

(Fig: 1) LISF M&E register



Exhibition during Innovation Fair



Fireless cooker basket used to hatch Eggs

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Established finger millet from nursery



Minister for Science & Technology visiting farmers
 Innovation at KICC exhibition 2011

PROLINNOVA
 Kenya

PROmoting Local INNOVation
 in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

FAIR/LISF IN KENYA



**FARMER ACCESS TO INNOVATION RESOURCES (FAIR)
 LOCAL INNOVATION SUPPORT FUND (LISF)**

What is FAIR/LISF?

Farmer Access to Innovation Resources (FAIR) Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF) is a new mechanism piloted by Prolinnova network to make funds for agricultural research and development accessible to farmers experimenters and local agencies supporting them.

The funds are managed and used by farmers and Community-Based Organisations (CBO's) with initial support by local NGO's.

LISF gives farmers some flexibility and independence in doing their own research that is relevant to solve local problems and that takes into consideration their values and knowledge. LISF is extremely important to guarantee the long term sustainability of farmer-led Participatory Innovation Development (PID) through institutionalization of supportive funding.

Piloting Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF) Project

LISF is being piloted in eight countries, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, Uganda, Ghana, Cambodia and Nepal. In Kenya it was launched in 2008 at a National forum in Nairobi. Pilot sites were established in four districts: Machakos and Mwingi in Eastern Kenya and Busia and Nyando in Western Kenya.

Use of LISF funds

- Strengthening farmer innovation processes, innovation products and sharing information;
- Support of small scale but systematic farmer own experimentation:
- Farmer-led joint experimentation: support costs of

joint activities where farmers receive support (technical) from others: collaboration between farmers and research/extension agents. The farmers takes charge and plays a key role in the process

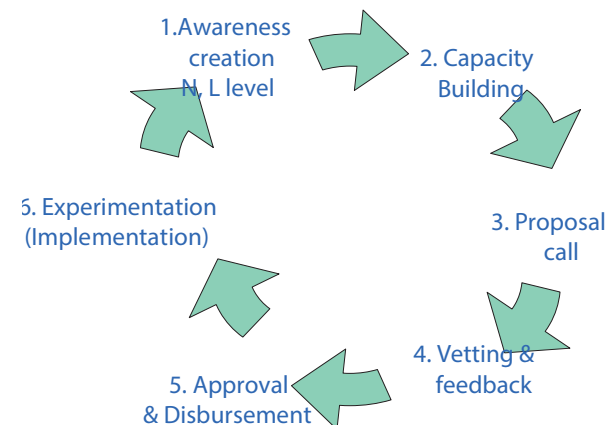
- Collaborative joint experimentation where researchers and other agencies jointly with farmers apply for LISF:
- Training by and with farmers
- Farmer exchange visits by farmer groups to study and learn innovative experiences elsewhere
- Farmer-led documentation of innovation (pictures, brochures and reports)

Main LISF features in Kenya

- LISF in Kenya operates under the Prolinnova Kenya (PK)-National Steering Committee (NSC).
- World Neighbors hosts and coordinates LISF at the National level.
- KARI coordinates M&E and provide technical backstopping.
- Decentralisation to the district level where each district has a farmer led LISF steering committee.
- Farmers send their innovation applications to these district LISF committees for funding consideration.
- The committee vets applications and then forwards them to the NSC for quality control and funds disbursement.
- All proposals are entered into a LISF register for tracking and as a first step in the M&E process (fig 1)

Steps in the LISF:

1. Awareness creation through media
2. Capacity strengthening
3. Proposal call
4. Vetting and feedback by LSC
5. Approval and disbursement
6. Implementation and the cycle starts again



Selection criteria

- Local idea that address the social, economic, agricultural and ecological concerns of the farmer and local community.
- The innovation is locally evolved/developed using local knowledge and skills.
- Experimentation.
- Willing to share results.
- Potential of wider community benefit and addresses immediate or long term challenges.
- Beneficiary co-contribution (cash or kind)
- The innovation can be adapted to local contexts
- Interest and consent of the innovator.