

**PROLINNOVA–KENYA
ANNUAL REPORT
2019**



*Domitila Kinyili, innovator from Makeni County, displaying her biopesticide concoction to kill acts
(Photo: Vincent Mariadho)*

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NAIROBI, FEBRUARY 2020

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACK	Anglican Church of Kenya
CBO	community-based organisation
CP	Country Platform
FGD	focus group discussion
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IST	International Support Team
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
LI	local innovation
LSC	Local Steering Committee
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
NGO	nongovernmental organisation
NRM	natural resource management
NSC	National Steering Committee
FID	Farmer Innovation Day
PID	participatory innovation development
POG	Prolinnova Oversight Group
PK	Prolinnova–Kenya
Prolif-FaNS	Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security
Prolinnova	Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM
RUDI	Rural Development Initiative
SULCI-FaNS	Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security
WN	World Neighbors

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1.0 BACKGROUND

In 2007, various nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), government research and extension organisations, farmer organisations, universities and community-based organisations (CBOs) came together to form a multistakeholder platform with the aim of facilitating and/or improving the promotion of farmer-led innovation processes. The network, Prolinnova–Kenya (PK) – the Kenyan chapter of the Prolinnova network of now 21 countries – was purposefully initiated to engineer and enhance the recognition of the dynamics of indigenous knowledge so as to enhance the capacities of farmers to adjust to change. The aim is to support farmers, especially small-scale farmers, in developing their own innovations and appropriate systems of natural resource management (NRM) so as to achieve food security, sustain their livelihoods and safeguard the environment.

PK is governed by a National Steering Committee (NSC) made up of representatives of its member organisations/institutions. Currently, the NSC has representatives from World Neighbors (PK host organisation), Inades Formation Kenya, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), ETC Consulting and the Ministry of Agriculture. The PK National Coordinator also sits in the NSC as an *ex-officio* member. The NSC supervises and oversees the general operations of the network. It is supplemented with Local Steering Committees at the action-learning sites (counties and/or sub-counties), which comprise NGOs, CBOs, farmer and community representatives, religious group representatives, government departments and research institutions.

The network, just like its counterparts in other countries, has the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG) as its highest decision-making body. The POG is currently co-chaired by Chris Macoloo (Kenya) and Pratap Shrestha (Nepal).

2.0. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

2.1. Proli-FaNS

This reporting period was the final year of the Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS) project. This three-year project aimed at strengthening and developing the innovative capacities of rural communities to effectively improve food security, nutrition security and nutritional diversity, and also ensuring that women were widely recognised as innovators and were supported in further developing their innovations, from which they control the benefits.

Described below are the PK activities implemented during the final year of the project:

2.1.1 Joint experimentation

This process was completed on 21 February 2019. This exercise saw the 11¹ local innovations (LIs) by men and women that had been vetted and selected by LSCs in the previous year being jointly studied and developed by farmer innovators, researchers from KALRO and other stakeholders through a participatory innovation development (PID) process.

¹Hanging garden, Kitchen (sack) garden irrigation kit, Modified cassava pits, Improved fish smoker, Two-in-one energy-saving stove, Local chicken brooder, Local poultry medicine (*Ajujo manyasi*), Organic tobacco-based pesticide, Organic fruitfly trap, Local chicken incubator, and Poultry disease control using croton seeds and *Aloe vera*.

On 1 February, Makueni LSC convened a special meeting that brought together innovators engaged on their ongoing joint experimentation with the newly selected innovators, for the purpose of mutual learning, sharing experiences and also so as to motivate the newly identified local innovators.

2.1.2 Identification of new local innovations

Identification of LIs was a continuous activity throughout the year. PK in collaboration with site partners identified the LIs described below:

1. Crossbreeding of eggplant, in Makueni. The innovation is by Isack Nganda. He plants two varieties of eggplants in a sequence so as to allow for natural cross-pollination. The final product is a new variety that is bigger and has a different colour. The uniqueness of his products has enabled him to increase his sales in the local market and thus increase his income. He also hints that the new variety is more nutritious than the original varieties.
2. Pawpaw seed sex detection, in Kisumu. This innovation is by Ms Eunice Odoyo. She came up with the innovation as a way of salvaging her perennial pawpaw production failure. This was due to inadequate cross-pollination as a result of unintentionally planting mono-sex pawpaw. To ensure planting of both male and female plants, she identifies male and female seeds by placing fresh pawpaw seeds in clean water. The male pawpaw seeds will float while the female ones sink.

2.1.3 Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

On 7–8 March and 19–20 March, the Proli-FaNS M&E focal organisation KALRO, through its staff and in collaboration with WN, PK, Kisumu and Makueni LSCs, Inades Formation Kenya and RUDI, conducted an M&E exercise in Kisumu and Makueni, respectively. This aimed at assessing the extent to which the project’s planned objectives and goals were achieved. To achieve this, a M&E tool was developed, and the M&E team led by Geoffrey Kamau (Makueni) and Ms Martha Opondo (Kisumu) examined the implementation of local innovation processes and assessed the impact of the project on the households/ local community’s food and nutrition security and dietary diversity.



*Geoffrey Kamau (raised hand) facilitating a discussion session with Makueni LSC members at ACK Kasikeu
(Photo: Vincent Mariadho)*

Focus group discussion (FGD) is a research method that is used to gather qualitative information from people with common/similar backgrounds or experiences and on a specific topic of interest. It is guided by a facilitator who devises the best way to engage with a group of people so as to gather all the desired information.

PK conducted a one-day exercise in Ogal Mixed Secondary School in Osiri sub Location of Kisumu County on 27 July involving 15 participants. A similar activity was conducted in the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Kasikeu on 6 September involving 12 participants. The cumulative 27 participants across the two action-learning sites were randomly selected from the local innovators (main target group), LSC and a few representatives of the community. The exercise aimed at bridging the identified gaps that were not adequately addressed during the regular M&E exercises. This FGD process was therefore dubbed “Level 2 M&E of Proli-FaNS”.



*Ms Martha Opondo facilitating the Kisumu learning site’s FGD exercise at Ogal Mixed Secondary School on 27 July
(Photo: Vincent Mariadho)*

2.1.4 Proli-FaNS Partners Workshop / African Regional Meeting / International Partners Workshop

On 13–17 May, the five African CPs involved in the Proli-FaNS project converged in the Sahel Vert Agroecology Training Centre Mampuya in Senegal. The meeting was held jointly with the International Partners Workshop (IPW) bringing together 20 participants from Prolinnova CPs, members of the POG and International Support Team (IST). PK was represented by Chris Macoloo (POG), Joe Ouko (POG) and Vincent Mariadho (Coordinator).

The event provided a platform for peer learning and sharing of experiences on implementation of Proli-FaNS and steps/achievements made and also to craft a way forward for better results in the last quarter of Proli-FaNS and other future projects. Furthermore, the external evaluator of the project presented his evaluation report.

During the IPW, the various CPs represented participated in an exhibition dubbed IPW marketplace, where PK had a stand and actively participated and displayed its innovations and activities.



*Annual CPs meeting/IPW participants in Sahel Vert Agroecology Training Centre, Senegal
13 – 17 May 2019*



Vincent Mariadho, PK Coordinator, explains achievements made by PK to some Prolinnova partners when they visited the PK stand at the IPW marketplace

2.2. SULCI-FaNS Inception Workshop

The inception workshop was aimed at ensuring that project partners gain a deep understanding of the SULCI-FaNS² project document for its efficacious implementation. It was held in Sahel Vert Agroecology Training Center Mampuya on 2–6 December and was hosted by AgriBio Services and Agrecol–Afrique, the NGO hosting Prolinnova–Senegal. The workshop brought together 17 participants (3 from Kenya, 4 from Ghana, 3 from Cameroon, 2 from Burkina Faso, 1 from Senegal, 2 Sub-Regional Coordinators and 2 other members of the IST). PK was represented by Lucious Achacha (Finance), Ms Martha Opondo (M&E) and Vincent Mariadho (Coordinator). During the workshop, CPs shared their experiences and lessons learnt during Proli-FaNS (see links in annex).



SULCI-FaNS inception workshop participants in Sahel Vert Agroecology Training Centre, Senegal 2–6 December 2019

2.3. Follow-up trip on Mainstreaming Gender in Farmer-Led Research

On 26 October to 2 November 2018, Chesha Wettasinha and Mona Dhamankar from the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) facilitated a workshop to orient facilitators from various organisations on Gender Mainstreaming in Farmer-Led Research. To establish the level of implementation of the skills and knowledge acquired during the workshop by the participants and also identify weak areas to improve on, Chesha and Mona undertook a field-based follow-up on 16–18 and 19–20 September in the Kisumu and Makueni learning sites, respectively. They were accompanied by the PK Coordinator. They paid homage to local innovators with whom the workshop participants were working. The Kisumu trip culminated in a trip to Nyando Basin Lofoda³ Enterprises in Nyakach, hosted by Joe Ouko and Jane Jagero; the latter was also trained during the workshop.

² Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security (SULCI-FaNS, 2019–22) follows Proli-FaNS (2016–19) and aims at scaling up and consolidating the farmer-led research and innovation approach and the gains made in Proli-FaNS.

³ Lofoda = locally formulated dairy goat meal (a local innovation by Joe Ouko)



Left: Chesha Wettasinha (Prolinnova IST) tastes a local meal showcased during the field trip to Nyando. Looking on are Domnick Onyango (RUDI) and Ms Martha Opondo (KALRO).

3.0 OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 National Steering Committee (NSC) meetings

The NSC held two meetings in 2019 (on 18 June and 25 July) in order to get various updates on Proli-FaNS, upcoming events and other network news within/out Kenya. The meetings were also convened to deliberate on other organisational issues such as resource mobilisation, intellectual property rights (IPR) issues, PK guidelines, membership and leadership. On PK leadership, Bell Okello of ETC Consulting took over the chairmanship of the NSC from Geoffrey Kamau of KALRO and will occupy the seat in an acting capacity until an official election can be held. In its July meeting, the NSC also deliberated on the review of the Eastern and Southern Africa Prolinnova Platform (ESAPP) brochure draft shared by Brigid Letty, the SubRegional Coordinator for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Finally, during this reporting period, George Chemining'wa and Florence Olubayo, both professors at the University of Nairobi, joined the NSC.

3.2 Local Steering Committee (LSC) meetings

The LSCs of Kisumu and Makueni, the Proli-FaNS action-learning sites, held a series of meetings to plan for various Proli-FaNS activities such as PID process, continuous identification of local innovations, M&E exercises and FGD activities, among other management issues of the LSCs. During this reporting period, Abraham Nyaga, Kilome Sub-County's veterinary officer, joined the Makueni LSC.

4.0. FUTURE PLANS AND STRATEGIES

4. 1. Resource mobilisation

Resource mobilisation has always remained one of PK's strategic areas. PK continues to respond to various calls for proposals. Though none of the proposals submitted so far has yielded any fruit, PK is still committed to developing proposals and mobilisation of resources with the aim of securing funding for additional projects besides the current SULCI-FaNS project.

4. 2. Institutionalisation of PK membership

PK intends to embed its membership within the structures of its members' organisations/institutions. The strategy is to ensure continuity of membership of the respective institutions in PK even after the exit or retirement of the current individuals representing their various institutions. The move aimed at ensuring strong PK membership and appreciation of PK activities/concepts by an entire organisation/institution's fraternity.

4. 3. Publicity for the network

Visibility is very important for any organisation and/or institution. Through the current SULCI-FaNS project, PK aims at institutionalising the LI/PID approach within agricultural research and development. Achieving this undoubtedly requires proper visibility in the face of the targeted institutions. PK therefore aims at entrenching its name and approaches/concepts through participation in national and county shows and exhibitions, its annual farmer innovation days, print and electronic media, and also by absorbing students on attachment at its project sites.

5.0 ANNEX

1. https://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/ipw/2019/report_proli-fans_annual_meeting__ipw_2019_final_with_annexes_1.pdf
2. https://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/thematic_pages/food_nutri_sec/sulci-fans_inception_workshop_report_for_website.pdf