

PROLINNOVA in Eastern and Southern Africa

Annual report for 2016



A Kenyan farmer showing her irrigated sack garden innovation

July 2017
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Acronyms

A2N	Africa 2000 Network
AGC	A Growing Culture
ARD	agricultural research and development
BPA	Best Practice Association
CBO	community-based organisation
CLIC–SR	Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research
CP	Country Platform
CSO	civil-society organisation
ESAPP	Eastern and Southern Africa PROLINNOVA Platform
FFS	Farmer Field School
FLD	Farmer-Led Documentation
IK	indigenous knowledge
INADES	<i>Institut Africain pour le Développement Économique et Social</i> (African Institute for Economic and Social Development)
INR	Institute of Natural Resources
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IST	International Support Team
JE	joint experimentation
KALRO	Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization
KZE	<i>Katholische Zentralstelle e.V.</i> (Catholic Central Agency for Development Aid)
LISF	Local Innovation Support Facility
LSC	Local Steering Committee
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organization
NETFUND	National Environment Trust Fund
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NRM	natural resource management
NSC	National Steering Committee
Nuffic	Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Learning
PE	PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
PK	PROLINNOVA–Kenya
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
Proli-FaNS	Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security
PROLINNOVA	<u>P</u> romoting <u>L</u> ocal <u>I</u> nnovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM
SRC	Subregional Coordinator
UNCST	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
WN	World Neighbors

1. INTRODUCTION

PROLINNOVA is an international multi-stakeholder platform that promotes local innovation processes in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management (NRM). It focuses on recognising the dynamics of indigenous knowledge (IK) and enhancing capacities of farmers (including pastoralists, fishers and forest dwellers) to adjust to change – to develop their own site-appropriate systems and institutions of resource management so as to gain food security, sustain their livelihoods and safeguard the environment. In several countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, diverse organisations have joined forces to promote local innovation processes in agriculture and NRM. They have formed Country Platforms (CPs), designed their own programmes and agreed on joint international activities for mutual learning and policy dialogue.

In 2016, the members of the PROLINNOVA network decided to “regionalise” and to give subregional platforms a mandate to coordinate their own work. In Africa, two subregional platforms – in Eastern & Southern Africa and in West & Central Africa – are being formed. Two subregional coordinators (SRCs) started work in May 2017. This is the first report prepared by the SRC for Eastern & Southern Africa. It focuses on the activities of the CPs in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, the current members of the Eastern & Southern Africa PROLINNOVA Platform (ESAPP).

First, an overview is given of the seven CPs. The report then covers the ongoing and newly initiated activities, the work done on policy advocacy and mainstreaming of farmer-led innovation development, networking activities and, finally, some conclusions looking at the way forward. During the reporting period, some CPs could not operate at full scale because they had limited external funding. A project supported by Rockefeller Foundation on Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC–SR) was implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. After this came to end in mid-2016, the CPs in Tanzania and Uganda had no further donor-funded activities. A new project supported by Misereor on “Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security” (Proli-FaNS) started in late 2016 in Ethiopia and Kenya, among a total of five CPs in Africa, the others being in West & Central Africa. The other CPs in the subregion did only some networking and advocacy activities using their own funds. Some of the CPs, such as in Mozambique and Sudan, did not appear to be active in 2016.

The CPs and the International Support Team (IST) – now with support of the two SRCs in Africa – will need to generate funds to implement and coordinate more activities in the subregions and in Africa as a region.

2. COUNTRY PLATFORMS

PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia

PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia (PE) is one of the founding CPs of the international PROLINNOVA network, together with those in Ghana and Uganda. It officially started operation in late 2003 with funds from IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and activities took off in earnest with the launching meeting of the international network in Yirgalem, Ethiopia, in March 2004. In several regions of the country, PE promoted the idea of supporting farmer innovation processes through recognising local innovators and facilitating Participatory Innovation Development (PID). Currently, the network is active near Axum in Tigray Region and in Enebse Sar Mider District in Amhara Region, where the Proli-FANS project is being implemented. The PE National Steering Committee (NSC) and network are drawing lessons from the work at these two sites.

PE faces several challenges, partly because the Ethiopian Government directives regulating non-governmental organisations (NGOs) affect those wanting to host and facilitate networks. An NGO is penalised if it has administrative expenditures above 30% of its total budget. The Government classifies all training, networking and workshops as “administrative activities”. The original host, AgriService Ethiopia (ASE), therefore handed over to the Poverty Action Network of Ethiopia (PANE), which, in turn, handed over to a temporary new host: Best Practice Association (BPA).

PROLINNOVA–Kenya

PROLINNOVA–Kenya (PK) was initiated in January 2007 as a network through which farmers, researchers, development agents, entrepreneurs and policymakers share experiences and lessons to promote and sustain local innovation. The overall goal of PK is to enhance the capacities of farmers to innovate and develop appropriate systems of resource management to achieve food security, sustain their livelihoods and safeguard the environment while taking cognisance of the dynamics of IK.

The NSC is made up of representatives from World Neighbors (WN), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), INADES Formation Kenya and ETC East Africa. The wider network includes also other partners from academia, government departments (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture), other NGOs and community-based organisations (CBOs) and innovative farmers. The NSC is supported in managing the network through Local Steering Committees (LSCs), which are community-level groups that network and promote local innovation processes, manage the Local Innovation Support Facility (LISF) and do monitoring and evaluation (M&E) at the local level. The LSCs comprise representatives from farmers, NGOs, government departments and agricultural research.

PK implemented two projects in 2016: the final (budget-neutral extension) phase of “Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research” (CLIC–SR) up to June and “Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security” (Prolif-FaNS), from August onwards.

PROLINNOVA–Mozambique

PROLINNOVA–Mozambique builds on and scales up farmer-based approaches to development. It strives to stimulate and enhance partnerships among the various stakeholders in research and development, mainly among farmers, extension workers and researchers. The network was established in late 2006. Since mid-2008, its National Secretariat is hosted by the local NGO ADCR (*Associação para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais / Association for Rural Community Development*), based in Xai-Xai, Gaza Province.

Since its creation, PROLINNOVA–Mozambique has carried out the following major activities:

- Making a survey on ethnoveterinary practices in Chicualacuala and Chigubo Districts in partnership with the Veterinary Faculty of Eduardo Mondlane University
- Documenting local innovations in six districts of Gaza Province
- Conducting a pilot study on local innovation in the face of HIV/AIDS
- Holding various workshops and organising courses on promoting local innovation and PID
- Implementing the project "Promoting Local Innovation for Endogenous and Sustainable Development" in partnership with CIC-Bata and UNAC (Mozambique National Union of Peasants)
- Facilitating two cases of joint research by farmers and scientists from ISPG (*Instituto Superior Politécnico de Gaza / Higher Polytechnic Institute of Gaza*): on a local bio-pesticide and on social aspects of using a locally made wooden oxcart
- Presenting its work at the ENLACE D meeting in Córdoba, Spain (2011).

In recent years, however, it has been reporting to the wider network only very infrequently, and it is currently classified by the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) as “inactive”. In 2017, Brigid Letty (PROLINNOVA–South Africa) will make a mentoring visit to Mozambique to support the CP’s revitalisation.

PROLINNOVA–South Africa

The Institute of Natural Resources (INR) facilitates PROLINNOVA–South Africa, which aims to build and strengthen partnerships between the various stakeholders involved in agricultural research and development (ARD) in South Africa. The CP was launched in 2004 and has undertaken the following projects:

- Farmer Access to Innovation Resources (FAIR), which was coordinated internationally by the Farmer Support Group (FSG), a member organisation of PROLINNOVA–South Africa, and involved the establishment of LISFs to promote local innovation and PID
- The HIV/AIDS and PID (HAPID) initiative that investigated the role that local innovation and PID can play in terms of either preventing infection or overcoming the challenges associated with HIV/AIDS
- Farmer-led documentation (FLD) in KwaZulu-Natal Province, which looked at the advantages of FLD as a tool for facilitating especially farmer-to-farmer sharing and communication about local innovation
- Tailor-made training to develop capacity in PID.

A key concern of the CP is how to protect farmers' intellectual property rights and maintain their competitive advantage, while encouraging them to share innovations so as to stimulate dynamic innovation processes that bring together different knowledge systems.

PROLINNOVA–South Africa currently operates at a low level of joint activities, although some members have engaged in PID-related initiatives in 2016. Brigid Letty from INR attended the International Partners Workshop (IPW) in Senegal, which allowed for interaction and sharing of experiences with other CPs, and discussions regarding regionalisation. The SRC's request for nomination of a country representative from South Africa for the PROLINNOVA taskforce in Eastern & Southern Africa led to the suggestion from the CP for Brigid to play this role.

PROLINNOVA–Sudan

PROLINNOVA–Sudan started in 2005 and used to be an active member of the international network, but then there were changes in coordination from the NGO Practical Action to the NGO SOS Sahel Sudan and, in 2016, to Sudan's National Center for Research, a public organisation. Some NSC meetings have taken place, but there is no report from the CP in Sudan on own-funded or externally supported PROLINNOVA activities. In 2017, the SRC will be working with the NSC to help it return to full operation.

PROLINNOVA–Tanzania

PROLINNOVA–Tanzania is coordinated by PELUM–Tanzania, a network of 33 NGOs and CBOs working in the sustainable agricultural development. The CP aims to build the capacity of network members and partners in PID, create a platform for communication and documentation, and facilitate networking of farmer innovators and advocacy work. 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.

PELUM–Tanzania is an associate member of the PELUM (Participatory Ecological Land Use Management) Association of civil-society organisations (CSOs) operating in Eastern & Southern Africa to facilitate effective learning and advocacy in participatory land management. PELUM–Tanzania members come together for mutual learning and networking in sustainable agriculture. PROLINNOVA–Tanzania feeds its experiences into a strategic process to influence rural development through PELUM.

PROLINNOVA–Uganda

PROLINNOVA–Uganda continues to be facilitated by the Ugandan NGO Environmental Alert, the coordinating NGO since the CP was initiated in 2003. The CP seeks to:

- Set up effective multistakeholder partnerships to promote local innovation in Uganda
- Create linkages between these initiatives to learn from experiences and for mutual support
- Synthesise lessons from these initiatives and similar experiences and spread the lessons
- Encourage wider application of PID in institutions of research, development and education.

In addition to identifying local innovations, the CP builds capacity in PID and sustainable land management, university curriculum development, policy advocacy; practises participatory M&E; facilitates joint experimentation (JE) on local innovations by farmers, scientist researchers and development workers; and creates awareness about integrating and mainstreaming PID approaches.

The CP has 34 members, including government institutions, NGOs, CBOs and the private sector. The current NSC comprises people from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Association (DENIVA), National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), Uganda National Farmers Federation, Africa 2000 Network (A2N), International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)–Uganda, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), Faculty of Forestry & Nature Conservation at Makerere University, and KULIKA–Uganda.

The Core Team responsible for implementing PROLINNOVA activities in Uganda includes people from Environmental Alert, KULIKA–Uganda, A2N, MAAIF, PELUM–Uganda, National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), UNCST, NARO and the CBOs Nalukonge Community Initiatives Association (NACIA) and Kikandwa Environmental Association (KEA).

PROLINNOVA–Uganda piloted LISFs in six districts: Wakiso, Kayunga, Mukono, Mityana, Masaka and Mubende. In 2016, it completed the CLIC–SR project, involving farmer-led JE with formal researchers in Moyo and Nakasongola Districts.

3. ONGOING AND NEW INITIATIVES OF THE CPS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC–SR)

The project “Strengthening Community Resilience to Change: Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research” was conceived as a three-year project and was supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. It was implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, starting in August 2012 and ending in August 2016. It aimed at promoting farmer-led joint innovation that builds on the creativity of local people through building local adaptive capacities and strengthening community resilience to change, including climate change.

During the four years, the CPs in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda made large strides in:

- enhancing the innovative capacity of small-scale farmers and their communities,
- strengthening capacity in governmental agencies and NGOs to support farmer-led innovation processes,
- increasing awareness of the relevance and effectiveness of a PID approach in ARD, and
- mainstreaming PID in national policies and programmes through policy dialogue.

Eight farmer-led JE cases (two from each CP) were brought together in the publication [Compilation of cases of joint experimentation from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda](#). A policy brief based on the CLIC–SR project can be found [here](#). The report that came out of the final external evaluation of the project, carried out by Mutizwa Mukute from Zimbabwe, can be found [here](#). The final project report with a summary analysis of project achievements during the entire period 2012–16 can be found [here](#). More details on the work can be found in the CP reports on their respective pages of the PROLINNOVA website.

In **Ethiopia**, the CLIC–SR work was carried out in the Axum area (Tigray Region) and Enebse Sar Mider (Amhara Region). The partners in Axum concluded JE on several topics including joint assessment of sheep and goat breeds, soil moisture management systems, chick sex identification in eggs, and different timing of planting *shibaka* or *tsekente* tree cuttings. In late 2016, a group of 14 very poor farmers were encouraged to try out different innovations after interaction with and training by farmer innovators.

In Enebse Sar Midir, the Alem Birhan Self-Help Community-Based Development Association (ABSHCBDA) has been implementing the CLIC–SR project. The farmer-led innovation development work is integrated

into activities of three Farmer Field Schools (FFSs): groups of 15–30 farmers each that engage in experimentation to address main challenges in their farming. Shortly before the end-of-project workshop, representatives of the three FFSs met for two days with other farmer innovators and research and development staff (total of 50 participants) and reviewed 11 cases of experimentation done by farmers in the past season. The workshop participants selected two innovation areas that would benefit from stronger involvement of formal researchers in the farmers' experimentation. These cases of PID are continuing after the CLIC–SR project ended in mid-2016 with other, e.g. funding from the new Proli-FaNS project.

Some highlights at the CLIC–SR end-of-project workshop held in Addis Ababa included:

- Farmer researchers in Tigray who had been involved in pre-determining chick sex presented their results: 90% of the eggs judged as female became female chicks and 100% of those judged as male became male chicks.
- Regarding their experiment on planting *shibaka* cuttings, Axum farmers reported they got better results if they did not plant the cuttings during the wet season. Planting the cuttings a month before the expected onset of the rains or after the wet season helped prevent rotting.
- Farmer innovators in East Gojam (Amhara Region) and extension agents who experimented together to determine the right sowing period for haricot bean, so as to avoid seasonal pest infestation, agreed that sowing the crop before the wet season led to higher yields, as the pest had minimal or no effect. Now the farmers and extension staff are sharing this solution to pest problems in haricot bean.
- Farmers in Eastern Gojam were also experimenting on how to treat fatal and contagious poultry diseases that often occur seasonally. Their results showed that extracts made from the local plants *mehan endod* and *areg resa* (Latin names not known) mixed with water brought the best results in curing sick chickens. FFS members are using the results to manage their backyard chickens, and extension agents have witnessed the effectiveness of the cure.

In **Kenya**, the project was implemented in Baringo and Machakos Counties. PK implemented a budget-neutral extension of the project in January–June 2016. During the extension period, farmer-led JE on local innovations involving farmer innovators and various partners in extension and research was carried out to better understand, validate and improve local innovations. Two out of four innovations that had been previously identified and supported through the LISF underwent a JE process:

- 1) Developing an egg selector to use egg shape to pre-determine sex of chicks
- 2) Rejuvenating old pawpaw trees by capping.

After the JE, a one-day “writeshop” was held on 10 May to review the process and results of the JE and finalise the documentation of the process. The workshop was attended by the four farmer innovators involved in the JE; the agricultural extension officer for Mwingi Sub-County, who played the backstopping role during the experimentation; and the PK Coordinator, who facilitated the process.

Ten proposals were funded through the LISF in Baringo and Machakos Counties with the main objective of further encouraging and catalysing locally defined innovations. The proposals underwent several stages of screening and vetting, and finally approval and fund disbursement. The funds were disbursed through the LSCs, which were responsible for managing the LISF at the local level.

Two PK members – Network for Eco-farming in Kenya (NECOFA), a local NGO in Baringo, and INADES Formation Kenya in Machakos – did M&E of the JE and the innovations supported through LISF. PK was among the two CPs visited during the external evaluation of the CLIC–SR project. The consultant engaged PK for three days in March and had discussions with members of the NSC and project-implementing partners, including a one-day field visit. The findings of the evaluation allowed the CP members to learn from their experiences and also provided support in planning the network's future.

In **Tanzania**, the CLIC–SR project was coordinated by INADES–Tanzania and involved several other stakeholders. A total of 215 community members in Kondoa and Chamwino Districts and 46 CSO and government staff took part. Some of the achievements in 2016 were:

- The NSC conducted virtual (email) meetings to follow up on project progress and elect subregional taskforce members and the SRC. Patrick Lameck was selected as member from PROLINNOVA–Tanzania in the taskforce for Eastern & Southern Africa;
- One exchange visit was conducted to the southern highlands of Tanzania so that people from the central dry areas of the country could see local innovation in Mbeya; ten farmers from Raia Makini research group exhibited their work;
- 5 cases of JE were completed and technical notes were written on them;
- Training in PID and sharing on JE opened the eyes of CSO and government staff who had not been previously involved in promoting local innovation; they showed keen interest to be involved.

In the CLIC–SR activities in **Uganda**, farmer-led JE were facilitated in Moyo and Nakasongola Districts; beside farmer innovators, the process involved agricultural extension workers, local government technical leaders and researchers. The innovations further developed through JE were largely those that helped to adapt to climate change, such as the transition beehive and water harvesting and conservation in tree nursery management. Information about local innovation and JE was documented in a participatory way involving key stakeholders at community and national levels. As a result, the following publications were generated and disseminated:

- 1) A booklet of innovation for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- 2) Policy brief on innovation for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- 3) Two case studies on JE on the transitional beehive in Moyo District and on economic use of water in tree-nursery management in Nakasongola District.

Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security

The Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS) project is a three-year initiative supported by Misereor/Catholic Central Agency for Development Aid (KZE) that commenced in August and is being implemented in five countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Ethiopia and Kenya). In late 2016, the Proli-FaNS project was introduced to the stakeholders in Kenya and Ethiopia. The key activities carried out until the end of 2016 (and continuing thereafter) were community sensitisation, 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 partners in the action-learning sites.

In **Ethiopia**, 118 farmers (including 46 women) took part in the community consultation and innovation identification meetings. In the two main action-learning sites (Axum and Enebse Sar Midir), farmers helped identify 20 innovations related to food and nutrition security and selected five of them to be considered for PID. Partners were identified for the PID process: these included farmer innovators; staff from the District Agricultural Office, District Women and Youth Affairs Office, and District Health Office; local cooperative staff; and researchers from the regional research centre and/or nearby university or agricultural college. In the Axum area, 15 women farmers were trained in PID, with the central topic of managing fruit trees.

Similar preparatory actions were taken in **Kenya**, where Proli-FaNS is being implemented in action-learning sites in Kisumu and Makueni Counties. To kick-start the project, initial community consultation meetings for identification of relevant innovations were conducted in both sites in October and November.

Partners from Ethiopia and Kenya took part in the Proli-FaNS inception workshop held in Accra, Ghana, on 14–19 November. PE was represented by people from BPA and a member of the NSC responsible for M&E. PK was represented by people from WN and KALRO, both members of the NSC. The workshop participants developed strategies and guidelines for implementing the project, as well as workplans and budgets.

Testing new technologies or ideas with farmers

PE has also been supporting farmers in testing new technologies brought to their attention from elsewhere, thus promoting local innovation not only through experimentation with locally generated knowledge but also through encouraging farmers to try out introduced technologies and ideas in their own context, along the lines of the earlier Participatory Technology Development (PTD) approach. PE creates a learning environment in which farmers interact with fellow farmers, extension workers and researchers for joint learning and action. Some cases that have been tried with farmers in the Axum area include: i) improving moisture-holding capacity of soil; ii) climate-adaptive goat and sheep breed selection; iii) turning the idea of chicken sex determination into economic and business practices; and iv) determining the best time for planting cuttings of the *shibaka* tree to increase vegetation cover and fodder.

An additional activity in Ethiopia was a partnership with the University of Virginia to introduce farmers in the Axum area to a solar-powered technology for small-scale irrigation. In May, three students from the University of Virginia – Edgard Espinoza Fernandez, Thomas Remcho and Sean Ramage – used a “cooperative design” (co-design) method so that stakeholders could interact and constantly communicate with each other. A total of 18 farmers were involved in the process: nine men who helped assemble the system and three female and six male farmers who provided valuable guidance about the location and assemblage of the system. The original idea of using a solar panel and a pump in combination did not work well, but the farmers found that the two instruments used independently worked very well.

Tailor-made training in South Africa

In South Africa, a tailor-made training programme funded by Nuffic (Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Learning) involved two training workshops on PID and a period of practical application of the principles. This training was requested by PROLINNOVA–South Africa member Mahlathini Organics and was supported by INR as CP host and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), host of the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat. The training process started in 2015 and ran until July 2016. The feedback workshop held in Pietermaritzburg on 11–13 April allowed all participating teams to provide feedback regarding their PID exercises. The final reports from each of the cases were compiled into a report that was sent to the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) for posting on the PROLINNOVA website (www.prolinnova.net/content/training-and-mentorship-participatory-innovation-development).



Participants at the Nuffic-funded feedback workshop in Pietermaritzburg

Writing project proposals for funding

PROLINNOVA–**Uganda** generated new ideas as a response to a call for proposals from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). The proposal “Improving Nutrition through Local Innovation in Food Processing and Marketing (NutriPro)” was developed and submitted in partnership with the Research Centre for Global Food Security and Ecosystems at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany. However, the proposal did not win. The CP plans to repackage it and apply to another donor.

PROLINNOVA–**Ethiopia** and PROLINNOVA–**Kenya** collaborated with the IST and the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) to develop a proposal on “Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security”. This was submitted to Misereor / KZE, which handles a grant from the Special Initiative “One World No Hunger” (SEWOH) of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It agreed to fund the proposed project, which is now being implemented in five countries in Africa (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya).

4. POLICY DIALOGUE AND MAINSTREAMING

In **Ethiopia**, the NSC organised a national stakeholders meeting in mid-2016 to evaluate the CLIC–SR project and revitalise the CP. This helped sensitise and reconnect members for better networking and policy influence. Several people from government agencies attended the meeting. NSC members presented papers on IK, stocktaking of the last 10 years’ experience of PE and the contribution of the CLIC–SR project to agricultural research, extension and higher education. Four farmers spoke about their innovations and experiments. Several steps were agreed for the way forward, including organising regular experience-sharing among members, making an inventory of local innovations in different locations in collaboration with regional agriculture offices and universities, giving recognition to best farmer innovators, further documentation and promotion of local innovations, and better informing the most relevant government agencies and NGOs about PROLINNOVA.

In late December, PE held a launching event for the Proli-FaNS project. This was another opportunity to inform policymakers about PROLINNOVA. The workshop was attended by 24 participants, including three women. An overview of PE and highlights of the Proli-FaNS project were presented and discussed. Some government agencies showed interest in being involved in project implementation and others were keen to follow the outcomes of the project.

In **Kenya**, a farmer innovator from Western Kenya, Joe Ouko, received an award from the National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND) under the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities. NETFUND had called for proposals for its “green innovations” award, aimed to showcase climate-smart innovations. Joe’s innovation on dairy goat feed was selected for inclusion in the award process. NETFUND officials visited his farm in Nyakach, Kisumu County, to see his innovation and invited Joe to various NETFUND meetings. The award had five categories: individuals, small and medium enterprises, CSOs, women’s groups, and primary and secondary schools. Joe’s innovation was in the CSO category, as he had submitted it under Nyando District Dairy Goats (NYADDAGO) Association, a farmer self-help group. He came third and was awarded KSh 250,000 (USD 2500) to help improve his innovation.

In **Uganda**, policy issues (challenges and gaps) limiting innovation for climate-change adaptation and mitigation were identified and documented through engaging key stakeholders at national level. Extension staff and researchers recognised the innovativeness and creativity of farmers, and this led to change in attitude of these groups: they started to accept farmers as co-innovators instead of recipients of technologies from outside. In addition, targeted dialogues was carried out with people in NARO, UNCST, universities, local governments, Uganda National Farmers Federation, CSOs and farmer innovators through a workshop on 6 July in Kampala involving 36 participants.

5. NETWORKING

Activities of PROLINNOVA–Kenya

Especially PK sought to build links with like-minded organisations within and beyond the country. Its main networking activities in 2016 were as follows:

- PK took part in the **Africa Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation (ASCCA)** held on 21–23 February in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Together with the IST, PK developed and presented a paper on “Supporting farmer innovation for climate change adaptation and improvement of resilience in the farming systems of Machakos and Kitui Counties, Kenya”. Through this conference, PK promoted the LISF concept as an adaptation mechanism for climate change, including the important role of farmer innovation in dealing with climate change and other challenges to improving food security and NRM. The paper was accepted by Springer International Publishing for publication in a book in 2017.
- Four PK members were invited as resource persons in selecting and validating farmer innovations in Siaya, Kakamega and Bungoma Counties on 12–14 October under the **Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI)**. This project, being implemented in Africa and India by the Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany, seeks to contribute to sustainable agricultural growth and food and nutrition security by identifying, assessing and upscaling innovations. In Africa, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is coordinating the project with several partners in different countries, in which KALRO is the Kenyan partner. The top farmer innovators were awarded various prizes and the winning innovations will be the focus of JE.

Partnership with A Growing Culture: Library for Food Sovereignty

The PROLINNOVA network entered into partnership with A Growing Culture (AGC) to develop a knowledge base for showcasing and making accessible local innovations and farmer-led documentation. AGC invited the CPs in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to a regional stakeholders’ meeting in Kikandwa, Uganda, on 19–22 September to discuss development of a Library for Food Sovereignty – a farmer-led and farmer-managed information resource focusing on local knowledge and farmer-led documentation through creating a digital space for communities to exchange, showcase and build upon the knowledge of the world’s farmers.

PROLINNOVA International Partners Workshop

From Eastern & Southern Africa, the CPs in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda took part in the IPW held in Thiès, Senegal, on 15–19 May. This brought together 45 participants from several CPs, the IST, the POG and Friends of PROLINNOVA to review progress made by the network. It provided an avenue to share progress as well as lessons and experiences gained from the regional projects: CLIC–SR in Eastern Africa and the Farmer-led Research Networks (FaReNe) project in West Africa. The IPW participants discussed the overall plans of PROLINNOVA such as the process of decentralising operations in the Africa, Asia and Latin America regions, which is part of the network’s strategic plan for 2016–20.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

The CP in **Ethiopia** continues to face challenges because Government regulations make NGOs reluctant to host the network. Key activities ahead for PE are to find a longer-term host, to expand membership, to raise more funds for its activities and to scale up operation in different parts of the country.

The CP in **Kenya** is seeking to increase and diversify the NSC membership as a way of strengthening it. This is being done through a membership recruitment drive to identify public and private organisations to be invited to join, e.g. universities, farmer organisations, agro-enterprises, NGOs and governmental organisations. The NSC is finalising the CP guiding principles and defining the leadership roles and

operational procedures in order to strengthen the CP's governance structure. One strategy will be to hold fora where old and new PK members can share and learn from each other and be updated on the progress of the network. In addition, a write-up on the CP is to be developed that can be shared with potential new members. The CP intends to mobilise resources by developing proposals for funding, including collaborating with other CPs on multi-country proposals. It intends to set up strategic linkages at national, regional and international level with private and public organisations that could attract funding. PK is committed to supporting the formation and operationalisation of the subregional PROLINNOVA platform in Eastern & Southern Africa, as this will strengthen networking, sharing and learning, advocacy and fundraising, which will also support the development of the individual CPs within the platform.

The CP in **South Africa** was very active in the past, including taking over multi-CP project coordination and South–South backstopping roles. At the moment, however, except for some networking, training and mentoring, few own or externally financed PROLINNOVA activities are being carried out in the country. Participation of the NSC and national platform members is therefore declining. This calls for re-organisation of the CP and seeking funds to organise learning activities in different parts of the country.

The increasing interaction of farmers and researchers in **Tanzania** as a result of the CLIC–SR project is leading toward the institutionalisation of PID within research organisations. Researchers have shown commitment to continue working with farmers in PID in a cost-sharing arrangement. This requires strong follow-up and support from PROLINNOVA–Tanzania. However, some of the NSC members, including the CP coordinator, seem to be overburdened with their regular activities and can give little time to the network activities. The CP needs to raise funds to be able to carry out more PID activities and compensate at least some of the time of those involved.

The CP in **Uganda** was involved in the CLIC–SR project but, after this ended, it is not implementing other activities with external funding. However, many of the NGOs in Uganda have had long years of experience in mainstreaming PID, and it is hoped that many of the CP organisational members will continue to implement PROLINNOVA-type activities using own funds. The most important task ahead of PROLINNOVA–Uganda is to write new proposals in order to raise further funds.

The CPs in **Mozambique** and **Sudan** are doing their best to remain active, although at a low level, using own funding and integrating PID into projects supported by other donors. They continue to be interested in being part of the international PROLINNOVA network, but require substantial support from the IST, the SRC and the POG.

Finally, the taskforce for forming an **Eastern & Southern Africa PROLINNOVA Platform (ESAPP)** was set up in 2016 and was involved in selecting a coordinator for the CPs in the subregion. Assisted and guided by the taskforce, the SRC will strengthen the relatively inactive CPs; coordinate the drafting of new proposals to raise funds for subregional activities; facilitate information exchange between the CPs, the POG and the IST; develop a charter for ESAPP; define a roadmap for setting up an African PROLINNOVA Platform, working together with the SRC in West & Central Africa; help identify host organisation(s) for the subregional / regional network; and facilitate networking, advocacy and documentation.