

PRACTICAL ACTION – SUDAN

PROLINNOVA PROGRAM



In collaboration with Agricultural Research Corporation

2nd Participatory Innovation Development (PID) Training Workshop



Workshop Report

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Report on the PID training Workshop Wad Madani – Gazera State

24th /February to 1st/March 2007

Introduction:

PROLINNOVA is an NGO-led initiative to build a global learning network on promoting local innovations in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management. The focus is on recognizing the dynamics of indigenous knowledge and learning how to strengthen the capacities of family farmers to adjust to changing conditions: to develop and adapt their own site – appropriate systems and institutions of resource management in order to gain food security, sustain their livelihoods and safeguard the environment.

The unique location of the Sudan and its wonderful diversity make it one of the best locations for the PROLINNOVA Program. The Program in Sudan aims at building/strengthening partnerships between the different stakeholders involved in agriculture, Natural Resource Management (NRM), agricultural research and development in the country. The Technology Transfer and Extension Administration (TTEA) and the Agricultural Research Corporation (ARC) are the implementing partners of the program.

Participatory Innovation development is a key activity of the Sudan program.

Training Purpose:

Mainstreaming Participatory Innovation Development (PID) into the activities of the researchers, academicians and development workers.

Objectives:

- Share experience to build on and scale up farmers based research and development (R&D) approach;
- Stimulate interest among researchers and development workers on participatory development for the local ideas and innovations.
- Awareness of the challenges faced by development professionals and scientist in moving local innovations further towards joint experimentation and integrating relevant information and ideas coming from others.

Organization and facilities:

The training workshop was organized by the key PROLINNOVA Program-Sudan partner, the Agricultural Research Corporation. The corporation Head Quarter is located at Wad Medani, the capital town of The Gezira State in Central Sudan. Training sessions were carried out at the main meeting hall at the Head

Quarter. Participants were accommodated at the guest houses of the Corporation which were located in the near by vicinity to the meeting hall.



Workshop Visibility

The training workshop extended for a period of 6 days from the 24th of February – 1st of March 2007.

Facilitators:

Two experts trained on PID in the Philippines and Kampala were the major facilitators at the workshop. Other experienced facilitators were drawn from the Agricultural Research Corporation in Wad Madani and El Obied and from Sinar University.



Dr. Ahmed Hassan



*Mr. Mahmoud Makki
Workshop Facilitators*



Mr. Mohd Siddig.

Participant

25 participants were invited to the workshop. Participants were not well gender balanced as there were 21 males (84%) and 4 females (16%). As regarding their qualifications 8 of the them were holding Phds, 7 with MScs, 8 with BSc 2 with Diploma. They were from Gezira and Sinnar Universities, extensionists with the Gazira and El Rahad Schemes, researchers at various agricultural research stations and the TTEA in the Blue and White Nile States.



Participants to the workshop

Participants are working in four States namely: the Gazira , the Blue Nile, the White Nile and Sinnar.

Worksop events:

A ceremonial opening session was held at the beginning of the first day of the workshop. The ceremony was attended by 78 invitees. In addition to the participants the following dignitaries were among the attendance:

- ARC deputy Director General for Research Programs
- ARC Deputy Director General for International Relations and Programs
- Head of the Soil and Water Division, ARC.
- Head of HR and IT, ARC



- Dean Faculty of Agriculture, University of Gazira.
- Director General, Gazira State Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Wealth and Irrigation.
- Representative of the Farmers' Union, Gazira Scheme.



Opening Ceremony

The program for the ceremonial session was as follows:

- Verses from the Holly Koran.
- Speech by the PROLINNOVA Coordinator
- Speech by the Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Gezira University.
- Speech by the Director General, Gazira State Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Wealth and Irrigation.
- Speech by the Deputy Director General, Agricultural Research Corporation.
- Closure.

The workshop technical sessions started after the ceremonial opening session. The table below shows the subjects covered during the six days of the workshop:

Date	Sessions	time	Facilitator
<i>Day One</i> 24/02/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening Ceremony - Introduction of participants - Expectation of participants - Presentation of the training program and establishment of training agreements 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosting agency - Mohamed Siddig
	<p>Presentation of PROLINNOVA Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and rationale • Basic Hypothesis • Key concepts/elements of consideration • Specific objectives • PROLINNOVA Sudan program and status 		Mabrouk
<i>Day Two</i> 25/02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants share their participatory approach knowledge and practices and identify strengths and weaknesses and lessons learnt. Regional time lines for the evolution of PID What is Participatory Innovation Development • Key principles of PID • Key Steps in PID • Roles of key actors in PID • Roles of farmers • Roles of researchers • Roles of extension workers 		<p>Mohamed Siddig</p> <p>Mabrouk</p>
<i>Day Three</i> 26/02	<p>Facilitating PID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Communication skills • Looking for things to try out • Developing idea sheet • Developing experiment sheet • Action plan • Recording tools 		Dr. Ahmed Hassan

	Needs assessment for PID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education tours - Data gathering tools - Analyzing data and formulating recommendations 		Mahmoud Awad Makki
<i>Day Four</i> 27/02	Farmer experiments (Field practicum) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings with Innovating farmers: - What innovations - how developed - problems and constraints - expectations / recommendations 		Dr. Ahmed Hassan & Mohamed Ali Hashim
<i>Day Five</i> 28/02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PM & E of PID - Strengthening PID: Campaign, Advocacy and Lobbying - Strengthening PID: Institutionalization, scaling up - Strengthening PID: Documentation 		- Dr. Nageeb - Dr. El Hajwa
<i>Day Six</i> 01/03	Open session for discussion: (issues/topics tackled during the training - feedback of trainees) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants elaborate their planning and follow-up training - Participants evaluate the training - Participants raise lessons learnt during the training - Closure of the training 		All

Methods and techniques:

The training workshop was conducted in a participative manner. Facilitators used methodologies that would contribute to the personal transformation of participants towards giving value to participatory processes, respect and being agents of learning during PID processes. The workshop was extremely interactive and participatory. The methods used behaviors and attitudes of the facilitators that mirrored the principals of PID Specially, problem-solving methods, small working groups , interaction with participants and innovative farmers, games and other experimental learning methods were given due emphasis.



Participants working groups

Other Activities:

The participants were honoured by three presentations, which fall in the context of PROLINNOVA and PID, made by experts working with the ARC and the National Council for Socio-economic Research. The presentations were having the following titles:

1/ ARC future view in institutionalisation and up scaling of participatory Approach.

Presented by Professor Mohamed El Fateh Khalid, Deputy Director General for Out Stations Affair and Technology Transfer

2/ Introduction to ARC Research Programs and PID. Presented by Dr. Kamal Siddig, Director of HR and IT Administration, ARC.

3/ Local Innovations in Development and Intellectual Property Rights. Presented by Dr. Mirghani Osman Ibn Oaf.



Attendance to a presentation

A field excursion was also arranged

for where the participants visited a Farmers Field School at Hilaiwa, a village of the Gezira Scheme. They also met with two innovators in the field. The first one established a fish hunting pond in the middle of swampy area. The second one use Bitter Melon (*Citrullus colocynthus*) oil and cakes for the treatment of skin diseases (in human and animals) and increasing milk production in cattle respectively.



Field Activities

Participants future Plans:

At the end of the training workshop, participants were requested to prepare plans for what they would be doing on the light of what they learned during the workshop. Participants were divided into three groups representing extension workers, academicians and researchers. The following are the plans of the various groups.

Group	Name	Location	Action Plan Agreed
Extensionists	1. Bedria hassan makki	Extension/Gezira scheme	A. Coordination between different stallholders B. Identify innovators C. Identifying relevant
	2. Sami hassan	Extension/ Gezira scheme	
	3. Yousif sed Ahamed	Extension/ Gezira scheme	
	4. Mohamed Ali hashim	Extension/ MOA, B. Nile	
	5. Bakhiet Al Zein	Extension/ MOH. G.State	
	6. A. Alla A.All	Extension/ Rahad Scheme	

	7. Dr. Ali A. hey 8. Moh'd Ahamed Omer 9. Ahamed Ali Mergany		extension package D. Prepare extension mean, field visit, meeting, demonstration farms, exhibition
Universities	Dr. Musa hago Dr. Mohamed Yousif El Shefa El Nour Safiya A. Rahaman Dr.Mutasim A.rahaman	University of El Gezira	One day workshop awareness of participatory innovation development
ARC	Faisa Mohamed hamid El amin M. raddad Omer Abd Gadir El Siddig Abd Mustafa Zahir Omer mabrouk Pio kour Ding Moh'd Awad Ali El Kidir Elias Abdalla Ahamed Hassan Abo Assar Osama Mohamed ahamed	Agricultural research stations	Field visit to identifying local innovations in three State , Rahad, Gezira, Blue Nile



Participants Presenting their Future Plans

Documentation:

The workshop has been documented in tens of photos, three videos (produced in CDs) and one recording tape.

Workshop Evaluation:

A questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the participants to reflect their opinions on the following:

Discussing Plans

1. ARC as the host for this training workshop.
2. The selection of participants.
3. Facilitators and organizers.



4. Duration of the workshop.
5. Services.
6. Benefits gained from the workshop.
7. General positive and negative points.

Following the same sequence of the above points participants' responses were as follows:

1. Suitable – good – reasonable – relevant.
2. Successful – not gender balanced – wide range (multi disciplinary) – very good – absence of some specializations (forestry).
3. Very skilled – good – less focused – good communicators – some times elaborative – systematic.
4. Reasonable – should be more than a week – suitable – long period – short period – suitable and comfortable – medium.
5. Nice – good – excellent – very good – at hand – reasonable – medium.
6. Sharing experiences – knowledge of PID – PROLINNOVA Program – new friends and resource persons – Role of Practical Action – more skills.
7. the positive points:
 - Good organization.
 - Really participative.
 - Attentive
 - Accompanied activities interesting.

The negative points:

- sitting arrangements not adopting U shaped.
- Poor control of time.
- Few females.
- Short period.
- No access to internet.

Closure and Conclusion:

A closing ceremony was organized and attended by the ARC senior staff. Participants were awarded attendance certificates signed by both PROLINNOVA Coordinator and the Director of HR and IT Administration, ARC.

Annex (1) PARTICIPANTS					
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