



PROLINNOVA–India Report 2014

PROLINNOVA–India completed three years of its existence as member of the global network. We learnt much from fellow members and tried to contribute to strengthening our network and bringing its message to more people. Innovation processes and Participatory Innovation Development are much used words now but less understood in all their dimensions and details. However, this makes it difficult to access funds for our work since competition has widened, which is also a good thing in itself, but constrains the activities of PROLINNOVA–India. Hence, many PROLINNOVA activities were woven into regular work.

PROLINNOVA–India continued third-year implementation of the regional project “Local Innovation and Experimentation for Climate Change Adaptation” (LINEX–CCA) together with PROLINNOVA–Cambodia, PROLINNOVA–Nepal and PROLINNOVA’s International Secretariat in the Netherlands. In January 2014, PROLINNOVA–India shared with the network the LINEX–CCA reports for July–Dec 2013. In July, the report for Jan–June 2014 was shared. Both documents of the project were uploaded on the PROLINNOVA website.

In January 2014, PROLINNOVA–India participated in the e-evaluation of the PROLINNOVA international network conducted by IIRR. Also in January, PROLINNOVA–India connected with the Asian Farmers Association (AFA) headquartered in the Philippines and its Executive Director, Esther Penunia. On 31 January, AFA and Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE) representatives met with the Executive Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) to explore possibilities of support for organizing an Asian Farmer Innovation Fair and workshop. The proposal received a positive response and requires follow-up.

On 5 February, Sonali Bisht, coordinator of PROLINNOVA–India from INHERE, spoke to students of Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi and Michigan State University, USA, on promoting local innovation, food security, values chains, livelihoods and livelihood security. INHERE staff members participated in a conference on organic farming in Bhutan. They also participated in a regional workshop on 8 February in Almora, India, on mainstreaming agro-biodiversity conservation and utilization in the agriculture sector to ensure ecosystem services and reduce vulnerability. This workshop was organized by Biodiversity International, NGPRI (National Plant Genetic Resources Institute), India, and VPKAS (Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anysandhan Kendra), ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) for inputs into a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project. VPKAS is a collaborating partner of PROLINNOVA–India and works closely on the LINEX–CCA project.

Six documents shared by a consultant from Misereor, Germany, on climate change were translated into Hindi for use by partner organizations who work at field level in the Hindi language.

The IFOAM conference on organic and ecological agriculture in mountain ecosystems was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, on 5–8 March. Dr Azeb Worku from the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) in Ethiopia had put on display, among other publications from Ethiopia, the booklet *Some Examples of Best Practices by Small Holder Farmers in Ethiopia*, a co publication of PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia developed by Hailu Araya, Yohannes

Gebremichael and Sue Edwards. PROLINNOVA–India (through INHERE as coordinating organization of the network) also participated in the workshop and spoke about the PROLINNOVA global network and its work globally and in India.

PROLINNOVA–India participated in the state consultation focusing on gender and climate change in the Indian Himalayan Region on 30 April at Dehradun, Uttarakhand, organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). IUCN carried out a short study titled ‘Gender and Climate Change in the Indian Himalayan Region’. The state consultation was a process to share and get feedback on findings regarding the current status of women vis-à-vis climate change impacts, women’s potential role in adapting to climate change and an analysis of policy options for the same.

The Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA) in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) organized a workshop on Youth and Climate Change in Uttarakhand on 29–30 April for young researchers to identify approaches to improve research in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) focusing on climate change. The workshop had the objective to expose youth to the climatic stress and challenges that IHR has and also encourage them to take up research in an efficient manner. A resource person from INHERE spoke on the topic of agriculture and climate change to provide a better understanding and outlook to the participants. INHERE wove in its presentation the experience from LINEX–CCA, which generated interest and enthusiasm among the young people.

On behalf of PROLINNOVA–India, INHERE participated in a workshop on tools for assessing climate change resilience, held in Jabalpur at Jabalpur Diocesan Social Service Society in 28 April–2 May for Misereor partners in India working on climate change issues. Sonali Bisht was a resource person for the session on sharing experience on dealing with climate change.

PROLINNOVA–India participated in the 10th PROLINNOVA International Partners Workshop (IPW) and the joint PROLINNOVA–Asia meeting on the LINEX–CCA project, both held in May in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

INHERE participated in global policy consultations on formation of the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in June and in The Hague, Netherlands, in July, and shared its experience with PROLINNOVA–India colleagues.

On 29 November, the International Farmer Innovation Day was celebrated. A report on the event was shared with the international PROLINNOVA community soon after.

In December, PROLINNOVA–India interacted with Ingrid Flink, intern with the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat, who is compiling lessons from the LINEX–CCA project, and shared material and photographs with her. Good documentation of work done is always a great support and much appreciated.

INHERE as part of PROLINNOVA–India was facilitated by Chesha Wettasinha from the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat in developing the proposal for the second phase of the LINEX–CCA project, which has been approved by Misereor, with implementation beginning in January 2015.
