

Prolinnova–Burkina Faso annual report 2016 – summary¹

The activities of the Country Platform (CP) in Burkina Faso in 2016 are part of the implementation of two major projects: FaReNe (Strengthening Farmer-led Research Networks in the Sahel) and Proli-FaNS (Promoting Local Innovation in Food and Nutrition Security). The Burkina Faso partners have continued to implement the FaReNe project, which is hosted by the international non-governmental organisation (NGO) World Neighbors. They have strengthened the capacities of staff members in implementing PID, and held feedback sessions at the project sites. Ongoing joint experiments have been monitored, a farmer research network has been set up, and a mechanism for establishing the Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF) has been put in place.

PROLINNOVA–Burkina Faso (BF) took part in the inception workshop of Proli-FaNS project held in Accra, Ghana, on 14–19 November. As a result of its involvement in Proli-FaNS, and to ensure good achievements, the implementation of Proli-FaNS in Burkina Faso was entrusted to the NGO Diobass, after internal discussions aimed at resolving the problems associated with the earlier designation of Réseau MARP to carry out this project. During community consultations conducted to select 20 innovations that could be subjected to PID, the objectives of the Proli-FaNS project were widely shared with the various local actors. The CP in Burkina Faso was also heavily involved in preparing and implementing the PID training workshop for building and upgrading capacities in the African francophone CPs involved in Proli-FaNS.

As part of capacity building and networking, PROLINNOVA–BF took part in several international meetings. It was represented at the capacity-building workshop on research methods, organised for the McKnight Foundation-funded organisations and held in March in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. PROLINNOVA–BF was represented at the International Partners Workshop (IPW) held in Thiès, Senegal, on 16–19 March, as well as at the meeting of CPs in the FaReNe project held on this occasion. The Burkina Faso partners also benefited from a leadership training workshop organised from 30 May to 2 June 2016 in Ouagadougou by the McKnight Foundation.

PROLINNOVA–BF is currently facing some governance issues. The transition from 20 organisations at its creation in 2007 to three organisations in 2016 reveals the extent of the decline it is experiencing. The coordination of the CP by the same organisation, Réseau MARP, since the platform was set up also reflects a certain form of heritage that has affected the operation and development of the network. As a result, there is a lack of commitment by member organisations, which no longer take active part in network initiatives. To solve these problems and relaunch the CP so that it becomes more dynamic, the Burkina Faso partners – on their own initiatives – held several meetings to discuss openly the difficulties that undermine their CP. These meetings revealed the need to re-organise the network through the establishment of new management bodies, including a National Steering Committee (NSC), which will be the main governance and control structure, and a Coordination Team as the executing and coordinating body for the day-to-day activities of the network. To achieve this, the content of PROLINNOVA guidelines No. 11 on the organisational structure of CPs, as well as other advice and recommendations from the inception workshop of the Proli-FaNS project in November, were widely shared with stakeholders from all member organisations. This made it possible for all national partners to have the same level of information, which is necessary for the success of the reforms envisaged and collectively decided.

¹ Summary by Georges Djohy, Subregional Coordinator for West & Central Africa