



## **PROLINNOVA–Uganda Annual Report (January–December 2014)**

by

**PROLINNOVA–Uganda Secretariat (Environmental Alert)**

**February 2015**



## Introduction

PROLINNOVA–Uganda is implementing the Strengthening Community Resilience to Change: Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC–SR) project in Nakasongola and Moyo Districts of Uganda. CLIC–SR is funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. Kulika–Uganda is leading the implementation of the project in Nakasongola District, while Environmental Alert (EA) is leading in Moyo District. Other partners directly involved in implementation of the activities include National Agriculture Research Organisation / Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARO/MUZARDI), Abi Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (ABIZARDI), PELUM (Participatory Ecological and Use Management), NAADS (National Agricultural Advisory Services) and District Local Governments of the project areas.

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- i. 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).
- ii. 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.
- iii. Increase insights and awareness on relevance and effectiveness of PID through sharing and learning.
- iv. Mainstream PID as an accepted approach within targeted national and international policies and programs related to agricultural development, natural resource management (NRM) and climate-change adaptation (CCA).

This annual report covers the year 2014.

## Implementation of activities

### 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).

#### 1.1 Documentation of two local innovations

A survey of some local innovations by small-scale farmers in the two districts of Nakansogola and Moyo was conducted by Kulika and EA. The eleven local innovations identified and documented are:

Moyo District:

- Irrigation of banana and fruits;
- Control of poultry diseases and pests using local herbs;
- Improved transitional beehive to reduce hive cost and improve colonisation.



*Anthony explains his innovation in Moyo District*

Nakasongola District:

- Use of surface running water for irrigation and animal manure use for growth and yield of oranges;
- Use of local materials to process feed for pigs;
- Durability and efficiency of fuel-saving stoves made from small anthills;
- Increasing the shelf-life of herbal medicines;
- Bulk marketing of ghee;
- Village saving and credit scheme and collective growing and marketing of cassava.



*The Environmental Protection Group members in Nakasongola receiving guidance from an officer from NARO/MUZARDI on how to plan for their tree-nursery experiments*

The information about these innovations was documented and shared with other PROLINNOVA–Uganda partners. The sharing influenced partners, especially the Nakasongola and Moyo Districts Local Governments, to recognise farmers as innovation and researchers and to appreciate farmers' efforts and creativity in addressing farming challenges.

## **1.2 Further development of farmer innovations (joint experimentation)**

The further development of the innovations (4 developed by women and 7 by households) has been supported by technical experts from Kulika and EA, the district agricultural officers in Moyo and Nakasongola, and researchers from MUZARDI and ABIZARDI. These innovative farmers have mobilised neighbouring farmers and raised awareness about farmer-led innovation processes and their importance in developing local solutions to farming constraints. The overall effect of these activities has been increased interest among farmers in applying their innovative capacities in dealing with farming constraints, and increased interest of other development actors in the districts in supporting farmers to innovate in agriculture and NRM.

## **1.3 Training community groups to strengthen local adaptive capacity**

A total of 140 (88 female, 52 male) farmer leaders, farmers and community members have been trained in PID and climate-change adaptation in the two project districts. This training was aimed at developing the innovative capacity of the farmers in the wider community in order to stimulate innovation and develop skills in experimentation for better innovation. During the training, the importance of working with other research and development (R&D) actors – e.g. extension workers, researchers and policymakers – for more intensive interaction in innovation was emphasised and information was provided on the location of such R&D actors in the respective districts.

## **2. 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**

### **2.1 Training organisations in PID and CCA**

Training in PID and CCA was conducted for EA and Kulika staff, lead farmers and staff of other R&D agencies in the project districts. The first phase of the training was conducted on 3–7 March 2014 and had 21 participants (9 female, 12 male). The second phase of the training was conducted on 23–26 June 2014 and had 20 participants (8 female, 12 male). The training covered all the relevant topics in PID and CCA. The trained staff has been

facilitating farmer-led innovation initiatives primarily through provision of relevant information. There was a little time-lag between the first and second phases of the training; however, all the targeted staff of partner organisations from Moyo and Nakasongola Districts attended the training. Refresher training was given to eight (3 female and 5 male) staff members of Nakasongola District on 10–12 June 2014 to enhance the capacities of district staff in PID, farmer-led documentation, monitoring and evaluation.

## **2.2 Training of CBOs in management and governance of Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF)**

A total of 140 (88 female, 52 male) farmer leaders, farmers and community members in the project districts were trained on all aspects of LISF (Moyo LISF training: 7–8 October 2014; Nakasongola LISF training: 30 Sept–2 October 2014). The capacities of the community-based organisations (CBOs) in management and governance of LISFs has been enhanced. The CBOs involved in LISFs have set up committees to manage the funds. The challenge with management of LISFs by farmers is how to ensure that the funds are channelled towards supporting innovation processes and not to some other pressing needs, and how to address the high expectations, considering that the funds available in the project are very limited. Further training on management of LISFs will be conducted and learning exchanges will be organised in 2015. When LISFs are well managed by the farmers and CBOs, they can facilitate farmers to leverage additional funds from other development partners. Kulika and EA will exercise close monitoring of the functioning of the LISF committees and the management and use of the LISFs to ensure that the funds are properly managed.

## **2.3 Disbursement of funds**

LISF funds have been disbursed to five innovators and two farmer groups in Nakasongola District. LISF structures were being established and developed in Moyo District by the end of 2014 in preparation for disbursement of funds to support farmer-led innovation and experimentation activities.

## **3. Increase insights and awareness on relevance and effectiveness of PID through sharing and learning**

### **3.1 Organise National Steering Committee meeting**

The National Steering Committee (NSC) comprises ten members from MAAIF, NARO, NAADS, Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA), International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE), Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (NCST), the Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation in Makerere University, Africa 2000 Network (A2N) and Environmental Alert (PROLINNOVA–Uganda Secretariat). It provides overall oversight and strategic guidance in implementation of the network's activities. An NSC meeting was organised on 28 August 2014 and attended by seven of the ten members. The meeting involved the partners in planning, learning and assessing the work done.

### **3.2 Organise two Core-Team meetings**

The Core Team comprises PELUM Uganda, Kulika Uganda, Kikandwa Environment Association (KEA), NARO/MUZARDI and EA (which also hosts the PROLINNOVA–Uganda Secretariat and coordinator). It provides technical backstopping to the CP Secretariat and members with respect to advancing PID. A Core-Team meeting was organised on 27 June 2014 and was attended by eight out of ten members. The partners were updated on the progress of the CLIC–SR project and strategies for maintaining the vibrancy of PROLINNOVA–Uganda network. The meeting discussed and reviewed the strategies for maintaining the network.

The CLIC–SR project lead organisations (EA and Kulika) hold regular meetings to review implementation plans and to plan and coordinate implementation of activities.

### **3.3 Attended International Partners Workshop (IPW)**

PROLINNOVA–Uganda was represented by Kulika in the IPW, which was held in Cambodia on 12–15 May 2014. The purpose was to bring together the Country Platforms (CPs), the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group, and the International Secretariat and other International Support Team (IST) members of the international PROLINNOVA network to review progress made during the past year, share experiences and learn from each other.

The partners also celebrated the 10th anniversary of PROLINNOVA as a global partnership. The representative from Kulika exhibited and distributed documentary materials on PROLINNOVA activities in Uganda.

### **3.4 Attending International Conference**

PROLINNOVA–Uganda was represented by Kulika in a conference on community-based adaptation and resilience learning organised by Care International in Ethiopia on 1–4 September 2014. The purpose of the workshop was to facilitate learning from experiences and evidence of CCA, in particular community-based adaptation (CBA) and resilience. Experiences from PROLINNOVA–Uganda’s CLIC–SR work were shared with the other participants. During the conference, Uganda’s representative was interviewed by journalists on climate change issues.

### **3.4 Organised and carried out radio talk show on the Voice of the Nile**

PROLINNOVA–Uganda organised a radio talk show on 9 October 2014 in Moyo District. The purpose was to raise awareness about local innovation and how R&D actors can support farmer-led innovation for CCA.

## **4. Mainstream PID as an accepted approach within targeted national and international policies and programs related to agricultural development, NRM and CCA**

### **4.1 Country-based policy dialogue**

Environmental Alert participated in a 3-day workshop (28–30 October 2014) at Golf Course Hotel that was organised by the Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services to develop policy to guide extension and advisory services. A presentation on PID was made. Consequently, it was agreed and recommended by the participants that farmers have to be considered as partners in the extension and advisory services rather than as merely receivers of information from extension staff, and that the national extension policy should promote farmer-led innovation among other approaches. The PROLINNOVA partners in Uganda will actively participate in the extension policy development process and will ensure that those recommendations are incorporated into the policy.

## **5. Management and coordination**

Follow-up and support to trained facilitators of PID and CCA was done from 29 April to 8 May 2014 in Moyo and Nakasonola Districts. During the follow-up training, additional topics for inclusion in the second phase of the training were identified.

On 4–12 June 2014, monitoring and support visits were made to facilitators trained in PID and CCA in the CLIC–SR project areas in Nakasongola and Moyo Districts. The purpose was to follow up on the trainees and provide technical guidance in implementing the action plans they had developed during the first phase of the training.

A monitoring visit was conducted in Nakasongola on 24–27 November 2014. Progress with joint experimentation and implementation of LISFs in seven farmers’ groups was tracked, and farmers were provided with technical support. A similar monitoring visit was conducted for Moyo on 6–11 October 2014.

### **Lessons learnt**

- Monitoring innovation processes progressively helps to identify bottlenecks or challenges and to collectively assess progress.
- Not all group members can participate at all times, but lead experimenters have to be involved all the time.
- Some individual members are not very happy that control over the LISF is by the entire group.
- Leaders in rural communities and farmer innovators often tend to be the same people. This sometimes leads to conflict of interest when setting up and managing LISFs, as the leaders and direct beneficiaries may not be separate. PROLINNOVA-Uganda needs to help the community structures and leaders to deal properly with this conflict of interest, as part of strengthening local institutions.

### **Way forward**

- Continuous encouragement, sensitisation and mediation, when necessary, are important.
- Openness, teamwork and cooperation are helpful for continuity during problematic times and will be continuously encouraged.