The participants also reviewed a [catalogue](#) of 18 local innovations that was published in December 2017. Prolinnova-Mozambique member organisations had compiled this catalogue, which included innovations that were encountered in the last ten years during the CP partners' day-to-day interactions with smallholder farmers in the villages where the organisations work. The publication of the catalogue was funded by CIC-Batá.

The [2017 annual report](#) gives a detailed account of the CP's achievements in 2017, and includes the backstopping visit to Mozambique by Brigid Letty from Prolinnova–South Africa, which was planned for 2017 but could be made only in early 2018.

1.10 NEPAL

In early 2016, hosting of Prolinnova–Nepal was handed over from Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), the NGO that had hosted the network from its inception, to the Institute of Science and Technology (IOST) at the University of Tribhuvan. Dharma Dangol of the IOST took over as CP coordinator. During 2016, several small seminars and workshops were organised within IOST to orient staff on Prolinnova's approach and activities.

A successful grant application to Nuffic in partnership with IST/KIT in 2016 made it possible to conduct training in LI/PID in Nepal. Twenty-one members (11 men and 10 women) of the research and teaching staff of IOST and its affiliated colleges across the country took part in the training programme in 2017, which included a sharing workshop for Prolinnova–Nepal partners. Some of the trainees started to integrate elements of the LI/PID approach into their teaching and research.

A woman innovator from Chitwan, Tulsi Gyawali, was awarded a prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life from the World Women's Summit Foundation in Switzerland. Prolinnova–Nepal celebrated her achievement with a ceremony on the International Day of Rural Women in October 2016, which brought together nearly 90 people from governmental and nongovernmental organisations, schools, universities, women's organisations and the media. In 2016 and 2017, the CP celebrated IFID in events that gave farmer innovators the centre stage to share their experiences with a broad range of stakeholders. The CP coordinator made many attempts to reach youth with the LI/PID approach through short seminars organised in high schools and colleges sponsored by voluntary donations.

The members of Prolinnova–Nepal's National Working Group stayed active and connected, but the NSC has not been active for a while.

Two members of the CP participated in the IPW in 2016 as well as in the IPW in 2017.

1.11 PHILIPPINES

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) Philippines programme, as the host of the CP, has been promoting LI/PID through its field activities. It hosted a first meeting with several stakeholders in Quezon Province who were interested in joining the CP. IIRR is engaging farmers and farmer groups in Guinayangan Municipality, Quezon, in innovation development for strengthening community resilience. Based on the principles of LISFs, which were piloted by Prolinnova in several other countries in Africa and Asia, IIRR is supporting a so-called community innovation fund to support farmer/community innovation development related to climate-resilient technologies/approaches. Forty-eight farmers (40% women, 60% men) from farmer learning groups accessed the innovation fund in 2016.

The IFID in 2016 was celebrated with a roving workshop that brought farmer innovators from Guinayangan to peers across the region. Farmer innovators were able to share their experiences with many farmers and other stakeholders in ARD.

One CP member, also a member of the POG, participated in the IPW in 2016, whilst two members of the CP joined the IPW in 2017.

1.12 SENEGAL

Agrecol Afrique, the NGO that coordinates the CP in Senegal, hosted the IPW 2016, with support from the IST. Forty participants (including 13 women) from 22 countries attended this event in Thiès,

where Agrecol Afrique is based. At this IPW, the Prolinnova network's overall strategy for 2016–20 was adopted, and a process of regionalisation and southernisation of the network was initiated. Djibril Thiam, coordinator of the CP in Senegal and POG member, was nominated as the focal point of the taskforce for Prolinnova's subregional platform in WCA. More about the event can be found at <http://prolinnova.net/content/2016-international-partners-workshop-senegal-16-20-may>

Since January 2016, the CP has been involved in the project Agro-Ecology Plus Six (AE+6) coordinated by Groundswell International and funded by Global Resilience Challenge (GRC) to promote resilience in the Sahel. Project partners are in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal. More about this can be found at <https://www.groundswellinternational.org/burkina-faso/ae6-a-new-program-to-promote-resilience-in-the-sahel/> CP partners took part in a nutrition strengthening workshop organised by GRC. At the end of 2017, the CP went to the closing workshop of AE+6, during which the partnership that was developed during project implementation was analysed. It was decided to continue collaboration, with particular emphasis on using the LI/PID approach.

In November 2016, the CP coordinator joined the inception workshop for Proli-FaNS held in Ghana and contributed particularly to the discussions on improving the governance of the CPs within the Prolinnova network, strengthening communication within the network and starting regionalisation of the network.

Four NSC meetings were held in 2016 for organising the IPW 2016, reporting and following up on the GRC platform, and reporting back to the CP members about the IPW. Three NSC meetings were held in 2017 to prepare for participation in the IPW 2017 and to share information on the platform and the GRC project. The CP coordinator took part on behalf of the platform in the IPW 2017 held in Tamale, Ghana.

Djibril made a backstopping visit to Cameroon in early 2017, together with the Prolinnova–Ghana coordinator Joseph Nchor (also coordinator of Proli-FaNS) and gave this younger CP some advisory support for better coordination and governance of the CP and for successful implementation of the Proli-FaNS project.

The Senegal platform also received a visit by the Prolinnova SRC for WCA in late July 2017, when the SRC made contact with the CP members and gained a better understanding of how the CP functions and the role it could play in regionalisation of the international network.

The CP coordinator, who is also the POG member for WCA, drafted the procedure and criteria for evaluating both SRCs in Africa at the end of their 6-month probation period. After the POG approved the evaluation guide, the NSC in Senegal used it to evaluate the work of the SRC for WCA, whose efforts to start the process of Prolinnova regionalisation in WCA were appreciated by all.

During 2017, the coordinator visited the platform member organisations to discuss the continuation of the network in a context of limited access to external funding. Other organisations interested in promoting local innovation and PID were also visited. These visits and contacts led to decisions to admit FENAB (*Fédération Nationale pour l'Agriculture Biologique* / National Federation of Organic Agriculture) as a platform member, to invite private-sector organisations to become platform members and to develop an internal funding mechanism through individual or collaborative participation in calls for proposals.

1.13 SOUTH AFRICA

Prolinnova–South Africa was not very active as a functioning CP in 2016 and 2017, but individual members of the network carried out related initiatives. The PID training funded through Nuffic as a collaborative effort between INR (Institute of Natural Resources), Mahlahthini Organics and IST/KIT

was concluded in 2016: after 24 participants had been trained in PID the previous year, five Prolinnova–South Africa partners carried out follow-up projects supported by Nuffic.

Brigid Letty, who has been the focal point for the CP for several years, played a key role in drafting and finalising the Prolinnova network’s strategy for the period 2016–20 and she presented it at the IPW in May 2016 in Senegal. She also supported the IST and CPs in preparing case studies on PID in the process of finalising the CLIC–SR project in 2016 and attended the IPW in Ghana in 2017.

In November 2017, Brigid took part in a side event on developing local extension capacity, organised by GFRAS and AFAAS (African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services) as part of the 3rd AFAAS Africa-wide Agricultural Extension Week held in Durban. In 2017, INR hosted two interns from the University of Virginia’s Global Development Program, which collaborates with Prolinnova to provide students with field-based experiences of farmer innovation in sustainable small-scale agriculture.

Brigid is now sharing the CP coordination tasks with her INR colleague Zaneli Shezi.

1.14 SUDAN

In 2017, after a long period of inactivity, Prolinnova–Sudan expressed interest in becoming active again after the hosting of the CP was taken over by the National Centre for Research (NCR) with an interim NSC. A member of the CP, who was invited to the IPW 2017 in Ghana, requested help to revitalise the CP in Sudan. This was considered an important request, which was included as a key task to be taken up by the SRC for ESA, Amanuel Assefa. In October 2017, he paid a visit to Sudan and engaged in discussions with the CP partners, giving them advice on reactivating the network and the NSC, on appointing a CP coordinator and on strategies to acquire funds. The NCR held a meeting that brought together people from several organisations that had been affiliated to Prolinnova–Sudan over the years as well as others who were interested. During this meeting, Amanuel reiterated the basic principles of Prolinnova and provided a brief update on the network’s current status.

1.15 TANZANIA

Prolinnova–Tanzania is coordinated by PELUM (Participatory Ecological Land Use Management)–Tanzania, a network of 33 NGOs and CBOs working in sustainable agricultural development. CP partners include MVIWATA (National Network of Farmers Groups in Tanzania), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Cooperative College Moshi, INADES–Tanzania and several other NGOs. Prolinnova–Tanzania feeds its experiences into a strategic process to influence rural development through the PELUM network in ESA.

The CP completed the CLIC–SR project, working in six villages in Kondoa and Chamwino Districts. Besides the final report, technical notes were made on five cases of joint experimentation. Two of the cases – on an institutional innovation by a self-organised women’s group and on using a fish-based supplement to fatten cattle – were prepared for the compilation of cases from all five CPs in the CLIC–SR project. Eighteen people from nine CP partner organisations from the central dry areas of the country visited farmer innovation sites in Mbeya in the Southern Highlands. Through training and sharing events, the CP worked with a total of 215 community members and 46 civil-society and government organisation staff during the CLIC–SR project. The CP hosted a visit of an external evaluator of the project in early 2016. Patrick Lameck from INADES-Formation and Simon Mwangonda from Ileje Rural Development Organisation attended the IPW 2016 and the final CLIC–SR meeting, both held in Senegal in May 2016.

The increasing interaction of farmers and researchers in Tanzania as a result of the CLIC–SR project made some headway toward institutionalising PID within research organisations. Researchers have shown commitment to continue working with farmers in PID in cost-sharing arrangements. After the

CLIC–SR project ended, CP members continued to carry out PID-related activities on their own funding, but these efforts were not coordinated.

Zacharia Malley from the Selian Agricultural Research Institute, who had been responsible for many years for coordinating M&E, attended the IPW2017 in Ghana in place of the CP coordinator, who was overburdened with his other NGO activities and could give little time to the network. Amanuel, the SRC coordinator for ESA, visited the CP in October 2017 to help the members review and re-activate the governance of the network. The newly formed NSC appointed Zacharia as new CP coordinator. After that, the CP made considerable efforts to raise funds to be able to carry out more PID activities and compensate for at least some of the time of those involved, but thus far without success.

1.16 TIMOR LESTE

A small group in Timor Leste joined the Prolinnova international network in 2017. During its meeting in May 2017, the POG approved the membership of Timor Leste as a CP. The CP currently consists of several NGOs and two universities and is hosted by RAEBIA (Resilient Agriculture and Economy through Biodiversity in Action). The CP was launched with initial support from the government's Civil Society Fund. This also made it possible for two participants from Timor Leste to travel to Ghana to join the IPW in May 2017. This was an excellent way for them to get to know Prolinnova partners from other countries and become oriented on the international network's activities.

1.17 UGANDA

In 2016, partners of Prolinnova–Uganda concluded the CLIC–SR project, which was carried out in Nakasongola and Moyo Districts. The project experiences, particularly in farmer-led joint experimentation on innovations related to climate-change adaptation (CCA), were documented for wider sharing. This included a booklet and policy brief on local innovation for CCA and two case studies on farmer-led joint research that became part of the overall documentation of the project.

In September 2016, Kikandwe Environmental Association (KEA), a CP partner, supported AGC to host a consultation meeting with individuals from diverse organisations in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to discuss their plans for setting up an internet-based platform for sharing the stories of farmer innovators. Several key partners in Prolinnova–Uganda took part in this consultation.

Two members of the CP participated in the IPW 2016 in Senegal and contributed to the discussion on the network's strategy for 2016–20. They also shared their CLIC–SR experiences with others in the workshop. One person from the CP participated in the IPW 2017 in Ghana and brought in the CP's experiences with promoting local innovation and PID in Uganda.

Despite a lack of dedicated external funds for a Prolinnova project in 2017, the Prolinnova–Uganda core team and the NSC met periodically and continued to keep the network going. The CP partners were active in resource mobilisation, developing and submitting several proposals, joining up with CPs in the region in some cases, and were confident of getting some of these approved by 2018.

Partners in the network were also active in the policy arena within Uganda. Environmental Alert (EA) – the host NGO of the CP – and KEA joined the National Community-Based Adaptation Workshop in June 2017 hosted by the Ministry of Water and Environment. The Agency for Integrated Rural Development, another CP partner, celebrated its 20th anniversary with a sharing event where it showcased several farmer innovations in ecologically sound sustainable agriculture. EA was invited to participate in a national workshop organised by the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology in partnership with UNESCO for assessing the country's capacity to take part in the Future Earth initiative.

2. NETWORK-WIDE ACTIVITIES

2.1 INITIATIVES COMPLETED, ONGOING AND INITIATED IN 2016–17

PID for strengthening resilience to change (CLIC–SR)

The CLIC–SR project supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, implemented in four countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda – since 2012, was concluded in 2016.

Eight cases of farmer-led experimentation supported under this project – two from each of the participating countries – were brought together in a publication entitled [Compilation of cases of joint experimentation from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda](#) and shared through the Prolinnova Yahoogroup and the website. A [policy brief](#) based on the project’s findings was also prepared.

A final evaluation of the project was carried out by Mutizwa Mukute from Zimbabwe; his report can be found [here](#). The project narrative report for the final period January–August 2016, including a summary analysis of project achievements during the entire period 2012–16, can be found [here](#).

Study on Development Outcomes of Local Innovation (DOLI)

The research coordinator of the International Development Innovation Network (IDIN), a 5-year USAID-funded programme based at the D-Lab in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), had contacted staff of Prolinnova’s International Secretariat in 2015 to partner in a study on the development outcomes of local innovation and of interventions meant to enhance local capacity to innovate. Having come across several Prolinnova publications during a literature review, the IDIN researcher was keen to collaborate with Prolinnova as a network with extensive experience in promoting and supporting local innovation and PID.

A DOLI research team was set up, composed of the IDIN research coordinator, three people from Prolinnova’s International Secretariat, one freelance international consultant and local consultants in the three countries selected for the study: Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Vietnam. The research was conducted during 2016. The two case studies for which Prolinnova members were responsible – Sri Lanka and Vietnam – were concluded in that year. The IDIN researcher, who was responsible for the Tanzania case and for compiling the findings of all three cases, continued her tasks throughout 2017.

Farmer-led Research Networks (FaReNe)

This initiative funded by the McKnight Foundation (USA) under the umbrella of the Prolinnova network seeks to strengthen and support farmer-led research networks (FaReNe) in which small-scale farmers take the lead in joint experimentation by farmers and formal researchers for agro-ecological intensification, building on local knowledge and innovation. FaReNe started in November 2015 as a 3-year project with the aims: 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 the praxis of farmer-led research networks and to spread and share lessons widely.

FaReNe operates in Burkina Faso, where the main partners are WN, Diobass, Réseau-MARP and CNRST (*Centre National de Recherche Scientifique et Technologie* / National Centre for Scientific and Technological Research) and in Mali, where the main partners are ADAF-Gallè, IER (*Institute d’Economie Rurale* / Institute of Rural Economy) and the farmer organisation AOPP (*Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes* / Association of Professional Peasant Organisations). The learning sites are in Passoré and Gnagna Provinces in Burkina Faso and in Ségou and Mopti Regions in

Mali. The backstopping from the Prolinnova International Secretariat in KIT was initially done by Gabriela Quiroga and, after her departure from KIT, by her KIT colleague, Geneviève Audet-Belanger.

In May 2016, a workshop was organised in Thiès, Senegal, with the main project partners – WN and ADAF-Gallè – and two members of the Prolinnova IST from The Netherlands. The main aims of the workshop were: i) to build partners' capacities in key concepts and principles of PID; ii) to introduce and reflect on the setting-up and management of LISFs; and iii) to agree on the major milestones of the project during its first year.

A FaReNe partners' meeting was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 26–28 January 2017, right after the PID training organised as part of the Proli-FaNS project, to discuss progress and challenges related to FaReNe implementation. Participants from both projects shared their experiences and lessons related to PID, joint experimentation and LISFs during a field visit that allowed them to get to know two Burkinabe innovations (one in agro-ecological intensification, the other in nutrition). During the Ouagadougou meeting, Genevieve introduced an M&E tool to the partners, who are collecting the data.

For networking and mutual learning about FaReNe, members of the CPs in Burkina Faso and Mali took part in meetings in Ouagadougou: a training workshop organised by MF's Collaborative Crop Research Program (CCRP) on leadership in June 2016, the annual meeting of the CCRP community of practice in April 2017, and a CCRP training on research methods in November 2017.

The FaReNe activities in Burkina Faso were behind schedule but appointment of a new coordinator in WN helped them catch up. The CPs in Burkina and Mali continued to strengthen field staff capacities in facilitating PID and LISFs, monitored farmer-led joint experiments and set up farmer networks and LISFs in the project sites. The CPs joined the IPWs in 2016 in Senegal and in 2017 in Ghana.

For better sharing of experiences about farmer innovation, facilitating joint experimentation, setting up farmer innovator networks and managing LISFs, some FaReNe team members from Burkina Faso visited six villages in Mali on 6–8 October 2017. The ten visitors from Burkina included farmer innovators, women food processors and staff from three NGOs: Diobass, Réseau MARP and WN.

Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS)

In early 2016, partners from Prolinnova–Ethiopia and Prolinnova–Kenya collaborated with the IST and the POG to develop a proposal on “Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security”, which was submitted to Misereor. The three-year Proli-FaNS project started in August 2016 and will continue until end of July 2019. It is funded by Misereor /*Katholische Zentralstelle e.V.* (Catholic Central Agency for Development Aid – KZE, Germany) through a grant from the “One World No Hunger” Special Initiative (SEWOH) of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The field-based work is being carried out in five CPs in Africa: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya.

ACDEP, which hosts the Prolinnova CP in Ghana, is the legal holder and coordinator of the Proli-FaNS project on behalf of the Prolinnova network. IST members based in the Prolinnova International Secretariat based at KIT in the Netherlands and in IIRR in the Philippines are backstopping the work.

Proli-FaNS aims to strengthen the innovation capacity of rural communities, particularly of women, and to increase the level of local resilience to change, as well as to contribute to building functional multi-CP platforms in two subregions in Africa – in WCA and in ESA – and for mutual learning, networking and (sub)regional policy dialogue. The specific objectives of Proli-FaNS are:

- Rural communities develop their innovative capacities to effectively improve food security, nutrition security and nutritional diversity;

- Women are more widely recognised as innovators and are supported in further developing their innovations, from which they control the benefits;
- Subregional Prolinnova platforms support national CPs to develop capacity for collective learning, mobilising resources and effective policy dialogue.

Partners from the five CPs took part in the Proli-FaNS [inception workshop](#) held in Accra, Ghana, on 14–19 November 2016. The workshop participants developed strategies and guidelines for implementing the project, as well as workplans and budgets.

In late 2016, the Proli-FaNS project was introduced to the stakeholders in the five CPs. The key activities carried out until the end of 2016 (and continuing thereafter) were identification of local innovations (especially by women) in the domain of food and nutrition security, selecting innovation cases appropriate for PID and forming working groups of multiple stakeholders in the action-learning sites. CP-specific activities are reported under the headings of the CPs concerned.

Subregional training sessions in promoting local innovation and PID were held in English and French. Special attention was given to women as innovators and supporting their innovations related to food and nutrition security, as this is a key objective of the Proli-FaNS project. The 4-day francophone training facilitated by Gabriela Quiroga from the IST was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in January 2017 and included eight participants from Burkina Faso and Cameroon. The report in French (with executive summary in English) on the francophone training can be found [here](#).

The 4-day training workshop in promoting local innovation and participatory innovation development was organised for anglophone participants in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2017. Two participants each from Ethiopia and Ghana and four participants from Kenya, including two farmer innovators from the two action-learning sites in Kenya, attended the workshop, which was facilitated by Makonge Righa from Prolinnova–Kenya and Chesha Wettasinha from the IST. The report in English (with an executive summary in French) can be found [here](#).

The Proli-FaNS partners from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya held their first annual meeting in Tamale, Ghana, immediately after the IPW2017 in May 2017. Both events were hosted by ACDEP, which coordinates Prolinnova–Ghana and the Proli-FaNS project. After activity updates from the five CPs, concepts of local innovation and PID were clarified and issues around M&E, CP governance and communication were discussed. The report compiled by Michael Pervarah and Joe Nchor can be found [here](#).

The five CPs are completing their documentation of the 20 local innovations identified at each of the eight action-learning sites, and are in the process of facilitating farmer-led joint experimentation on innovations relevant for food and nutrition security, in ways that strengthen women’s role in the household and community.

Partnership with A Growing Culture (AGC)

The partnership with AGC continued in 2016 and 2017. AGC seeks to establish and support a web-based community of family farmers and advocates in sustainable agriculture. In May 2016, Loren Cardeli, the founder of AGC, joined the IPW in Senegal and, during the World Café session, presented an outline of the Library for Food Sovereignty (LFS) – an interactive online facility to connect small-scale farmer innovators and organisations that support them.

In September 2016, AGC joined hands with Prolinnova to host its first stakeholder gathering in Uganda. KEA, a partner in Prolinnova–Uganda, hosted the meeting in Kasejje village. Several Prolinnova partners and farmer innovators from Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda took part in this gathering and provided inputs on how to make the LFS a truly farmer-centred resource. They also considered the possible roles that participants could play in piloting the first prototype of the LFS in

Eastern Africa. A small farmer innovation fair was organised as part of the event, and video clips on several farmer innovators were made. More information about the event can be found at: <http://www.agrowingculture.org/project/lfs-stakeholder-gathering/>

In January 2017, AGC joined up with FALIA, a Prolinnova–Kenya partner, and documented 20 innovations in Kisumu to be included in the LFS. More about this activity can be found at: <http://www.agrowingculture.org/project/farmer-led-innovation-documentation-kenya/> AGC also solicited feedback from Prolinnova members during the process of designing the LFS prototype.

Student internships – University of Virginia

Since 2014, David Edmunds, the “track director” for the Global Development Program of the University of Virginia (GDP/UV) and some of his students have been taking part in Prolinnova IPWs and spending a few weeks longer in the host country to get to know the CP’s work in the field. In 2016, GDP/UV agreed on a partnership with Prolinnova to provide short internships (ca 8 weeks in June–July each year) to several of their students. The hosting partners in each of the CPs were supposed to set up a programme for the students in discussion with GDP/UV.

In 2016, six students from GDP/UV undertook short internships with Prolinnova: three students in Cambodia and three in Senegal. The students who went to Senegal joined the IPW 2016 in Thiès, together with David, and supported the organisers in translation and documentation. They then spent several weeks with Agrecol Afrique (host NGO of the CP in Senegal) in the field. The three students in Cambodia became involved in CEDAC’s work in promoting local innovation. GDP/UV and the students expressed their appreciation of the learning space offered to them. Short blogs on their experiences can be found at: <https://www.prolinnova.net/content/experiences-students-2016>

In 2017, ten GDP/UV students did internships with Prolinnova CPs in Ethiopia, Ghana, the Philippines, Senegal and South Africa.

Gender Analysis for Local Innovation Development (GALID)

Despite the attention given to gender issues in the network, Prolinnova practitioners often found it difficult to integrate gender issues into their work in supporting local innovation and farmer-led joint research. In nearly all CPs, few women innovators had been identified and supported through PID. Many partners expressed a need for “grounded tools” in order to better integrate gender into their work. Prolinnova/KIT staff therefore approached the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for support to design such a tool. After several discussions in 2016 on the concept note submitted by Prolinnova/KIT, FAO agreed to support GALID. In 2017, a two-member team from Prolinnova/KIT team visited two CPs (in Ethiopia and Nepal) to assess how the partners in these countries were integrating gender into their work and the challenges they faced. The team also made a quick scan of other development interventions to find relevant resources. The team then drafted a set of guidelines for use by practitioners in integrating gender in three areas: identifying women’s innovation; analysing, documenting and sharing women’s innovation; and engaging women in farmer-led joint research. The guidelines were further revised based on feedback from FAO. Draft guidelines were shared with Proli-FaNS partners so they could already use it in their ongoing work.

The next step in the process is to have these guidelines tested in the field and to prepare a more generic version of the guidelines that could be used by any ARD practitioner interested in engaging with innovative farmers. This is scheduled for 2018.

Agricultural Transformation by Innovation (AgTrain)

For several years, Prolinnova has been an Associate Partner in the Agricultural Transformation by Innovation (AgTrain) joint doctoral programme supported by the European Commission. In 2016 – 17, Gabriela and Ann from the IST were members of the thesis committee for research on “The role

of farmer organisations in promoting sustainable agriculture: case studies from Burkina Faso”, together with Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands and CIRAD (*Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement* / French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) and the University of Montpellier in France. The committee advised and monitored progress in the PhD research by Aboubakar Iyabano in Burkina Faso. The fieldwork is to be completed in 2018.

Global Resilience Challenge (GRC)

When still based at ETC Foundation, the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat had been involved in designing this project together with Groundswell International but, after the Secretariat’s move to KIT, it was not possible to reach an agreement for continued collaboration. IST member Gabriela, who was the main contact person for this project, took part in and co-facilitated (with Peter Gubbels, project leader) a meeting of the project partners immediately after the IPW 2016 in Thiès, Senegal. In 2017, Gabriela and Ann explored through Peter the possibilities of some collaboration between GRC and Prolinnova in the form of joint publications, but this did not materialise.

2.2 POLICY DIALOGUE AND MAINSTREAMING

Policy dialogue and mainstreaming at national and subnational level are reported mainly under the headings of the different CPs. Activities at regional/international level are briefly described here.

Events / conferences

International Farmer Innovation Day (IFID)

Four CPs organised events to celebrate IFID in 2016: Bolivia, Cameroon, Nepal and the Philippines. In Cameroon, the event took place in Ekoumdouma village and brought together 52 farmers from nine partner organisations in the local multistakeholder committee of Prolinnova–Cameroon. About 200 visitors attended the presentations of the farmer innovators and some bought the farmers’ products. Several officials from the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development were also at the event, which received good media coverage.

In Bolivia, IFID was marked by radio interviews given by CP members on two stations in Cochabamba and Llallagula. Among others, the interviews highlighted the experiences of innovative women farmers in Nueva Semilla, a CP partner, in contributing to food security within the communities. Social media such as Facebook and WhatsApp was used to share the IFID messages.

In Nepal, the CP celebrated IFID by organising a seminar to share experiences in local innovation. Prolinnova–Nepal partnered with Caritas Nepal and the Centre for Nepal Environmental and Educational Development. About 50 people from universities, farmer groups and NGOs took part in the event, where several farmer innovators shared their experiences in promoting local innovation.

In the Philippines, IIRR organised a “roving workshop” to bring farmer innovators from Guinayangan, Quezon, to meet and share with peers in other parts of the region.

Tropentag

In September 2016, IST member Ann Waters-Bayer collaborated with people from the Centre for Development Research at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) to present a poster on “Fostering collective action in sustainable natural resource management with the Enabling Rural Innovation approach” at the Tropentag, the annual interdisciplinary conference on research in tropical and subtropical agriculture, natural resource management and rural development. This was based on a paper that the co-authors had written for the GFRAS Note #5 on Global Good Practices in Rural Advisory Services that focused on [Enabling Rural Innovation](#).

International Farming Systems Association (IFSA) Symposium, 2016

The 12th European IFSA Symposium was hosted by the Harper Adams University in Newport, UK, on 12–15 July 2016 on the theme “Social and technological transformation of farming systems: diverging and converging pathways”. Ann Waters-Bayer of the IST was a co-organiser of one of the workshops on monitoring and evaluation for learning and innovation. At the symposium, Chesha Wettasinha of the IST presented a paper co-authored with several Prolinnova members on [“Small-scale farmers’ perspectives on what enhances capacity to innovate”](#).

HLPE Colloquium on Food Security and Nutrition

Ann Waters-Bayer took part in an international colloquium “Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of the 2030 Agenda: Science and Knowledge for Action” held in September 2016 by the University of Hohenheim (Germany) and the Committee of World Food Security (CFS) High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition. Ann worked with Stefanie Lemke of Coventry University (UK) in compiling the final report on the colloquium. Together with the colloquium organisers, she co-authored an article on food security “Moving beyond the opposition of diverse knowledge systems for food security and nutrition”, which incorporates examples of farmer-led research and was submitted for publication.

GCARD3 and GFAR

At the Third Global Conference on Agricultural Research and Development (GCARD3) organised by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) in April 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa, Laurens van Veldhuizen, former IST member, made a presentation on “Learning on outcome and impact of Prolinnova: ten years’ stocktaking”. This was based on a participatory study of Prolinnova experiences in 2004–13. Ann Waters-Bayer also attended GCARD3 and was involved in discussions about possible collective action on farmer participatory research. Both Laurens and Ann contributed from the Prolinnova perspective to the external evaluation of the GFAR in 2017. The Prolinnova International Secretariat facilitated agreement in the network to vote for the World Rural Forum (WRF) as global representative of civil-society organisations (CSOs) in the GFAR Steering Committee, and to vote for ANGOC (Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development), which was elected to the regional CSO seat in the GFAR Steering Committee.

APAARI 2016

An expert consultation on best practices in agri-food innovations in Asia and the Pacific was held in Tahichung City, Taiwan, on 1–3 November 2016, jointly organised by the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), the Taiwan Council of Agriculture, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the World Vegetable Center and the Asian Farmers Association (AFA). More than 70 people from 16 countries in the region attended the event. The meeting emphasised the need for scientists to involve farming communities in innovation processes. Suman Manandhar from Prolinnova–Nepal presented lessons on facilitating multistakeholder partnerships to support farmer innovation in food and agriculture. He presented the PID approach and discussed the LISF as a mechanism to support farmer innovators in their research. Participants appreciated Prolinnova’s endeavours in recognising grassroots innovation, which – in turn – helps scientists to work together with farmer innovators and develop context-specific innovations.

GFRAS and AFAAS meetings 2016 and 2017

Jean Bosco Etoa, the coordinator of Prolinnova–Cameroon presenting Prolinnova experiences in recognising local innovation in “agripreneurship” at the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) annual meeting in Limbe, Cameroon, in October 2016. He also manned a stand to inform the GFRAS participants about Prolinnova.

In November 2017, on the invitation of AFAAS, Brigid Letty of Prolinnova–South Africa and a member of the Prolinnova taskforce in ESA, took part in the AFAAS/GFRAS side event on “Strengthening extension and rural advisory service systems in Africa”. It was on the agenda of the joint conference comprising the 3rd AFAAS Africa-wide Agricultural Extension Week and the 51st Annual Conference of the South African Society for Agricultural Extension that took place in Durban, South Africa. This was a good opportunity for Prolinnova to engage with AFAAS and others at the event and to share some of our network’s principles and experiences related to local extension capacity.

Quaker United Nations Office Consultation on Small-Scale Farmer Innovation

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) invited Prolinnova to participate in a global consultation on the role of the public sector in supporting small-scale farmers and agricultural biological diversity. Chesha Wettasinha from the IST took part in this meeting, which was held in Bossey, Switzerland, on 7–8 November 2016. Pratap Shrestha, a POG member, was also at the meeting on behalf of USC-Canada. A group of about 30 invitees from across the world discussed what small-scale farmers would need from government to be able to contribute to food and nutrition security, to maintain and develop agricultural biodiversity and to continue to develop innovative management practices. Based on the needs identified, the group discussed what service providers and regulators would require from government. The group came up with a call to action called “[The time is ripe](#)” outlining the key principles and actions for governments to strengthen sustainable and food-secure farming.

Women in Science, Innovation and Development Conference

Fetien Abay, who co-coordinated the Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation (ISWC) work in Ethiopia, which led to the birth of Prolinnova–Ethiopia, and who is now Vice-President for Research and Community Outreach at Mekelle University, organised the first International Conference on Women in Science, Innovation and Development in April 2017. This 3-day event celebrated the capacities and achievements of Ethiopian women in Ethiopia and abroad, ranging from women innovators in agriculture to leading women politicians. Two IST members attended the conference – Chesha Wettasinha as coordinator of the GALID study on gender issues in local innovation and PID, and Ann Waters-Bayer, who gave a presentation on “[Women in transdisciplinary research: interacting with citizen's science and innovation](#)”.

Committee on World Food Security, 44th session (CFS44)

On invitation from the GFAR, Georges Djohy, the Prolinnova SRC for WCA, attended a training session on 5–8 October 2017 in Rome about designing and implementing communication strategies based on social media. Immediately after the training, he was integrated into the GFAR social reporter team for media coverage of the 44th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS44) held in Rome on 9–13 October 2017. Georges was able to apply his new skills by sharing diverse information related to CFS44 on Facebook and Twitter and by publishing five blogs in which he referred to the actions and achievements of Prolinnova (see links under www.prolinnova.net/content/prolinnova-wca-coordinator-makes-media-coverage-cfs44).

Publications and presentations

In order to stimulate policymakers and practitioners to recognise farmer innovation in ARD, the Prolinnova network has developed various methods and tools for advocacy and lobbying. One of these is the Farmer Innovation Fair. In 2016, the network published guidelines based on partners’ experiences in organising and hosting such fairs (e.g. in Nepal, Kenya and Bolivia), with a focus on the experiences gained from the West African Farmer Innovation Fair (with the French acronym FIPAO) hosted in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in May 2015 by INADES-Formation and the CP in Burkina Faso. The booklet *Some guidelines to organise a farmers innovation fair* was printed in

English and French and is also available in Spanish as PDF. All three versions are available at <http://prolinnova.net/content/some-guidelines-organizing-farmer-innovation-fair>. The booklet was shared with the donors to FIPAO, i.e. CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation), MF, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), AgriProFocus and Misereor – and on the FIPAO and Prolinnova websites, Facebook and Linked-In.

A list of international publications and presentations by Prolinnova partners in 2016 and 2017 can be found in Annex 1.

2.3 GOVERNANCE AND NETWORK FUNCTIONING

International Partners Workshop 2016, Thiès, Senegal

Agrecol Afrique, the NGO that coordinates the CP in Senegal, hosted the IPW on 16–20 May 2016 in Thiès. The IPW started off with an information market, which warmed up the participants for the opening session, with a larger group of invitees from relevant government and NGOs in Senegal. Prolinnova's strategy for 2016–20 was given the highest priority and considerable time on the workshop agenda. In addition, there were sessions on strengthening local innovation capacity and community resilience as well as gender. CP participants shared their experiences on the IFID and Farmer Innovation Fairs in different countries. This time, the field visit was optional because of the funding limitations. Some of the participants joined the visit to a community farm run by women innovators and supported by Agrecol Afrique. The [IPW 2016 report](#) provides more details.

International Partners Workshop 2017, Tamale, Ghana

In 2017, Prolinnova–Ghana took on the responsibility of hosting the IPW, with ACDEP in charge of coordination and logistics. In its role as coordinator of the Proli-FaNS project, this was also a good opportunity for ACDEP to introduce the project and the plans of the five partnering CPs – in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya – to the wider network. Other CPs that were involved in activities related to food and nutrition security also shared their experiences. The main focus of the IPW was the regionalisation of Prolinnova, initially in Africa, with some activities being supported through the Proli-FaNS project. The two subregional coordinators appointed through support of the Proli-FaNS project were introduced to the network. Other topics discussed during the IPW were policy influencing and M&E related to promoting local innovation and PID. The one-day field visit allowed participants to engage with some of the innovators and their communities in Yendi Municipality involved in the Proli-FaNS project. Details on the IPW can be found in the [report](#).

Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG)

The POG held face-to-face meetings at the time of the IPW in Senegal in 2016 and in Ghana in 2017. In between, virtual meetings by Zoom were held in November 2016 and July 2017. Main points of discussion were issues of CP governance, reviewing whether CPs were fulfilling the mutually agreed minimum commitments to the network and the status of implementation of the Prolinnova strategy 2016–20, particularly the progress in regionalisation of the network and setting up an international secretariat in the Global South. In addition, the POG members revised all the Prolinnova guidelines (www.prolinnova.net/content/prolinnova-guidelines) after discussing them within the network.

In December 2016, the Asian CPs named Emily Monville Oro from Prolinnova–Philippines as their representative in the POG. Emily is Country Director of IIRR–Philippines. Upon request by the Asian CPs, she is also coordinating regional Prolinnova initiatives in Asia, such as the plans being developed to hold a farmer innovation fair in Asia. In the POG, Emily replaced Sonali Bisht from India, who held the Asian CP seat in the POG in 2015–16 and held the NGO seat in the GFAR Steering Committee.

In mid-2017, Pratap Shrestha of USC Canada replaced Ann Waters-Bayer as POG co-chair. Pratap is a founder member of LI-BIRD, the Nepalese NGO that initially hosted Prolinnova–Nepal, and was Executive Director of LI-BIRD in 2003–09. He helped set up Prolinnova–Nepal and was its coordinator for five years. In 2010, he joined USC Canada Asia as Program Specialist on Seed Systems and Plant Genetic Resources.

In the POG, Pratap shares responsibilities with Chris Macoloo, who has already been serving as co-chair since 2015 and has agreed to serve for an additional year. Chris is the Regional Associate Vice President for Africa at WN, based in Nairobi.

In September 2017, the Prolinnova CPs elected two new members to the POG: Elske van der Fliet to an independent seat and Joe Ouko from Kenya to the seat for farmer organisations. Elske is Associate Professor at the University of Queensland, Australia, and Director of its Centre for Communication and Social Change. Her research focuses on the theory and practice of participatory communication in development and social change, and on transdisciplinary research for development. Joe is a farmer innovator who is a member of the Local Steering Committee for piloting LISFs in Western Kenya. He and other Kenyan farmer innovators have set up FALIA, Kenya, of which Joe is interim Chair.

More information on the POG and its members can be found [here](#).

CP backstopping

Apart from provision for North–South and South–South backstopping through the Proli-FaNS project launched in 2016, all other visits to CPs were arranged around other work in the countries, adding on a couple of days for in-person backstopping of Prolinnova activities. The main purpose of the visits of the SRCs were to get to know all the partners in the CPs and to build closer bonds with them for collaboration in the future, as well as to facilitate discussion about improving governance of the CPs.

IST members, SRCs, the Proli-FaNS project coordinator and peers from within the Prolinnova network made the following backstopping visits:

Time	CP visited	Backstoppers
May 2016	Senegal	Chesha, Ann (IPW)
November 2016	Ghana	Chesha, Ann (Proli-FaNS inception workshop)
January 2017	Philippines	Chesha
January 2017	Burkina Faso	Gabriela, Geneviève
February 2017	Cameroon	Joe (Proli-FaNS coordinator based in Ghana) and Djibril (WCA taskforce leader based in Senegal)
February 2017	Kenya	Chesha
February 2017	Senegal	Gabriela
March 2017	Nepal	Chesha
April 2017	Ethiopia	Chesha, Ann
April 2017	Senegal	Gabriela
May 2017	Ghana	Chesha, Ann, Gabriela (IPW)
July 2017	Burkina Faso	Georges
July 2017	Senegal	Georges
October 2017	Tanzania	Amanuel
October 2017	Sudan	Amanuel
November 2017	Mali	Georges

November 2017	Nepal	Chesha
November 2017	Ethiopia	Amanuel
December 2017	Cameroon	Georges
late 2017	Mozambique	Brigid Letty (preparations for visit made in early 2018)

IST members in KIT held Skype or Zoom meetings every 3–4 months with the project coordinator and, less frequently, with the CP partners implementing the FaReNe and Proli-FaNS projects.

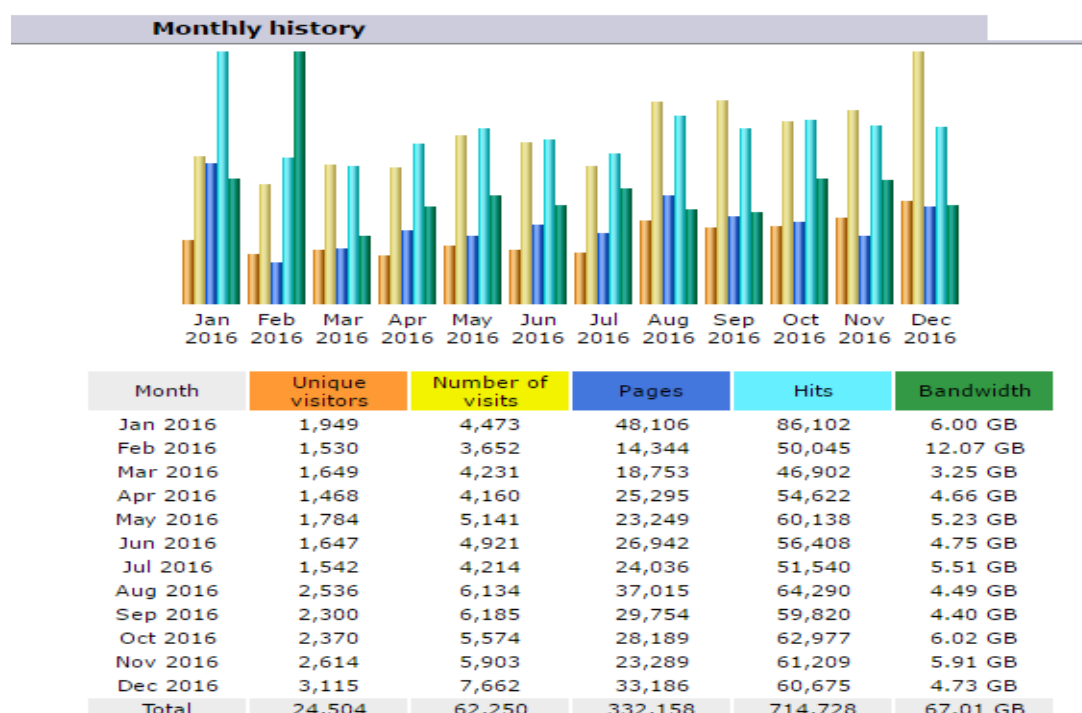
Monitoring and evaluation of the network

The annual e-evaluations of the network were facilitated for many years by IIRR, with Marise Espinelli in the lead. After she left IIRR in early 2016, Jerome Montemayor agreed to take on the responsibility with support from others in the IST, as he was new to IIRR as well as to Prolinnova. The e-evaluation for 2016 was done in the first quarter of 2017 with the participation of nine CPs (in Burkina Faso, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Philippines, Senegal and Uganda) and the IST. The network's overall performance was considered satisfactory. Governance of the network was given a good score with appreciation for the role of the POG, especially in making the strategy development an inclusive and participatory process. The IPW was considered most effective as a forum for sharing and learning. The information circulated through the Yahooogroup was appreciated. As in previous years, CPs mentioned the lack of direct CP-to-CP contact, e.g. via cross-visits, because there were so few multi-CP projects. The respondents felt that projects like Proli-FaNS would provide opportunities for such South–South interaction. More information on the e-evaluation 2016 can be found [here](#).

Unfortunately, IIRR could not continue facilitating the e-evaluations after 2017. The POG discussed this matter and decided to include a short self-assessment as part of the annual reporting by CPs. This will be incorporated into CP reporting in 2018.

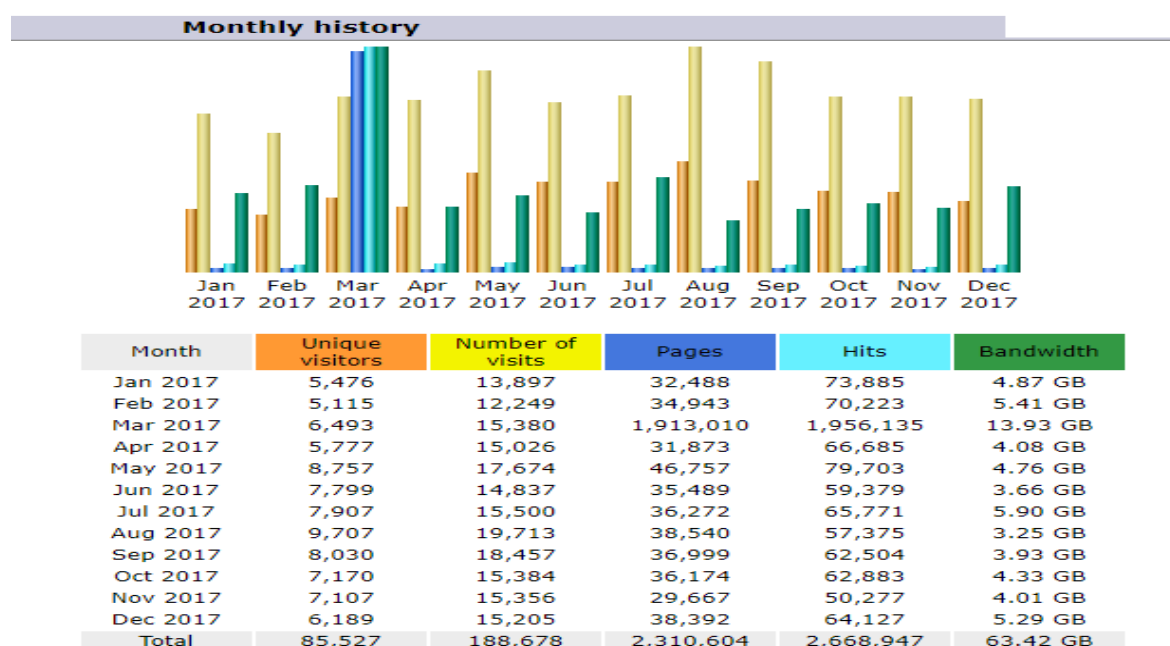
Website and social media management

Ann Waters-Bayer and Annie Secretario (IIRR) continued to handle the coordination and posting of content to the Prolinnova website. In 2016, the history of the website usage was as follows:



Unique visitors (number of distinct individuals requesting pages from the website in a given period regardless of how often they visit): an average of **2,042** monthly unique visitors and a total of **24,504** unique visitors were recorded. **Number of visits** (number of times a site is visited regardless of the number of unique visitors who make up the sessions): an average of **5,187.5** visits per month and a total of **62,250** numbers of visits were recorded for the year. **Pages**: An average of **27,679.83** pages per month and a total of **332,158** pages were visited. **Hits**: An average of **59,560.66** hits per month and a total **714,728** hits were made in 2016.

The general web statistics for 2017 showed a significant increase in the usage of the Prolinnova website:



An average of **7127** monthly unique visitors and a total of **85, 527** unique visitors were recorded for 2017. The number of visits for the year had grown to a total of **188, 678** visits. An average of **192,550** pages and a total of **2,310,604** pages had been visited during the year. The average of **22,412** hits were made per month, while a total of **2,668,947** hits were made in the year.

The Prolinnova Yahoogroup remained the main mechanism for communication within the entire network. By the end of 2017, it included 705 addresses. The number of messages shared via the list was 131 in 2016 and 140 in 2017. This is a decrease from the average of 234 messages/year in the previous two years. Most other communication within the network was through specific elists and emails associated with projects, proposals or other initiatives of smaller groups within the network.

The sustainability of the FIPAO website is a challenge. The last posting (in March 2017) was the booklet with guidelines for organising farmer innovation fair. Occasional postings by INADES Formation have continued throughout 2016 and 2017 on the [FIPAO Facebook page](#).

Fundraising and networking

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): The IST informed the francophone CPs about the IFAD contacts in their countries and encouraged the CPs to contact them and try to raise funds for PROLINNOVA/PROFEIS activities.

World Rural Forum (WRF): After taking part in the Bilbao Family Farming conference in 2015, Gabriela kept in touch with WRF Director, Auxtin Ortiz, and his colleague Stephanie Barrial. After Gabriela's departure from the IST, Ann took over her role as liaison person between WRF and the IST.

IST members and the POG co-chair Chris Macoloo provided comments on a concept note by the WRF on a “collective action” (CA) under the GFAR to foster collaboration between family farming organisations and agricultural research centres. The IST exchanged frequently by email and Skype with WRF to prepare for the participation of Djibril Thiam, coordinator of the CP in Senegal, in a workshop on the CA to be held in early 2018. Ann took part as observer in a meeting of the World Coordinating Committee for the World Decade of Family Farming in October 2017, after she had been invited to be a speaker in a panel on pastoralist women during CFS44. This gave her the opportunity to join forces with Georges Djohy, Prolinnova SRC for WCA, in discussions with WRF staff about the revised CA concept note to promote agroecological innovation by family farmers.

SDC: In 2017, the Prolinnova network was successful in acquiring support from SDC to bring several participants from CPs in Africa and Asia as well as POG members to join the IPW in May 2017 in Ghana. Also a representative from SDC joined the IPW.

Other fund raising initiatives (e.g. Proli-FaNS) are mentioned elsewhere in the report.

Following the Prolinnova strategy 2016–20: southernisation and regionalisation

In its 2016–20 strategy, the Prolinnova network decided to create regional and subregional platforms of country-level multistakeholder networks (CPs). The platforms seek to facilitate country-to-country learning and joint efforts in policy dialogue at subregional level to promote local innovation by small-scale family farmers and, above all, multistakeholder interaction in farmer-led joint research and development building on local initiatives and innovations.

The ESA Subregional Platform includes the CPs in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The WCA Subregional Platform includes the CPs in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali and Senegal. All regional and subregional platforms are open to other Prolinnova CPs that may become active again, such as in Niger and Nigeria in West Africa, and to emerging Prolinnova groups in other countries, i.e. multistakeholder groups wanting to promote farmer-led local innovation and experimentation processes.

A taskforce for forming a subregional platform in ESA was set up in May 2016. It was agreed that Chris Macoloo from the POG would initially take the lead and that members would include active CPs in the subregion – those in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. Other CPs could name a representative later. The CP in Sudan named a member in 2017. The initial taskforce was involved in selecting a SRC from a shortlist of applicants. Assisted and guided by the taskforce, the SRC has been strengthening the relatively inactive CPs; coordinating the drafting of new proposals to raise funds for subregional activities; facilitating information exchange between the CPs, the POG and the IST; developing a charter for the subregional platform; defining a roadmap for setting up an African Prolinnova Platform (working together with the SRC in WCA); helping identify host organisation(s) for the subregional/regional platforms; and facilitating networking, advocacy and documentation at subregional level.

The taskforce for WCA was created at the IPW 2016. It was agreed that Djibril Thiam from the POG would initially take the lead and that the CPs of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali and Senegal would participate. Some of the main priorities were to discuss matters related to regionalisation as well as to try to reactivate the CP in Niger.

From the over 150 candidates that applied to be SRC of Prolinnova activities in Africa, the two persons selected by the CPs in the respective subregions and by the POG were Amanuel Assefa for the ESA subregion and Georges Djohy for the WCA subregion. Their biosketches can be found [here](#). The SRCs started work in May 2017, with funding through the Proli-FaNS project that cover two days of work per week by each SRC.

New and revised guidelines: In consultation with the CPs and the IST, the POG developed and revised several sets of guidelines for the Prolinnova network: Guidelines 10 on local-level MSPs and Guidelines 11 on NSCs. All guidelines were translated by Georges into French.

The regionalisation process includes efforts to revive “dormant” and to support emerging CPs. For example, in the **Andes** region, Maria Omonte from the CP in Bolivia and Gabriela Quiroga from the IST contacted partners in the “dormant” CP in **Ecuador**, but sensed no interest to continue relating with PROLINNOVA. In **Peru**, Lionel Vigil, the WN Regional Coordinator, convened several meetings of people from farmer organisations, Peruvian NGOs, academia, government and the private sector to discuss re-activating collaboration within Peru in the form of an independent CP, rather than only as part of an Andes platform. The workshop participants set up a Working Group and an NSC, agreed on common aims and joint activities, and applied to the POG to be recognised as a CP. The application was officially accepted by the POG in February 2018.

In WCA, efforts were made by a FIPAO participant and Djibril Diarra from the CP in Mali to reactivate the CP in **Niger**. Gabriela from the IST and later Georges Djohy, the new SRC in WCA, followed up but to no avail. During a Rural Youth Seminar in Herrsching, Germany, in 2015, Gabriela met Sena Adessou, Director of INADES-Formation **Togo**, who showed interest in the network. Djibril, as the WCA taskforce leader, provided information on how to set up a CP. The SRC for WCA followed up with potential partners in Togo, as well as in **Benin**.

In ESA, the SRC Amanuel Assefa, visited the dormant CPs in **Sudan** and **Tanzania**. In late 2017, through email correspondence and telephone calls, Brigid Letty prepared for a South–South backstopping visit to **Mozambique** in early 2018.

3. CONCLUSION

As is clear from this report, Prolinnova has embarked on its journey towards regionalising the network. The process has been initiated in Africa, where most of the CPs are located. The SRCs have gained some experience in supporting the two subregional platforms. There is increased interaction between CPs in the subregions and attempts are being made to engage in collective fundraising. The success of these initiatives will determine the pace of regionalisation and the establishment of a Prolinnova Africa network. The CPs in Asia and Latin America are still not in a position to set up regional platforms and have agreed to continue to interact with and support each other where possible.

Meanwhile, Prolinnova is also aware of the need to keep the interactions between the different regions – Africa, Asia and Latin America – to maintain its culture of learning and sharing across borders and continents. The success of this will certainly depend on the energies, innovation and resilience of the entire network.

Annex 1: International presentation & publications of Prolinnova network in 2016–17

- Etoa JB. 2016. **Identifying local initiatives: a promising approach for extension services to promote agricultural entrepreneurship.** [Blog for GFRAS website](#).
- Etoa JB. 2016. **Recognizing local innovation in rural advisory services to promote agripreneurship.** 7th GFRAS Annual Meeting, 3–6 October, Limbe, Cameroon (PPT).
- Karanja E, Kamau G, Macoloo C, Righa M, van Veldhuizen L & Waters-Bayer A. 2016. **Supporting farmer innovation to enhance resilience in the face of climate change in farming systems in Machakos and Kitui Counties, Kenya.** Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation in Africa, 21–23 February, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 10pp.
- Karanja E, Kamau G, Macoloo C, Righa M, Veldhuizen L & Waters-Bayer A. 2017. **Supporting farmer innovation to enhance resilience in the face of climate change in farming systems in Machakos and Kitui Counties, Kenya.** In: Leal Filho W, Belay S, Kalangu J, Menas W, Munishi P & Musiyiwa K (eds), *Climate change adaptation in Africa: fostering resilience and capacity to adapt* (Springer, DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-49520-0_1), pp677–688.
- Manandhar S. 2016. **Lessons from Prolinnova–Nepal on facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships to support farmer innovation in food and agriculture.** Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) Expert Consultation on Best Practices in Agri-Food Innovations in Asia and the Pacific, Tahichung City, Taiwan, 1–3 November (PPT).
- Owamani A, Pircher T, Hauser M & Waters-Bayer A. 2016. **Fostering collective action in sustainable natural resource management with the Enabling Rural Innovation approach.** Tropentag, 18–21 September, Vienna (poster).
- Quiroga G & Flink I. 2017. **Some guidelines for organising a Farmer Innovation Fair.** Amsterdam: Prolinnova / Royal Tropical Institute. 12pp.
- Quiroga G & Waters-Bayer A with PROLINNOVA–Kenya. 2016. **Multistakeholder partnerships to promote farmer-led innovation / Promouvoir l’innovation paysanne: le rôle des partenariats entre divers acteurs / Die bäuerlichen Innovationskraft stärken: Multistakeholder-Partnerschaften setzen auf die Kreativität von Bauern.** In: Waters-Bayer A, Dorlöchter-Sulser S, Quiroga G, Haussmann B & Ruf A (eds), *Small-scale farmer innovation / Bäuerliche Innovation / Innovation paysanne* (Dossier 7-2016; Frankfurt: Welt-Sichten), pp19–20.
- Triomphe B, Floquet A, Kamau G, Letty B, Almekinders C & Waters-Bayer A. 2016. **Making sense of innovation processes in African smallholder agriculture.** In: Francis J, Mytelka L, van Huis A & Röling N (eds), *Innovation systems: towards effective strategies in support of smallholder farmers* (Wageningen: Technical Centre for Agricultural & Rural Cooperation (CTA)/ Wageningen University & Research (WUR)/Convergence of Sciences–Strengthening Innovation Systems), pp170–182.
- Triomphe B, Floquet A, Letty B, Kamau G, Almekinders C & Waters-Bayer A. 2017. **How can external interventions build on local innovations? Lessons from an assessment of innovation experiences in African smallholder agriculture.** In: Öborn I, Vanlauwe B, Phillips M, Thomas R, Willemein W & Atta-Krah K (eds), *Sustainable intensification in smallholder agriculture: an integrated systems research approach* (London: Earthscan), pp334–349.
- Veldhuizen L van. 2016. **Learning on outcome and impact of PROLINNOVA: 10 years’ stocktaking.** Third Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD), 6–8 April, Johannesburg, South Africa (PPT).
- Vellema S, Maru YT, Ekong J, McNamara P, Waters-Bayer A, Watson D & Brouwers J. 2017. **Do theories of change enable innovation platforms and partnerships to navigate towards impact?** KIT Working Paper 2017-13, Amsterdam: Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). 8pp.

- Waters-Bayer A & Fetien Abay. 2016. **Changing policy and practice in agricultural research and development: going beyond “the Answer is 42” / 42 n’est pas une réponse: changements au niveau de la politique et de la pratique dans le recherche agricole / 42 ist keine Antwort: Politik und Praxis einer Agrarforschung im Wandel.** In: Waters-Bayer A, Dorlöchter-Sulser S, Quiroga G, Haussmann B & Ruf A (eds), *Small-scale farmer innovation / Innovation paysanne / Bäuerliche Innovation* (Dossier 7-2016; Frankfurt: Welt-Sichten), pp23–24.
- Waters-Bayer A, Dorlöchter-Sulser S, Quiroga G, Haussmann B & Ruf A (eds). 2016. **Small-scale farmer innovation: how agricultural research works together with farmers / Innovation paysanne: comment la recherche agricole collabore fructueusement avec les paysans / Bäuerliche Innovation: Wie Agrarforschung erfolgreich mit Bauern zusammenarbeitet.** *Welt-Sichten Dossier 7-2016.* Frankfurt: Welt-Sichten. 28pp.
- Waters-Bayer A, Wettasinha C & van Veldhuizen L. 2016. **Farmer governance of local agricultural research and innovation.** *The African Technopolitan Magazine* (Nairobi: African Centre for Technology Studies) 4: 114–119.
- Waters-Bayer A, Wettasinha C & van Veldhuizen L. 2016. **Multi-level joint learning about locally managed innovation funds.** In: Aenis T, Knierim A, Riecher MC, Ridder R, Schobert H & Fischer H (eds), *Farming systems facing global challenges: capacities and strategies.* Proceedings of the 11th European International Farming Systems Association (IFSA) Symposium, 1–4 April 2014 in Berlin, Germany (Berlin: Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin), Vol. 1, pp644–653.
- Waters-Bayer A. 2017. **Integrating different knowledge systems with a vision for impact: the experience of JOLISAA.** Kick-off Meeting of the EU-Africa High-Level Policy Dialogue Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, 15–16 March, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (PPT).
- Waters-Bayer A. 2017. **Locally managed research funds to support agri-food innovation: experiences and potentials.** Public lecture, College of Dryland Agriculture and Natural Resource, Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia (PPT).
- Waters-Bayer A. 2017. **Women in transdisciplinary research: interacting with citizen’s science and innovation.** International Conference on Women in Science & Innovation for Development, 10–12 April, Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia (PPT).
- Wettasinha C, Diop JM, van Veldhuizen L, Waters-Bayer A & Douthwaite B. 2016. **Small-scale farmers’ perspectives on what enhances capacity to innovate to innovate.** 12th European International Farming Systems Association (IFSA) Symposium “Social and technological transformation of farming systems: diverging and converging pathways”, 12–15 July, Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, UK. 12pp.
- Wettasinha C. 2016. **Small-scale farmer innovation for sustainable agriculture: building in indigenous knowledge to move towards farmer-led joint research.** *Palawija Forum* 33 (3): 1–2. Published by the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

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