

## PROLINNOVA–Uganda annual report 2012

### INTRODUCTION

PROLINNOVA–Uganda is an NGO-led multi-stakeholder initiative to build a national learning network on promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management (NRM). PROLINNOVA–Uganda’s main objective is to mainstream community-led approaches to agriculture and NRM. This report reflects on the activities implemented from January to December 2012. The activities implemented cover the PROLINNOVA–Uganda main programme; the FAIR2 budget-neutral extension for six months; the FAIR3 transition phase; and Strengthening Community Resilience to Change: Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC–SR).

### A. PROLINNOVA MAIN PROGRAMME

#### 1. Documenting and sharing innovations

PROLINNOVA–Uganda is collaborating with Grameen Foundation AppLab Uganda to identify, document, share and disseminate innovations to other stakeholders. The innovations identified in 2012 and documented included:

- Controlling white flies in mangoes using sugar solution
- Controlling external parasites on animals
- Controlling cigar end rot disease in banana
- Making banana wine at home level
- Using eucalyptus leaves to preserve maize and bean seeds.

The innovations have been shared to stakeholders and farmers through the Community Knowledge Workers (CKWs) network established by Grameen Foundation AppLab Uganda. The innovations have also been shared with TECA, a FAO knowledge exchange platform, and two have been published:

- Making banana wine at home level (<http://teca.fao.org/technology/making-banana-wine-home>)
- Use of eucalyptus leaves to preserve maize and bean seeds  
<http://teca.fao.org/technology/using-eucalyptus-leaves-preserve-maize-and-bean-seed>

#### 2. Learning and information exchange on local innovation

A meeting for collaboration with Grameen Foundation AppLab Uganda was held on 12 June. It was attended by three staff members of Grameen Foundation AppLab Uganda and the PROLINNOVA–Uganda coordinator. Envisaged areas of collaboration were:

- Grameen Foundation can share its collected technologies with PROLINNOVA–Uganda for vetting and testing
- PROLINNOVA–Uganda can share its vetted and documented technologies for dissemination to farmers
- Grameen Foundation can provide statistics on the use of the technologies offered to farmers through CKWs
- Grameen Foundation can collect testimonies from farmers about a given technology as part of the vetting process
- PROLINNOVA–Uganda can vet and document some of the technologies collected by CKWs with its wide network of partners.

## **Way forward developed for the collaboration:**

### **PROLINNOVA–Uganda**

1. Reviewing and vetting local technologies collected by Grameen Foundation
2. Working with Grameen Foundation to document the vetted local technologies
3. Sharing other documented technologies with Grameen Foundation for dissemination
4. Providing agriculture-related NRM information for dissemination to farmers.

### **Grameen Foundation**

1. Collecting local technologies and testimonies about their use from farmers
2. Disseminating local technologies to farmers
3. Conducting impact assessment on the use of local technologies
4. Working with PROLINNOVA–Uganda to document vetted local technologies.

## **3. Networking and information sharing**

PROLINNOVA–Uganda participated in the PROLINNOVA International Partners Workshop (IPW) and Farmer Access to Innovation Resources (FAIR) meeting on 9–14 March in Mali. Two days (10–11 March) were dedicated to the FAIR meeting, which focused on the FAIR workplan 2012 and experience papers from the Country Platforms (CPs) piloting Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs). The IPW itself took place on 11–14 March. The participants discussed strategies for writing joint regional proposals and developed an action plan. PROLINNOVA–Uganda was represented by the CP coordinator and a staff member from Environmental Alert, the secretariat of PROLINNOVA–Uganda.

## **4. Mainstreaming PROLINNOVA–Uganda approaches within local, national and regional institutions and programmes**

PROLINNOVA–Uganda through PELUM–Uganda organised an exhibition for indigenous crops on 16 October in Kampala, in which three innovators (2 men and 1 woman) took part. The innovations exhibited were different products of amaranth (pop *mara*, porridge flour, cookies, snacks, amaranthus flour source); fresh beverages from pumpkins; and a social innovation of establishing a community resources knowledge centre through video. The observations made by PROLINNOVA–Uganda were:

- Innovators have to be supported to improve on the package of their products.
- The patent right law needs to be enforced for recognition of the originality of the ideas.
- Documentation of farmers' innovations should be intensified.

## **5. Effective implementation of PROLINNOVA programme in Uganda**

PROLINNOVA–Uganda has facilitated the multi-stakeholder partnership by updating partners through email, telephone and sharing reports and all other available information on PROLINNOVA. The Secretariat has continued to distribute the following products:

- A booklet that describes four local innovations (production of fish fries, control of cattle fever and of East Coast fever in calves, amaranthus products)
- PROLINNOVA–Uganda brochures
- Flyers on fresh pumpkin beverages, liquid manure, control of pesticides and mineral lick.

The products have been distributed during advocacy and lobbying meetings and workshops organised by PROLINNOVA–Uganda.

PROLINNOVA–Uganda is collaborating with National Agricultural Research Organization Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARO/MUZARDI) to conduct further research on control of termites in Nakasongola and has shared with MUZARDI the earlier results of the joint research conducted. PROLINNOVA–Uganda through core partners – Africa 2000 Network Uganda, Kulika Uganda, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)–Uganda, Environmental Alert and

NARO/MUZARDI – has organised regular monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of PROLINNOVA–Uganda activities. This has generated useful information for continuing to implement these activities.

The PROLINNOVA–Uganda Secretariat developed and submitted funding applications on the following:

- Adopting a sector-wide approach to addressing national and regional level climate change challenges, submitted to the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN); the application was not successful.
- Enhancing the capacity of partner organisations in Climate Change and Participatory Innovation Development (PID): Tailor-made training, submitted to the Netherlands Embassy in Kampala; the application did not meet the Embassy’s deadline and will be re-submitted in 2013.

## **B. FARMER ACCESS TO INNOVATION RESOURCES (FAIR2) BUDGET-NEUTRAL EXTENSION FOR SIX MONTHS (JANUARY–JUNE 2012)**

### **B.1 Monitor all the community-based organisations (CBOs) supported with LISF**

In the period from 29 April to 10 June, the Secretariat organised an M&E event for all the eight CBOs supported.

Individual PROLINNOVA–Uganda partners organised follow-up events to support CBOs in their jurisdiction. The FAIR register was updated to include the innovations which were supported in 2012. So far, supported innovations have reached a total of 288. Lessons learnt are:

- Farmers are trying out different new ideas in their locality but it would be important to link these ideas to relevant institutions like universities, NGOs and district agricultural or NAADS offices.
- The linkages would assist in finetuning the processes and outputs of these innovations.

### **B.2 Development of the Uganda FAIR2 experience paper**

PROLINNOVA–Uganda with all her partners developed the Uganda paper on its FAIR2 experience. The paper generated a lot of information, ideas and lessons. The learning will be used by the partners in implementing similar such interventions.

### **B.3 Audiovisual documentation of LISF experiences**

Through PELUM, PROLINNOVA–Uganda has produced 200 copies of newsletters and 20 copies of DVDs on the following local innovations:

- Processing beverage from pumpkin
- Processing mineral lick
- Organic pesticides and manure.

Farmers are happy and motivated when they read and see their work in the documentaries. The evidence is being used to mobilise resources for further PROLINNOVA work.

### **B.4 Forum for sharing and learning for stakeholders and support partners**

A forum for partners was organised on 23–24 August and was attended by 20 participants (7 women and 13 men). It was observed that emphasis also needs to be put on identifying social innovations and to advocate for patent right law.

## **C. FARMER ACCESS TO INNOVATION RESOURCES (FAIR) TRANSITION PHASE (3)**

### **C.1 Document a Uganda model for implementation of Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF)**

- PROLINNOVA–Uganda developed an appropriate LISF model and upscaling scenario for implementing LISFs.

- On 27 September, it organised a dissemination workshop, attended by 15 core partners (10 men and 5 women), to come to a consensus on the developed model for partners.
- The model and upscaling scenario are being prepared for publication.

### **C.2 Conduct four follow-up activities to support LISF**

The PROLINNOVA–Uganda Secretariat organised an M&E exercise for eight CBOs in the period 12–17 November 2012. This revealed that:

- Core partners have been involved in all the activities. This has strengthened the partnership.
- 5/8 of the CBOs started up income-generating activities to raise funds for sustainability of the LISF at CBO level.
- 1/4 of the CBOs have accessed Community-Driven Development (CDD) funds from the mother sub-counties and part of the fund is used to support the LISF.

### **C.3 Disburse funds to two CBOs to support innovations developed through LISFs**

Funds totalling 1,500,000 Ugandan Shillings were disbursed to Musamba Environmental Protection Group (Mubende District) in July. The funds were to support local innovators to continue to develop their ideas. Three farmers accessed the funds from the CBO to develop the innovations of pumpkin beverages, value addition to cassava and replanting of indigenous trees.

### **C.4 Organise dialogue to mobilise local commitment to fund the LISF through government budget**

PROLINNOVA–Uganda through Environmental Alert organised a dialogue meeting with Uganda National Farmers’ Federation (UNFFE) staff. The focus was to have UNFFE, a national farmer organisation, take the leading role in management of LISFs in Uganda. The dialogue took place on 7 November at the UNFFE offices and was attended by 11 staff members, including five UNFFE district branch coordinators, and the Chairperson of the UNFFE Board. The chairperson supported the idea. Other follow-up meetings are to be organised.

## **D. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO CHANGE: COMBINING LOCAL INNOVATIVE CAPACITY WITH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (CLIC–SR)**

The CLIC–SR project vision is a world in which women and men in smallholder families and communities play decisive roles in innovation systems in agriculture and NRM for sustainable livelihoods. The project objectives are to:

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

A multi-stakeholder partnership approach is used to implement the project. The partners involved are Environmental Alert, Kulika Uganda, NARO/MUZARDI, National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) and Africa 2000 Network Uganda. Specifically, the project is implemented by Environmental Alert in Moyo District and by Kulika Uganda in Nakasongola District.

### **D.1 Planning meeting and inception workshop**

The planning meeting cum inception workshop was organised on 6 November and attended by 23 people (13 men, 10 women) from Kulika Uganda Head Office (3), Kulika Uganda Nakasongola Office (2), Environmental Alert Moyo Office (2), Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA) (2), Africa 2000 Network (2), NARO/MUZARDI (2), Moyo District Local Government (3), PROLINNOVA–Uganda Secretariat (2), PELUM–Uganda (1), Kikandwa Environmental Association (1), Centre for Integrated Development (CIDEV) (1), Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE) (1) and the PROLINNOVA International Support Team (1). The main partners in implementation had originally agreed that three activities were to be implemented in 2012. The inception workshop was organised but the remaining two activities – the baseline study and the field study on local innovation in the face of change – could not be implemented before the end of December 2012.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the PROLINNOVA–Uganda Secretariat and Kulika Uganda has been developed and shared in order to agree on the content but was not yet signed in 2012.

### **D.2 Baseline and field survey**

The concepts to conduct the baseline and field studies in Nakasongola and Moyo were developed and the tools for the studies were developed and shared. The baseline and field studies are being conducted in early 2013:

- by Kulika Uganda in Nakasongola District
- by Environmental Alert in Moyo District.

The final report on these studies will be completed by the end of February 2013.

## **E. GENERAL LESSONS LEARNT**

- PROLINNOVA–Uganda needs to network with national, regional and international PROLINNOVA networks and submit joint applications/proposals.
- Farmer innovators have to be linked to universities for joint experimentation with MSc or PhD students.

## **F. WAY FORWARD**

- Strengthen the collaboration initiatives with Grameen Foundation AppLab Uganda to share identified innovations and provide support in dissemination of local innovations.
- During 2013, the PROLINNOVA–Uganda Secretariat will continue to respond to calls for resource mobilisation, strengthen the multi-stakeholder partnership, network with partners in resource mobilisation, identify local innovations, document innovations and activities, and disseminate publications.