

Strengthening Community Resilience to Change: Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC–SR)

Brief report on activities in 2014 and 2015

Acronyms

CLIC–SR	Combining Local Innovation with Scientific Research
CP	Country Platform
IFID	International Farmer Innovation Day
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IST	International Support Team
IYFF	International Year for Family Farming
JE	joint experimentation
KALRO	Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
LSC	Local Steering Committee
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NRM	natural resource management
NSC	National Steering Committee
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
PK	PROLINNOVA–Kenya
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group

INTRODUCTION

The Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC–SR) project incorporates experiences of farmer-led participatory innovation that builds on the creativity of local people to enhance local adaptive capacities and strengthen community resilience to change, including climate change. The CLIC–SR project is being implemented in two counties in Kenya – Machakos and Baringo – and has the following broad objectives:

1. Strengthen the resilience to change of smallholders and their communities, especially the women, by enhancing their innovative capacity and thus their livelihood security through participatory innovation development (PID)
2. Build the capacity of organisations working on agriculture and natural resource management (NRM) so that they can effectively work with and support smallholder communities in their efforts to adapt
3. Increase insights and awareness on relevance and effectiveness of PID through sharing and learning
4. Mainstream PID as an accepted approach within targeted national and international policies and programmes related to agricultural development, NRM and climate-change adaptation.

This brief report summarises activities implemented in 2014 and 2015 under the CLIC–SR project.

ACTIVITIES 2014

- Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF) training in Baringo: PROLINNOVA–Kenya (PK) gave training on farmer innovation (FI) and Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs) on 24 and 25 September 2014 in Baringo County. The objective of the training was to introduce the concepts of FI and of LISF as a funding mechanism that supports farmer innovators to further catalyse local innovation and experimentation. The 16 participants in the training consisted of 9 men

and 7 women. The meeting concluded with the galvanisation of the Baringo Local Steering Committee (LSC).

- Knowledge sharing and learning: PK through the PROLINNOVA e-group regularly shared information with other organisations within the country and internationally and this contributed to building the capacity of members in FI and PID. As no formal training of partner organisations and PK members was conducted in 2014, online sharing and learning was instrumental in enhancing the capacity of organisation in PID.
- Participation in farmer fairs: PK members and farmer innovators participated in farmer/ agricultural fairs held in various parts of the country. Notable farmer fairs were agribusiness trade fairs hosted by the Kenya Livestock Producers Association (KLPA) in various counties including CLIC–SR project counties – Baringo and Machakos
- Participation at the International Partners Workshop (IPW): PK participated in the annual IPW in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 10–15 May 2014. The IPW brought together Country Platforms (CPs), the International Support Team (IST), the International Secretariat of PROLINNOVA and the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) to review progress made during the past year and to share and learn from each other. The IPW provided an opportunity to discuss and share experiences from innovation projects being implemented by other CPs.
- Launching the International Year for Family Farming (IYFF) 2014: PK was at the forefront of launching the IYFF as a member of the National Committee of the Kenyan chapter for IYFF. IYFF 2014 celebrations were held on 27–28 November in Machakos County. The celebration involved a two-day conference cum fair that brought together 212 participants including development agencies, government, farmer representatives, policymakers and like-minded institutions to deliberate on issues affecting family farmers in Kenya. The conference theme was *“Family farmers feeding the world and taking care of the earth: challenges and the way forward”*.
- Engaging farmer innovators from East Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania): PK participated in a workshop hosted by World Neighbors with the theme *“Strengthening farmer organizations and market development for improved livelihoods”*. The workshop, that included smallholder farmers, was pivotal in sharing FI and PID concepts and experiences that were later documented for knowledge sharing. The farmers presented various innovations and participants resolved that more farmer innovations be identified, documented and shared between the three countries represented.
- Management and technical support of PK network activities and CLIC–SR project:
 - Domain hosting and registration: PK opened a web hosting account – prolinnovakenya.co.ke – that has two official emails used for all PK communication. Additionally, a PK e-group was formed to facilitate communication between network members.
 - Workplan meetings: Three workplan meetings were held in 2014. These involved the National Coordinator and members of the National Steering Committee (NSC) and served to guide the network’s activities in the year.
 - Progress assessment meetings: PK engaged in a Skype meeting on 23 October with members of the PROLINNOVA IST from ETC Foundation (Netherlands) to assess the progress of PK. In attendance were Laurens van Veldhuizen and Ann Waters Bayer from ETC and Geoffrey Kamau, Makonge Righa and Eunice Karanja from the PK NSC. The meeting focused on the progress of the CLIC–SR project, PK activities, as well as updates from the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat. Additionally, projected plans for the remaining two months of the year were highlighted.

- Follow up on joint experimentation (JE) on finger millet farming in Machakos: The project team consisting of Joseph Righa and Eunice Karanja undertook a 2-day field visit on 10–11 February to carry out follow-up activities subsequent to a JE process on the local innovation of transplanting finger millet from nurseries that had been undertaken in Machakos County. The JE process was facilitated by INADES-Formation, a member of the PK National Steering Committee (NSC), and was between farmer innovators in the area, agricultural extensionists and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Machakos County. The main objective of the follow-up was to document lessons from the JE process.
- Training of Baringo Local Steering Committee (LSC): The LSC in Baringo underwent a two-day training with the main objective of building the capacity of the newly formed LSC on their roles and responsibilities as regards management of the LISF, selection and vetting of innovation proposals and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The committee is made of 13 members, i.e. eight farmer innovators (4 male, 4 female) and five ex-officio members. The latter include a representative from the MoA, one from Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), one from the Network for Eco-Farming in Africa (NECOFA) – a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Baringo County – and two chiefs from the two local administrative offices in Marigat Sub-County.
- Call for innovation proposals: The LSCs in Baringo and Machakos undertook calls for innovation proposals within their localities. The objective of the calls was to receive proposals on innovations with potential for further development and improvement through a grant from the LISF. The LSCs screened and vetted the proposals and submitted twelve to the NSC for funding. Ten of the twelve proposals were supported through the LISFs.
- Local Steering Committee (LSC) meetings: The Baringo and Machakos LSCs held several meetings throughout the year to discuss their progress, seek ways to identify and support local innovations, and discuss other matters that arose and required attention. The meetings supported M&E of the committees' activities and also provided a forum for sharing information and knowledge on local innovations within their localities.
- PK implementing partners meetings: The NSC held five meetings in 2015, two of which were during backstopping visits by Ann Waters-Bayer, a member of the IST. The main objective of these meetings was to discuss pertinent issues concerning the network, appraise progress and determine the general direction of the network.
- International Partners Workshop (IPW): PK attended the IPW 2015, held in Axum, Ethiopia, on 25–30 April 2015. The workshop brought together various CPs, i.e. Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, the IST, the International Secretariat and the POG to review progress made during the past year and to share and learn from each other.
- Participation in farmer fairs: Two farmer innovators participated in an agricultural fair on 30 July 2015 in Kathiani, Machakos County. The event brought together various stakeholders: farmers, extension service providers, input suppliers, buyers, processors, retailers, financiers, industry regulators, NGOs and other stakeholders in a “marketplace” to facilitate establishment of linkages, deal-making and partnership brokering. The fair presented an opportunity for two farmer innovators in the PK network to interact with and learn from a wide range of stakeholders and specifically as regards agribusiness, how through innovations farmers can contribute to agribusiness to enhance livelihoods. The fair was hosted by AgriProFocus Kenya.
- Participation in International Meetings: Joe Ouko, a farmer innovator in the PK network, participated in a Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Expert Consultation on Small-scale Farmer Innovation in Bio-diverse Food Systems on 26–27 May 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. The

consultation brought together academics, farmers, civil society actors and UN officials from a total of 12 countries. They discussed various issues on small-scale farmer (SSF) innovation. The meeting aimed at supporting the design and development of an interactive web-based policy tool (online resource) on SSF innovation that can be accessed and used by various stakeholders.

- Joint experimentation: PK undertook a 2-day field visit on 22–24 July 2015 to Machakos and Mwingi for engagement meetings with the Local Steering Committees (LSCs). The primary objective of the field visit was to get an appraisal from the LSCs on progress of both old and new innovations that had been identified and to receive updates on any modifications or further developments for documentation purposes. This background would set the basis for initiating the process of farmer-led JE, whereby questions of mutual interest could be explored for experimentation to improve upon specific innovations.
- International Farmer Innovation Day (IFID): This is an annual event celebrated at the end of November by all PROLINNOVA CPs. The 2015 IFID celebrations were held by the Community Rehabilitation Environmental Protection (CREP) programme in Awasi, Kisumu County, on the 27 November 2015. The main purpose of the day was to showcase farmer innovativeness, to establish how farmers are supporting their livelihoods through innovations and to share and learn among the participants. The celebrations were attended by innovators from five counties, i.e. Machakos, Kisumu, Baringo, Busia and Mwingi.
- PK members meeting: PK held a members meeting on 8 December 2015 that brought together various organisations within the network to share highlights that shaped the network in 2015, galvanise new partnerships and develop strategies for 2016. The meeting brought together 15 participants from various organisations. The meeting had presentations from various members as well as discussions to improve the network.