INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS WORKSHOP 2021

1 and 4–6 OCTOBER 2021

VIRTUAL EVENT

ORGANISED BY THE PROLINNOVA INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM AND MEMBERS OF THE PROLINNOVA OVERSIGHT GROUP

December 2021

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Marketplace: 1 October 2021

A marketplace that offers opportunity for Country Platforms (CPs) to share information about their activities is a key component of every Prolinnova International Partners Workshop (IPW). As the IPW 2021 was a virtual event, it also called for a virtual marketplace. A collaborative capacity-building programme involving Prolinnova and A Growing Culture (AGC) provided much of the material that was shared at the marketplace (for example a video on rooftop gardening in Nepal and a case of a social innovation related to use of a spring to supply water to rural households in South Africa. The CPs that participated (in the order that they presented material) were those in the Philippines, South India, Benin, Cambodia, Burkina Faso, Nepal, Kenya, Mozambique, Cameroon, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan and Ghana. The marketplace ran from 11.00 am to 14.00 Central European Time to accommodate participants from West Africa and from Asia, in particular Philippines. The process required multiple translations from local languages to English or French and then translation between English (anglophone countries), France (francophone countries) and Portuguese (Mozambique). Given that we did not have simultaneous translation facilities, the role of translation was shared between the participants, and we thank everyone who assisted for their important contribution (specifically Georges Djohy for English/French translations and Domingos Tsucane, Romuald Rutazihana and Jacob Wanyama for Portuguese/English translations. The event was attended by approximately 30 people from across the CPs (See Figure 1).
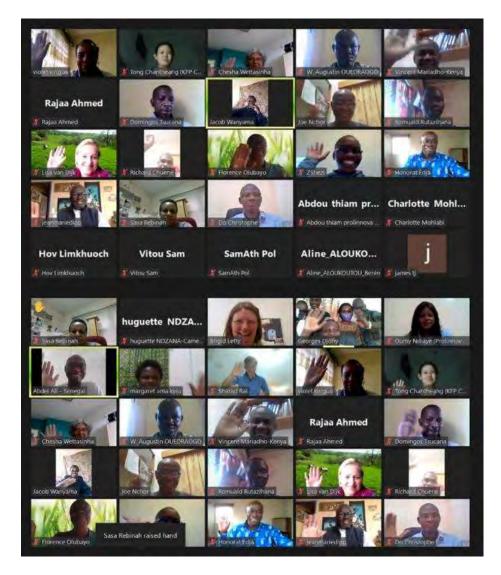

Figure 1 Screenshots from the marketplace on 1 October 2021.

Introduction to the International Partners Workshop

The purpose of the Prolinnova International Partners Workshop (IPW), which takes place every two years, is to provide an opportunity for representatives from the different CPs to come together and share on activities undertaken, reflect on key aspects (in this case regionalisation and institutionalisation), and make plans for joint actions that need to be undertaken. Without simultaneous translation facilities, the workshop required translation between French, English and Portuguese. This was a very tiring procedure for the translators and we thank them for their contribution. The action plan that was developed at the workshop is available in **Annex 1**, while the programme for the workshop is presented in **Annex 2**. As with the marketplace, approximately 30 people participated in this virtual event (see **Annex 3** for list of participants).

1   Day 1: 4 October 2021

1.1   Welcome and introductions

The IPW was opened by Abdel-Karim Ali Mahamane, Subregional Coordinator for West & Central Africa. Ann Waters-Bayer also shared a few words of welcome and provided some background and history about Prolinnova. She handed over to Suman Manhandar, co-chair of the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG), who formally welcomed everyone to the event. After a round of self-introductions, participants gave some feedback on the marketplace. The concept of Open Space (OS) was introduced so that participants could be reminded to capture in the chat any issues that they wanted to champion in the OS session.

1.2   Inspiring talk – Producers Direct

The first inspiring talk of the IPW was a presentation by Claire Rhodes of Producer Direct, which was a recording from a pre-conference webinar in May 2021 before the Farmer-centric On-Farm Experimentation Conference in October 2021 (see **Figure 2** and **Annex 4**). Her presentation on "Digital Tools for a Scalable Transformative Pathway" focused on the use of mobile phones and SMS (short message service) and can be accessed via this link: https://www.ispag.org/media/webinar/archives/PL%20-%2004%20-%20Claire%20Rhodes-REDUCED.mp4

Figure 2 Screenshots from the presentation on digitalisation.

1.3 Institutionalisation of Prolinnova approaches

1.3.1 Introduction

The focus of the first day's main session was institutionalisation of the approaches supported by Prolinnova, specifically participatory innovation development (PID). Lisa Williams van Dijk (POG Co-chair) made a short presentation to introduce the theme of institutionalisation (see **Figure 3**). She explained the learning-history methodology used by CPs to document some of their experiences (highs and lows) in the process of institutionalisation and to draw key lessons. The first two steps were undertaken by CPs ahead of the IPW and several CPs had prepared PPTs based on the templates provided.

Session objectives: Institutionalisation of the PID approach
Objectifs de la session : Institutionnalisation de l'approche PID

Based on your reflections/ En fonction de vos réflexions:

- to share CPs' experiences and cross-learning between CPs on institutionalisation of PID
partager les expériences des CP et l'apprentissage croisé entre les CP sur l'institutionnalisation du PID

- to identify the key learnings and discuss how to take these forward on network, regional and country level
identifier les principaux enseignements et discuter de la manière de les faire progresser au niveau des réseaux, des régions et des pays.

PROLINNOVA
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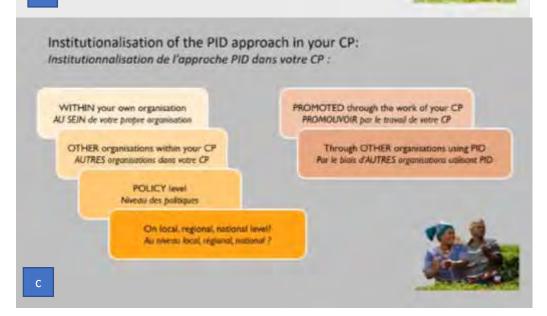
What do we mean with "institutionalisation"?
Qu'entendons-nous par "institutionnalisation"

A process in which the PID ideas, approaches and practices are introduced, accepted and used by a wide variety of individuals and organisations, so that these become part of normal development practices in a CP

Un processus dans lequel les idées, les approches et les pratiques de PID sont introduites, acceptées et utilisées par une grande variété d'individus et d'organisations, de sorte qu'elles deviennent partie intégrante des pratiques normales de développement dans une PC.

Institutionalisation of the PID approach in your CP:
Institutionnalisation de l'approche PID dans votre CP :

WITHIN your own organisation
AU SEIN de votre propre organisation

PROMOTED through the work of your CP
PROMOUVOIR par le travail de votre CP

OTHER organisations within your CP
AUTRES organisations dans votre CP

Through OTHER organisations using PID
Par le biais d'AUTRES organisations utilisant PID

POLICY level
Niveau des politiques

On local, regional, national level?
Au niveau local, régional, national ?

Figure 3 (a-d) Slides from the introduction to the session on institutionalisation.

1.3.2 Group discussions and feedback and plenary discussion

Vincent k'Mariadho shared the experiences of Prolinnova-Kenya with institutionalising the PID approach. After this, the participants were placed in three small breakout groups according to subregion/region: West & Central Africa (WCA), Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) and Asia. As the discussions in the WCA group were in French, the participants from Ghana were requested to join the ESA grou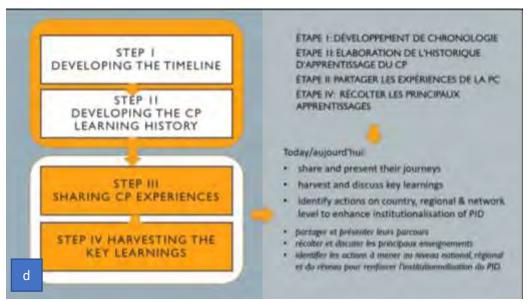p, which discussed in English. The assignment for the groups was to undertake the next two steps in the learning-history exercise, namely: a) to share experiences in institutionalisation gathered through the learning-history exercise in each CP; and b) to harvest key lessons to be shared in plenary. Due to time constraints, the group exercise had to be done in 20 minutes. None of the groups could complete the assignment in this short time but, in the plenary, they shared the following points drawn from their group discussions.

Group feedback in plenary
- WCA group (feedback provided Bernard Triomphe)
  - The entry point for institutionalisation should be with an institution, and not with individuals. It is fine to work with individuals, but the process of / responsibility for institutionalisation should be with the institution.
  - In some countries (e.g. Burkina Faso), getting the engagement of formal researchers is a challenge which often involves demands to pay them for their involvement.
  - Doing activities towards the goal of institutionalisation should not be confused with achievement of institutionalisation. The activities are simply the means that lead to the goal.
  - The Benin CP, which is new in the network, is using lessons from other CPs to develop their strategy for institutionalisation.
- ESA group (feedback provided by Fanos Mekonnen Birke)
  - In relation to Ghana:
    - Local multistakeholder platforms were important in institutionalising PID at local level. The technical support teams at local level include formal researchers.
    - Annual awards for farmer innovators given at farmer innovation days and other events helped to get buy-in from policymakers.
    - Prolinnova-Ghana has developed a long-term strategy for institutionalisation of PID.
    - It is easier to influence individuals, but harder to influence an entire institution.

- o In relation to Sudan:
  - Institutionalising the PID approach has been challenging due to various reasons such as lack of funding for activities, changes in host organisation, and ongoing conflict in the country.
  - A big challenge is to go beyond short-term project funding to sustain the efforts/ activities.
- Asia group (feedback provided by Brigid Letty)
  - o In relation to (South) India:
    - Attention to local innovation began in the '80s with the Honey Bee network.
    - Later, the National Innovation Foundation was set up to support local innovators.
    - The focus is on the "innovations" (the products) and not the process of innovation.
    - The involvement of policymakers, formal institutions and the media has brought wide attention to the importance of local innovation.
  - o In relation to Cambodia:
    - There is need for policy support including donors who support the process.
    - If many people adopt the PID approach, then it can become part of life.
    - More emphasis is required on scaling up.

Plenary discussion: insights and lessons on institutionalising PID
- There is a need to focus on institutionalising the PID approach within an organisation/ department/ structure/ system. So far, achievements are finding entry points at the individual level but it is still difficult to get entry points at the organisation level.
- By mapping our CP's history, we got to document the institutionalisation process and extract lessons learnt.
- There is more focus on the activities of institutionalisation in the CP and not on the effect of these activities.
- There is a need to differentiate between implementing activities for PID institutionalisation and having actually institutionalised PID.
- If enough people adopt an approach/ innovation, that can itself influence policy.
- The lessons coming from other CPs on PID institutionalisation are useful for defining strategies for institutionalisation and exchange and learning among the CPs.
- PID institutionalisation can take place at different levels and in different structures. For instance, in Cambodia, some ministries picked up the PID approach while others did not. Only a department or a taskforce in an organisation might mainstream the PID approach.

Prolinnova tool for assessing PID institutionalisation
The session was concluded with a presentation by Fanos Mekonnen Birke, a member of the Prolinnova International Support Team (IST), on the tool developed by Prolinnova in 2008–10 to assess institutionalisation based on work she had undertaken in Cambodia and Ethiopia (see **Annex 5** for presentation by Fanos).

That brought the session to the close of Day 1.

2 Day 2: 5 October 2021

2.1 Start & reflection on Day 1

Brigid Letty asked participants to share their views on the first day. A number of participants highlighted the value of the institutionalisation session and lessons for other CPs – especially for the

new CP in Benin. Regarding the digitalisation presentation, it was noticed that the SMS technology seems to be a simple and accessible means for digitalisation, as it does not require that farmers have access to smartphones.

2.2 Feedback from Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG)

Lisa Williams van Dijk, as Co-chair, gave a presentation on behalf of the POG (see **Annex 6** for the ppt) and then invited comments from the participants.

Some of the points raised by participants were:
- The need to be honest and transparent about quiet CPs so that the POG can assist.
- Projects are not only a means to an end; they are a way to achieve our objectives, but we need to find ways to be active without funding.
- The success of Prolinnova depends on leadership – highlighting the value of leadership capacity of Lisa and Ann Waters-Bayer (who reminds us of the history of the network, keeping notes and so on).
- Jacob Wanyama, the Subregional Coordinator (SRC) for ESA, was thanked for his role in making Sudan an active CP.
- A query was raised regarding the relationship between the International Support Team (IST) and the CPs, for example Chesha Wettasinha assisting with the tailor-made training (TMT) projects. Ann confirmed the roles of the SRCs and efforts to *southernise* the network.
- Abdel Ali (SRC for WCA) added a comment that SRCs are supposed to support the CPs but sometimes the type of assistance that the CPs need is not clear. Thus, requests should come from the CPs – for support in advocacy, proposal writing, institutionalisation, etc.

2.3 Regionalisation of the Prolinnova network

The main session of the day focused on regionalisation and was facilitated by Bernard Triomphe and Ann Waters-Bayer. Ann introduced the session and gave the background and the need for southernising the network:

In early years, the Prolinnova network was coordinated by the NGO ETC EcoCulture in the Netherlands. Then, during International Partners Workshops (IPWs) in 2010 and 2011, the participants from the CPs, IST and POG decided that the network should be **decentralised into Regional Platforms to coordinate collaboration, mutual learning and joint advocacy** within each region. Partners in the South would gradually take over the roles of the IST – then made up of a few people in ETC – and only a small contact point would remain in the North.

This led to the development of a regional project in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania & Uganda) called CLIC–SR (Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research); it was funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and ran from 2012 to 2016. At the IPW 2014, one of the Open-Space discussions was on strengthening the regional platform in Eastern Africa to mainstream PID by engaging with regional fora for agricultural research and advisory services. Similar ideas were behind the collaboration of CPs in Asia (Cambodia, Nepal & India) in the LINEX–CCA (Local Innovation & Experimentation for Climate-Change Adaptation) project in 2012–14, funded by Misereor (Germany) and the collaboration of all CPs in WCA in organising a regional Farmer Innovation Fair in 2015 in Burkina Faso.

This concept of "regionalisation" in terms of enhancing collaboration at regional level for **South–South learning, policy influence and raising funds for joint projects** was already mentioned in the Prolinnova strategy for 2011–15. It was detailed further in the strategy for 2016–20 and in the current strategy for 2021–25.

According to this strategy, the network is developing a **decentralised regionalised structure** with strong internal linkages. The CPs are forming regional platforms with coordinators, taskforces and virtual "secretariats" to increase CP–CP sharing and learning, to create multi-CP projects, to coordinate external linkages with new partners at regional level, and to plan and carry out policy-dialogue activities. These regional platforms are also expected to communicate closely with each other.

Ann explained that she, together with Bernard and Sharad, organised this session on regionalisation with the **aim** that we all be inspired by and learn from examples of multi-CP activities in different regions. We want to find out how the CPs have been able to collaborate in: 1) learning from each other, such as about farmer-led joint research & innovation, about CP governance or about multi-stakeholder partnerships, 2) planning joint activities, such as farmer innovation fairs, workshops, cross-visits or multi-CP projects and 3) engaging in policy influence at regional level to mainstream PID, in communication also with other organisations and networks concerned with agricultural research and development.

After the brief history, the next steps were to: 1) **brainstorm** about how participants saw regionalisation, what it brought and what it could bring; 2) **share some experiences** of regional collaboration between CPs; and 3) **discuss** what worked well and why – and what didn't go so well and why. The aim was to draw lessons for strengthening the efforts within the Prolinnova network to collaborate within the different regions.

Feedback captured in the chat from brainstorming

What has or could regionalisation bring?
- Looking at issues at regional scale (cross-CP initiatives)
- Increased capacity support from SRCs/IST, increased networking and improved inter-communication within the subregional CPs
- *Nous avons bénéficié de ressources humaines de qualité supplémentaires avec les Coordinateurs sous régionaux* (We have benefited from additional quality human resources with the SRCs)
- Learning from each other
- We gained for joint project development
- CPs not operating in isolation
- Sharing of experience from other CPs
- Enhanced backstopping; enabled peer learning among CPs
- Networking between neighbouring countries
- *Pour moi, c'est la proximité des conseil, communication et conseil et une planification des actions et meilleurs communication avec les PPs* (for me, it is the proximity of advice, communication and advice and planning of actions and better communication with the CPs)
- In West Africa, we have had access to an opportunity to develop a concept note to GIZ that would not be possible without a regional framework
- *Appui des CSR, apprentissage mutuel, mise en œuvre de projets communs* (Support of SRCs, mutual learning, implementation of joint projects)
- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Learning and networking, sharing ideas and experiences
- More commitment of the CPs in the sense of networking
- *L'apprentissage mutuel renforce la collaboration entre plateforme pays* (Mutual learning strengthens collaboration between CPs)
- Create an opportunity to have joint experiences and project
- Get technical support

What would you like to gain from regionalisation in the future?	

- *Renforce les liens qui existent entre différents PPs* (Strengthen the links that exist between different CPs)
- Form initial leadership team and establish steering committee
- More regular interaction between CPs
- Increased advocacy for recognition of innovators and support of innovators in innovation development
- Physical backstopping and monitoring by SRCs and IST, inter-CP exchange visits for exchange and learning
- More support in advocacy concerning subregional and regional institutions for local innovation (LI)
- Upscaling and outscaling some of the innovations across the region
- Learning, sharing and advocacy on LI/PID
- Joint fundraising and advocacy
- More support for proposal writing for funds
- Partnerships and collaborative programmes
- *Partage d'expériences sur l'institutionnalisation* (Sharing experiences on institutionalisation)
- More communication and exchanges
- More video documentation on innovations for wider sharing
- *Faciliter la collaboration et le renforcement des processus d'IL et DPI* (Facilitate collaboration and strengthening of LI and PID processes)
- *Monter des stratégie de mobilisation des moyens pour des plaidoyer pour l'institutionnalisation du DPI dans les instances sous régionales, tels que CEDEAO, UEMOA* (set up strategies to mobilise resources for advocacy for the institutionnalisation of PID in the subregional bodies, such as ECOWAS, UEMOA)

After the **presentation by Abdel Ali about the farmer innovation fair in Cameroon** (see **Annex 7** for the PPT), as an example of a regional activity, there was some discussion. The report is on the website (http://www.prolinnova.net/content/25-27-nov-west-african-workshop-research-smallholders28-29-nov-west-africa-farmer-innovation). It was noted that some of the countries involved in the Farmer Innovation Fair in West Africa in 2015 were not members of the Prolinnova network at the time so, through this event, we reached out to other countries in the region to share the PID approach (http://fipao.faso-dev.net/). The final report on that fair takes stock of all the innovations presented and awarded by country (report in French: http://fipao.faso-dev.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Rapport-Atelier-FIPAO-July-2015-final-2.pdf ; in English: http://fipao.faso-dev.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Rapport-Atelier-FIPAO-July-2015-final-2.pdf).

There was also some discussion about the LINEX–CCA **(Local INnovation and EXperimentation: an entry point to Climate-Change Adaptation for sustainable livelihoods in Asia)** project, another example of a regional activity, after a presentation made by Sharad Rai (see **Annex 8** for the PPT).

Jacob Wanyama then shared a presentation about **regionalisation activities in Eastern and Southern Africa**, which included three cross-visits and two cases of resource mobilisation (see **Annex 9** for the PPT).

There had been plans to have group discussions after the presentation but there was no time available because of the extra time required for translations so the decision was taken to include institutionalisation as a topic in the open-space session.

2.4 Inspiring talk

Million Belay gave a very well received presentation about the experience of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) with collaboration between organisations in different countries in Africa to influence policy (see **Annex 10**).

Figure 4 Opening slide from the presentation by Million Belay.

This led to closure of the second day of the IPW.

3   Day 3: 6 October 2021

3.1 Start & reflection on Day 2

Ann Waters-Bayer facilitated a brief reflection by workshop participants on Day 2 of the IPW. There were several favourable comments especially on Million's presentation on AFSA and Sharad's presentation on the LINEX–CCA project. It was suggested that AFSA might be a good partner for Prolinnova. Another point raised was that the relationships between CPs and partnering with each other are important for regionalisation (collaborative activities and to support institutionalisation) and that we could learn from some aspects of AFSA such as flexibility.

3.2 Open-Space discussions

The history of the Open-space approach for Prolinnova

Ever since the very first IPW was held in Ethiopia in 2004, we have used an Open-space (OS) methodology to encourage Prolinnova partners to raise issues and ideas that they would like to discuss and to find other workshop participants who would like to discuss this with them. Some important developments in the Prolinnova network have emerged from OS discussions, e.g. creation of a governance mechanism (POG), creation of the group "Friends of Prolinnova", generating ideas for collaboration in promoting local innovation in the face of climate change

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(which eventually led to the LINEX–CCA project), generating ideas for a new project in Africa on PID by communities affected by HIV/AIDS (HAPID) and developing plans for joint publications.

The OS methodology was developed in the mid-1980s by an American management consultant for the business world. It is a participant-driven way of organising a meeting where the participants create the agenda themselves. It is ideal for a network like Prolinnova that runs on the energy of ideas initiated by the network members. We all share a focus on promoting local innovation and PID with a view to integrating this approach into agricultural research, advisory services and education. The OS session creates space for new ideas to be developed in a participatory way to achieve the objective of our network. The topics for discussion are raised during the first days of the IPW. These may be questions participants want to discuss in more depth or new ideas that participants dream up to help Prolinnova achieve its objectives. In a face-to-face meeting, these ideas are collected on cards or a flipchart sheet. When the OS session starts, the participants decide which topics they want to discuss. We used to do this by writing our names under the topic of interest on a flipchart. It is also possible to choose two topics (1st and 2nd priority) and then, halfway through the OS session, you can move to your 2nd choice of group. Some topics may be discussed during both rounds. However, if the discussion is completed in the first round, then it does not have to continue in the second round, and all participants in that group can go to another group.

The person who raised the issue or idea generally remains with the group for the entire time and takes notes on the discussion. Whenever possible, we try to come to a decision about what the next steps will be with regard to the issue or idea, who will be involved and who will coordinate the action. In the plenary, each group presents a brief summary of what it discussed and decided/ planned. Participants who were in other groups can still express their interest to be involved in activities proposed in the plenary by any group. During the Prolinnova planning session on the last afternoon of the IPW, the plans that emerge from the OS discussions are added to the action plan for the coming year.

Five topics and facilitators were proposed for the OS session:

1. What are the opportunities and challenges of digitalisation in promoting local innovation and PID in ecological agriculture and NRM? (for short: "Digitalisation in PID") – Lisa
2. Publication on learning from what worked and did not work in institutionalising PID (for short: "Publication on institutionalising PID") – Abdel
3. Aligning the PID approach with other potential approaches to achieve development/project goals – Sharad
4. Exchange of experience (mutual learning) on how farmers, extensionists and researchers are being trained in PID – Mabrouk
5. Successes, challenges and lessons on the regionalisation process – Wanyama

The feedback from each of the groups is summarised below.

3.2.1   Opportunities and challenges for digitalisation in the network

- SMS seems the most efficient way to reach smallholders because other technology and platforms are not as popular. Everyone, even with small simple phones, can communicate.
- Many smallholders in remote areas do have mobile phones.
- Even if people don't have phones, there are groups where at least one person/leader has a phone, which allows for communication.
- Cheap for sharing, networking with others but challenge is people are not used to digital technology – mainly younger people are more comfortable with it.
- Need to promote and build capacity to use the technology.

- Experiences from India (Kerala): smartphones are popular and available, especially the younger people own them (below 40 years of age). James is working with an organisation that is developing an app for farmers to submit innovations; the information will be held by the coordinating organisation and it is getting consent from the farmers to share it.

- Experience from SA: using Whatsapp allows for sharing between group members but how does one prevent some people using up too much data of others by sharing videos.

- Experience from central Mozambique: use different forms of communication. Initially, sent SMS to inform farmers about events or information such as disease outbreaks. They also got feedback from the field via SMS. Smartphones were used during the last two cyclones (2019/20), when it wasn't possible for the NGO to go visit the farmers to see how they were affected, but they sent photos and videos. In another activity where they were training people on financial inclusion, the savings groups were obliged to ensure one smartphone per group. Facebook not used; mainly audio, SMS and pictures used to communicate with people in remote areas. Different mobile phone operators can be accessed in different areas so generally not a connectivity problem, but there is a challenge with recharging phones. Lisa asked whether the requirement for a smart phone in the group excluded certain people. Romuald said there were always people who could be the contact person so others were not excluded – even illiterate people were not excluded because they would be called together to receive the messages.

- Experiences from Cambodia: in general, travel not possible, especially with Covid19 restrictions. They can't use Zoom but do use smartphones. See lots of video documentation on techniques farmers want to share, especially regarding marketing their produce. Access and connectivity is now much better except for some very remote areas. Older people are not familiar with smartphones but below age 40, most are using smartphones, or there are young people in the family who can provide support. Lisa: is there an issue in terms of women and are they excluded? In some indigenous communities where women have limited access to education and access to technologies, groups of farmers would allow advanced women to share with less advanced women. Farmers are able to upload pictures of problems. Language can also be a challenge within countries where there are several local languages spoken.

- Mutizwa Mukute shared a study of the impact of Covid19 on education (a publication) and also evaluation of a 4-year project (young and mature farmers in a social enterprise that involved producer groups). In both studies, there was uneven distribution of infrastructure (coverage and connectivity), which requires intervention from government. Affordability is an issue – not just the phone but a system for charging phones, plus buying data. Also, there is a lack of technical knowledge about how to use technical gadgets. Thus, resource-poor people tend to be disadvantaged and this possible exclusion needs to be taken into account. But the benefit is that it really speeds up transfer of information. Lisa asked whether he thinks we should be looking at it within Prolinnova. How could we use it within the network? Mutizwa suggested that we should tap into it, understanding the different contexts.

- Experiences from Kenya: Vincent shared that not so much work in digitalisation has been done by the CP, but they have used digitalisation to be able to download videos and to document farmer innovation processes. They have worried that, if they focused on digitalisation, they might dilute the whole process. So his question is: how do we make sure we do not adulterate the main goal of PID and promoting LI by utilising digitalisation?

- How could we use digitalisation within our own activities? Monitoring of PID? Monitoring of farmer experimentation? Sharing of problems? James shared some more experiences: farmer groups working on specific crops/practices have Facebook/Whatsapp groups and post their problems, and others respond based on their own experience. Could we be able to support PID more effectively using digitalisation if travel is not affordable?

- Lisa highlighted that we are looking at two levels of digitalisation: i) as a network and ii) working with farmers. It's just a tool to enhance what we are doing. How can we share what we are doing more widely and quicker? How do we support more peer-to-peer sharing? We may already be

using more digitalisation than we are aware of, for example, Zoom meetings for innovation fairs and our regional meeting?

- Several suggestions were made on how we could take this forward. We could use a 'blended approach' (digital and non-digital) and also use a more systems approach. We need to understand better what is currently already used by the CP members and how we can tap into this if we want to do this. Mapping of the existing situation and opportunities? What about a working group?

3.2.2   Publication on institutionalising PID

This group included Peter, Oumy, Etoa, Bernard, Chesha, Joe, Foster, Margaret, Abdel and Ann. The publication could be along the same lines as the earlier booklets that Prolinnova produced on its experiences, e.g. *Recognising local innovation*, *Farmer-led documentation*, *Farmer-led joint research*. There could be different forms of documentation for different audiences: booklet, policy brief, video, blog in social media; for video, we could contact Access Agriculture, with whom we have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

It is important to document not only activities to achieve institutionalisation but also the extent to which institutionalisation has been achieved, and which activities were most effective to do this in which setting. This will probably require some more research by the CPs. For all CPs interested in contributing, we will need an analytical framework to follow in documenting their experiences, along the lines of what Fanos outlined with her tool for measuring institutionalisation of PID.

It is also important to think about how to embed this documentation process within Prolinnova's wider strategy of institutionalising PID and to think strategically about which organisations beyond the countries we would like to influence, such as incorporating the idea of co-creation of knowledge through PID into the AFSA network, which has paid little attention to this dimension until now. This would be a form of institutionalisation within civil society concerned with food systems.

We would proceed in steps: first, documentation of cases of different CPs in a booklet, to be made available digitally, perhaps also in print; this will be a learning process to draw lessons about how to institutionalise PID. Using this evidence and these lessons, we will then proceed to the other forms of documentation, such as policy brief, video, social media. This whole process will probably take time: one year or even more. There is, however, some urgency in institutionalising PID, e.g. through using an experience from which to distil a few useful lessons, without waiting for the full process to have been completed.

A small group has been formed to develop a concept note on how to go forward with documenting these experiences: Bernard, Etoa – hopefully also Lisa and Fanos. The CN is to be ready by mid-Nov and shared with CPs, IST, POG & Friends of Prolinnova for comments. Then this group may continue or be changed to guide and support the CPs in documenting their institutionalisation experiences and in measuring the extent of institutionalisation. Lisa expressed interest in joining the group, as did Fanos (when she was asked after the workshop).

3.2.3   Aligning PID with other approaches

The following points emerged from the discussions within the group comprising Sharad Rai, Charlotte Mohlabi, Florence Olubayo and Mawahib Ahmed:

- Emphasis should be placed on building the PID approach aligned with multistakeholder approaches and networking.
- As part of the participatory and multistakeholder approach, involve donors, communities and farmers in projects from the inception phase itself.
- Adopt approaches that helps scale out results that come out of PID processes.

- A case of multi-stakeholder approach: Government research institution signs agreement (MoU) with the private sector and community groups that involves training students and transferring the knowledge and technology to farmers.
- Put effort in mainstreaming the PID approach in universities and research centres.
- Institutionalisation should be/is a part of the PID approach.
- PID is a process and not the final result. Hence, the approach needs to be flexible enough to meet objectives as per donor expectations but without manipulating the key essence of the whole approach.
- PID as a participatory process can also be used as an approach to assess community context.

3.2.4 Exchange of experience (mutual learning) on how farmers, extensionists and researchers are being trained in PID

Mohamed Mabrouk from Sudan and Hellen Mangoi from Kenya participated in this group. Mabrouk highlighted that the idea came when it was mentioned in one of the reports presented during the workshop that more than 2000 farmers had been trained in PID. He understood from the presentation that the key actors in PID had been trained separately from the other stakeholders, whereas the main theme of the PID training is ***participation.***

The discussion started by reflecting on the history of Prolinnova and PID in Sudan and that they used to make sure the participants in the PID training were composed of farmers, pastoralists, extension workers, researchers and academics, which offered a platform for communication, ice breaking and learning between the key actors in PID. The training was conducted in five regions of Sudan but, in the past 10 years and due to instability in the countryside, the programme slowed down.

Hellen said, area-wise, Kenya is a small country compared to Sudan. Her country enjoys political stability and security. Prolinnova–Kenya is doing the same regarding the composition of participants in PID trainings. They have some challenges with researchers who prefer the scientific conventional research methods to PID. She went on to say that innovative and creative farmers are recognised and identified during farmer fairs and exhibitions.

The wealth of information available on the Prolinnova website around specific concepts was highlighted.

3.2.5 Success, challenges and lessons on regionalisation of the network

This group had input from Georges Djohy, Honorat Edja and Aline Aloukoutou from Benin, Hov Limkhuoch from Cambodia and Jacob Wanyama from Kenya. The meeting was started off by a question: Is there anything that stood out in the three presentations on regionalisation experiences? The following are the responses from members of the group:

- In the region, we need to agree on what are the common goals and what activities we are going to carry out. Also about the model of regionalisation, for example in WCA, we need to discuss/ exchange ideas about what model and common goal we are going to use.
- In summary, we need common goals between all CPs and model of regionalisation; there should be a model and a planning process.
- There are some Prolinova guidelines for cross-visits. We need guidelines for collaborative activities or research. In these guidelines, we should make clear our understanding of the goal and, if and when there is conflict, who should address it and not send an email to the donor, as happened in the Asia case.
- Regionalisation could be at the activity level such as visits but also relationship-building. But it could also be just at the level of communication where there is bouncing of ideas between

countries. The question is how can we cultivate that. For example, two CPs can consult each other, not necessarily through the IST but involve it for backstopping.

- Million's presentation showed that one needs time to bring together francophone and anglophone countries because of some differences. In Prolinnova, we are very active at the subregional level where we are building two subregional platforms, i.e. in ESA & WCA, with the ultimate aim of forming an Africa regional platform. But when we come together as an Africa platform, there are differences between us, so we need to start early to learn but we are already doing initial steps towards establishing such a regional platform. We should find ways in which we can do cross-subregional work (francophone/anglophone) at operational level. We should improve communication between these subregions.

- We need to set up bench marks and indicators on the regionalisation process. That is how we measure our success/achievements, for example, in the areas of communication and resource mobilisation.

- Some years ago, we started the development of steering committees; we need to put some performance indicators to check progress in our actions in this regard.

- We need to develop guidelines that will allow for resolving and managing any problems/ conflicts. These should be a theoretical framework where partners can refer conflict issues to, for example, the POG or the IST. This is important as each CP and partner organisation has different ways of doing things.

Successes and challenges raised were:

- <u>Success</u>: Collaboration strengthened and provided an opportunity for partners to share ideas and capacity building in the region.

- <u>Challenges</u>: Collaboration did not work well where there was a difference in competence or interests among partners, as was demonstrated by the Asia case study. We need to improve contacts and understanding among cross-country partners.

3.3 Action planning

This session was facilitated by Chesha and Abdel (see **Figure 5)**. This reflected on the status of outstanding actions from the previous IPW and African Partners Workshop, as well as the inclusion of actions that had emerged during IPW 2021, specifically from discussions that took place during the open space sessions such as documenting institutionalisation experiences (see **Annex 1** for the action plan).

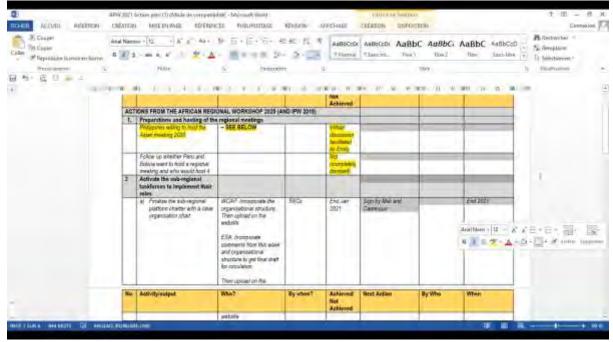*Figure 5 Development of the action plan during the IPW 2021.*

3.4   Evaluation of the workshop

The evaluation was done using the online tool Mentimeter, which asked participants to respond to the following questions:

- One thing that was most inspiring.
- One thing you learned that will be most useful for your CP.
- One thing we could have done better.

Figure 6 Responses to 'One thing that was most inspiring'.

Responses to 'One thing you learned that will be most useful for your CP:'
- Various approaches
- Importance of linking with other CPs
- Institutionalisation process to document and plan
- Go beyond telling about activities we implemented but look for evidence of the results obtained
- Systems and process
- Incorporation of digitalisation in PID
- Mechanism to coordinate regional joint project
- What regionalisation could bring on board
- Institutionalisation of the PID approach, that is, the way of going about it in order to have desired results
- Importance of monitoring institutionalisation
- PID relationship with scientific research, how to put them in partnership
- Good leadership as per AFSA Secretariat (selecting and working with skilled, knowledgeable and engaged people)
- Institutionalisation of PID, working with other CPs
- CPs should be active though funding is not available – try to involve innovative farmers in the network – don't have too big steering committee
- Systems and process developed by Prolinnova partners
- Institutionalisation process – collaboration within CP.

Responses to 'Things that could have been done better included:'
- Better preparation of the planning session
- Better organisation of the open space session
- Sharing of documentation ahead of the meetings
- More time for discussion after presentations
- Shorter presentations and better time-keeping
- Simultaneous translation
- More interaction between participants encouraged
- Better internet connectivity
- Breakout groups were too short to finish discussions.

Additional information from the evaluation can be found in **Annex 11**.

3.5 Closure

Ann Waters-Bayer closed the IPW 2021. She noted that, while we had come to the end of these interactions, there would be some working groups taking specific actions forward and the process of finalising the report may require us to ask for inputs to address gaps. Ann highlighted that she was glad of the opportunity to discuss issues such as digitalisation, institutionalisation, regionalisation, getting feedback from POG about activities over the previous two years, and the discussions that emerged from the OS sessions, where people bring their own issues. She wished everyone well and closed the IPW saying that she was looking forward to further collaboration and sharing within the Prolinnova network.

Annexure 1: Action Plan

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PROLINNOVA

Action plans from IPW 2021

</div>

No.	Activity/output	Who?	By when?	Degree of achievement	Next action	By whom	When
1	Activate the subregional taskforces to implement their roles						
	a) Finalise the subregional platform charter with a clear organisation chart	WCA: Incorporate the organisational structure. Then upload on the website ESA: Incorporate comments from this week and organisational structure to get final draft for circulation; then upload on website	End Jan 2021	*Charter was finalised and circulated and 3 CPs signed* *Charter and structure for ESA already finalised, signed by 6 out of 8 CPs and copies uploaded on website*	*Mali and Cameroon still to sign* *Implement the charter*	*Abdel* *Wanyama* *SRCs*	*By end 2021* *2022*
	b) Advance networking at subregional level?	Develop good ideas for supporting subregional networking (twinning of CPs?) – between the CPs within region and between the subregions, and with other actors	Finalise some ideas / actions by end Jan 2021 (concept paper?)	Not done	*Brainstorm ideas*	*SRCs/IST*	*End of January 2022*

	c) Establishment of a sub-regional oversight group (OG) – development of its ToRs and composition - Prepare guideline for subregional oversight group - Identify members, nominate, elect, operationalise	Possibly delay the establishment of SR-OGs because even taskforce is not functioning well What about having the subregional support teams in place? <u>Action: Arrange Zooms with the two taskforces to take this forward</u>	End Nov 2020	Not done	*Organise Zoom meetings with CPs to agree on subregional support teams*	*SRCs*	*Jan 2022*
	g) Supervise and review performance of subregional coordinators	Still to be done - Djibril (ABS) Malex (ACDEP) *Suggestion is that evaluation is done collectively once draft available – if the taskforce is active enough*	End Nov 2020	Done			
3	Prepare 2020 Africa workshop report			Done			
4	Other actions from 2020 African Regional workshop						
	Follow up on fundraising activities from the groupwork	CPs	Ongoing		*SRCs to see which are still relevant and support CPs to respond*	*SRC*	*End Jan 2022*
	Arrange Zoom meetings (webinars) on selected open-space topics:						
	• Generating membership	Lisa		Done			
	• Collective reporting	Jolly		Not done			
	• Europe-non Europe	Lisa/Wanyama		Planned		*Lisa*	*Sept 22*

	•*Attractive media*	*Loren*		*Done*			
	•*Learning from PK about fundraising*	*Abdel*		*Not done*	*Planned*	*Abdel*	*End Jan 22*
	•*Linking with universities & res*	*Abdel*		*Not done*	*Planned*	*Abdel*	*End Feb 22*
	•*M&E of policy and institutionalisation*	*Wanyama*		*Not done*	*Planned*	*Wanyama*	*End Feb 22*
	•*Improving communication between CPs and SRCs*	*Wanyama*		*Not done*	*Planned*	*Wanyama*	*End March 22*
5.	Prepare 2021 IPW report						
	Prepare report	*Brigid Letty / SRCs*	*6 Nov 21*				
	Share report	*Brigid Letty / SRCs*	*6 Nov 21*				
6. NEW ACTION ITEMS IDENTIFIED AT 2021 IPW							
6a	Set up a working group on digitalisation	Lisa, Bernard, Peter, Vincent	Mid Nov 2021				
6b	Mapping of existing activities within CPs using digitalisation	To be decided after previous activity					
6c	Prepare publication on documentation of institutionalisation	Bernard, Etoa, Lisa, Fanos (Ann to invite Fanos to join)	End 2021 (for concept note)				
6d	Virtual meeting to discuss the regionalisation plan	Wanyama	End Nov 2021 (End of Jan 2022)				
6e	Make a plan for regionalisation	Wanyama	Feb 2022				
7. Arrangements for Workshops							
7a.	Preparations and hosting of the International Partners Workshop 2023						
	South Africa??	*Brigid to engage CP members*	*Confirm by mid 2022*				

7b	Preparation for Africa Regional Workshop, 2022						
	To be arranged back-to-back with final workshops for Proli-FaNS and Proli-GEAFaSa – CP and date to be confirmed (choice to consider cost estimates) - Benin??	*SRCs (Wanyama and Abdel)*	*End Jan 2022*				
6c	Preparation for Asia Regional Workshop 2022						
	Sharad to engage CPs and decide on place and date	SRC (Sharad)	End Jan 2022				

Annexure 2: Programme

Date	Time (CEST)	Topic	Responsible	Rapporteur
1 Oct	tbc	**Marketplace**	Abdel	Brigid
4 Oct	11:00	**Welcome and introductions** Welcome & programme outline by new POG co-chair (**Suman**) Introductions & feedback on marketplace - **Abdel** **Abdel** to introduce the open space session & process of capturing ideas	Abdel & Brigid	Notes – Brigid
	12:30	**Inspiring talk – Producers Direct** Digitalisation in on-farm experimentation	Lisa	RECORDING Summary– Abdel
	13:00	Break		
	13:30	**Institutionalisation**	Lisa / Fanos	Notes – Lisa & Chesha
	15:00	End of Day 1		
5 Oct	11:00	Start & **reflection on Day 1**	Brigid	
	11:15	**Feedback from POG** + discussion	POG co-chairs	Lisa & Suman
	12:00	**Regionalisation**	Bernard, Sharad & Ann	Reporting – Bernard, Sharad & Ann
	13:30	Break		
	14:00	Reminder re Open Space	Abdel & Wanyama	
	14:10	**Inspiring talk - Million Belay** about AFSA experience: collaboration between organisations in different countries in Africa to influence policy	Ann	RECORD Summary– Brigid
	14:40	Final clarifications about Open Space	Abdel & Wanyama	
	15:00	End of Day 2		
6 Oct	11:00	Start & **reflection on Day 2**	Ann	
	11:15	**Open Space** discussions	Abdel, Sharad & Wanyama	Group leaders to take notes
	12:45	Break		
	13:15	**Feedback from Open Space** discussions (incl. next steps)	Abdel, Sharad & Wanyama	One-pagers to go to Sharad
	13:45	**Action planning**	Abdel & Brigid	Abdel & Brigid

	14:30	**Evaluation & closure** **Closure (Suman and Lisa)**	Lisa – evaluation	Lisa Mentimeter Ann – summary
	15:00	End of IPW		

Annexure 3: List of participants

N°	Full name	Organisation	Country Platform	Region
	Brigid Letty	INR/CP Coordinator	South Africa	Africa
	Ann Waters-Bayer	Prolinnova IST	Germany	Europa
	Jacob Wanyama	Prolinnova ESA SRC	Kenya	Africa
	Sharad Rai	Prolinnova Asia SRC	Nepal	Asia
	Abdel-Karim Ali Mahamane	Prolinnova WCA SRC	Senegal	Africa
	Abdou Thiam	AgriBioServices	Senegal	Africa
	Alpy Math	Community Developer Organization	Cambodia	Asia
	Bernard Triomphe	CIMMYT	POG/Mexico	Latin America
	Chantheang Tong	Freelancer	Cambodia	Asia
	Charlotte Mohlabi	Limpopo Department of Agriculture	South Africa	Africa
	Chesha Wettasinha	KIT	IST/The Netherlands	Europe
	Djibril Thiam,	AgriBioServices/ Coordinator Prolinnova Senegal,	Senegal	Africa
	Domingos Victor Tuscana	Kulima	Mozambique	Africa
	Florence Olubayo	University of Nairobi	Kenya	Africa
	Hellen Mangoi	Inades	Kenya	Africa
	Honorat Edja	University of Parakou/NSC member	Benin	Africa
	Hov Limkhuoch	Cambodian Rural Development Team	Cambodia	Asia
	Janina Loisel	Better Life NGO	Benin	Africa
	Joseph Nchor	ACDEP	Ghana	Africa
	Laurence Sawadogo	Diobass	Burkina Faso	Africa
	Lisa van Dijk	Prolinnova POG Co-Chair	United Kingdom	Europa
	Margaret Kiyu	ACDEP/ CP Coordinator	Ghana	Africa
	Mutizwa Mukute	Social Learning and Innovation Ltd/ Friend of Prolinnova	Southern Africa	Africa
	Mawahib Ahmed	CP Coordinator	Sudan	
	Million Belay Ali	AFSA	Uganda	Africa
	Oumy Ndiaye	AgriBioServices	Senegal	Africa
	Parfait Saka	Diobass	Burkina Faso	Africa
	Peter Gubbels	Groundswell International	Ghana	Africa
	Pratap Shrestha	SeedChange Canada/ Friends of Prolinnova	Nepal	Asia
	Rhiga MAKONGE	World Neighbors	Kenya	Africa
	Richard Chuene	Limpopo Department of Agriculture	South Africa	Africa
	Rofiloe Thobejane	Limpopo Department of Agriculture		
	Romuald Rutazi	NSC member	Mozambique	Africa
	Sasa Rebina	Limpopo Department of Agriculture	South Africa	Africa
	Sumaia Elsayed	Ahfad University for Women	Sudan	Africa
	Vincent Mariadho	World Neighbors/CP Coordinator	Kenya	Africa

PROLINNOVA IPW:
THOUGHT-PROVOKING TALK:
CLAIRE RHODES, PRODUCERS DIRECT,
ON DIGITALISATION IN ON-FARM
EXPERIMENTATION

PROLINNOVA
PROmoting Local INNOVAtion
in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management
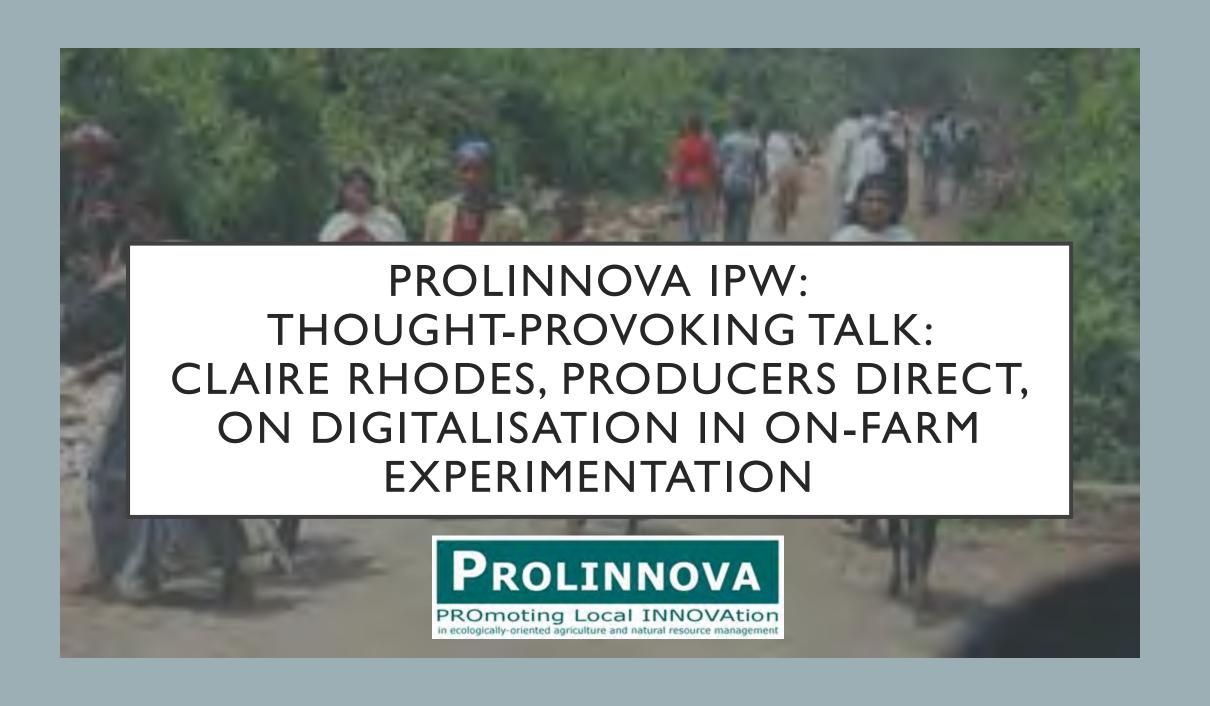
Thought-provoking talk:

- Digitalisation is an increasingly global trend

La numérisation est une tendance de plus en plus mondiale

- Global agriculture is also transforming to digital technologies

L'agriculture se transforme également en technologies numériques

- Emerging digital technologies are widely considered promising new tools for both increasing productivity and ensuring a more sustainable use of resources

Les technologies numériques émergentes sont largement considérées comme de nouveaux outils prometteurs pour accroître la productivité et assurer une utilisation plus durable des ressources.

- It is believed by some that digital technologies to document and support agroecological transition will pave the way for transformational change in agricultural research and innovation.

Certains pensent que les technologies numériques permettant de documenter et de soutenir la transition agroécologique ouvriront la voie à un changement transformationnel dans la recherche et l'innovation agricoles.

Thought-provoking talk:

Definition of digitalization in agriculture:

"the use of digital technologies, innovations, and data to transform business models and practices across the agriculture value chain"

Définition de la numérisation en agriculture:

"l'utilisation des technologies numériques, des innovations et des données pour transformer les modèles et les pratiques commerciales dans l'ensemble de la chaîne de valeur agricole".

Digital technology: Opportunities & challenges
Technologie numérique : Opportunités et défis

Opportunities/ Opportunités

- Enabling knowledge sharing via digital extension and advisory services and mitigating risks from climate change and adverse weather impacts

Permettre le partage des connaissances par le biais de conseils agronomiques numériques et atténuer les risques liés au changement climatique et aux mauvaises conditions météorologiques.

- Enhance accessibility, delivery, transparency, scope and impacts of information and services for smallholder farmers, including rural youth, rural women and other vulnerable groups.

Améliorer l'accessibilité, la fourniture, la transparence, la portée et l'impact des informations et des services pour les petits exploitants agricoles, y compris les jeunes ruraux, les femmes rurales et les autres groupes vulnérables.

- Improved accessibility to services in geographically remote areas, bridging the information gaps among different value chain actors, and contributing to fair trade, market accessibility, social and financial inclusion and so on.

Améliorer l'accessibilité aux services dans les zones géographiquement éloignées, en comblant les lacunes en matière d'information entre les différents acteurs de la chaîne de valeur, et en contribuant au commerce équitable, à l'accessibilité des marchés, à l'inclusion sociale et financière, etc.

Digital technology: Opportunities & challenges

Challenges/ Défis

- Uneven distribution of benefits accruing from digitisation -> 'digital divide' between smallholders and large farms

Répartition inégale des avantages découlant de la numérisation -> "fracture numérique" entre les petits exploitants et les grandes exploitations

- Inequality in accessing digital agricultural extension and advisory services due to low digital literacy and low infrastructure investments in rural areas

Inégalité d'accès aux services numériques de conseil et de vulgarisation agricole en raison de la faible culture numérique et des faibles investissements en infrastructures dans les zones rurales

- Corporate ownership and control of farm data and privacy issues ; Market power of major agriculture technology providers; dominance of centralized knowledge over co-creation of knowledge

Problèmes de propriété par des grandes entreprises et de confidentialité des données agricoles; Pouvoir de marché des principaux fournisseurs de technologies agricoles; Domination de la connaissance centralisée sur la co-création de la connaissance

Digital technology: Opportunities & challenges

Challenges/ Défis

- Corporate use digitalisation for strengthening industrial agriculture for more efficient use of agrochemicals, instead of shifting to agroecology and use of local knowledge

Les entreprises utilisent la numérisation pour renforcer l'agriculture industrielle et utiliser plus efficacement les produits agrochimiques, au lieu de passer à l'agroécologie et à l'utilisation des connaissances locales.

- Equity: leaving no- one behind in the era of digital technology advancements .
Équité: ne laissant ainsi personne en arrière à l'ère des progrès de la technologie numérique.

Claire Rhodes, Producers Direct, on digitalisation in on-farm experimentation

Producers Direct is an enterprise owned and led by farmers for farmers:

- provide direct farmer-led product sourcing and support services.

- impact a network of smallholder farmers across East Africa & Latin America.

- work directly with smallholder-owned cooperatives.

Producers Direct est une entreprise détenue et dirigée par des agriculteurs pour des agriculteurs :

- fournir des services de soutien et d'approvisionnement en produits directement dirigés par les agriculteurs.

- influencer un réseau de petits exploitants agricoles en Afrique de l'Est et en Amérique latine.

- travailler directement avec des coopératives appartenant à des petits exploitants
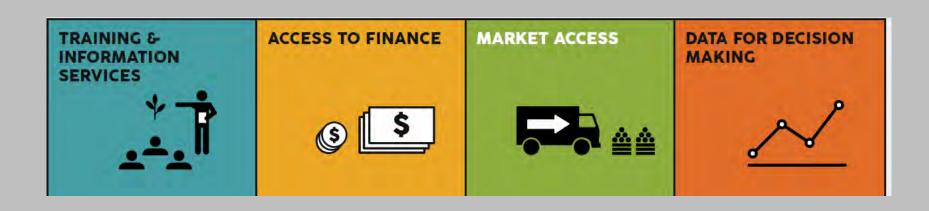
Claire Rhodes, Producers Direct, on digitalisation in on-farm experimentation

'Our unique farmer-led model blends in-person services with cutting edge digital tools. Enabling smallholder farmers to enhance their participation in, and ownership of key crop value chains.'

Notre modèle unique, dirigé par les agriculteurs, associe des services en personne à des outils numériques de pointe. Il permet aux petits exploitants agricoles de participer davantage aux chaînes de valeur des cultures clés et de se les approprier".

Discussion:

- what is your experience? Quelle est votre expérience ?
- what do you see as opportunities and challenges?

Quels sont, selon vous, les opportunités et les défis ?
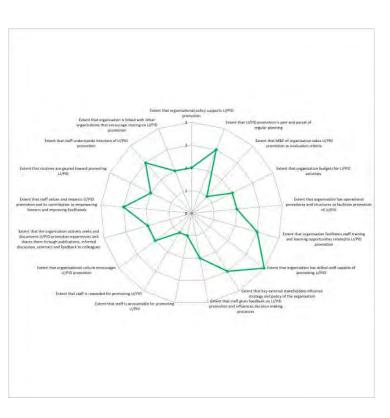
Open space discussion question?

Question: What are the opportunities and challenges for this digitalization of agriculture in promoting local innovation in ecological agriculture and NRM?

Question : Quels sont les opportunités et les défis de cette digitalisation de l'agriculture pour promouvoir l'innovation locale en matière d'agriculture écologique et de GRN ?
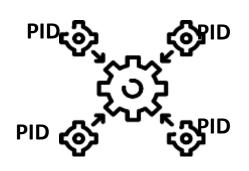
Assessing the institutionalisation of Participatory Innovation Development: a tool

IPW workshop 4-6 October, 2021

Fanos Mekonnen Birke, Elias Zerfu and Laurens van Veldhuizen

What is PID institutionalisation in an organisation?

PID → PID

PID → PID

An organisation integrates PID approach in every day work activities

- Individuals use PID approach in their daily work: extension, research, education…
- Organisations plan, implement and evaluate research and development programs/projects using the PID approach

How to assess PID institutionalisation?

Framework: PID can be integrated in the three subsystems of an organisation

Sociocultural-identity/ behavior

Political: power game

Administrative: Technical operations

Mission

Structure

Human resources

Based on Lizares-Bodegon et al (2002) framework:

Developing the tool

Criteria for the tool

- Can be used by experts/employees of an organisation
- Assessment questions with scoring guide for each subsystem
- Analysis and summary can be visualised easily

Table 2: Tool for assessing the institutionalisation of an LI/PID approach, with guidance for scoring

Assessment questions	Institutionalisation level 1	Institutionalisation level 2	Institutionalisation level 3	Institutionalisation level 4	Analysis; why or why not; examples
Institutionalisation in the structures and administration of the organisation					
1. To what extent does the organisational policy support use of LI/PID approach?	Policy does not support use of LI/PID approach at all	Policy supports use of LI/PID approach but not articulated in policy documents	Policy implicitly promotes use of LI/PID approach	Use of LI/PID approach is well articulated in policy documents	
2. To what extent is LI/PID approach included in regular planning?	Very little reference to use of LI/PID approach in planning documents	Planning documents refer to LI/PID approach but little about implementation procedures	Use of LI/PID approach is planned with implicit procedures	Use of LI/PID approach is explicitly planned with detailed strategies and procedures	
3. To what extent does the organisation's M&E system take LI/PID into account?	Very little reference to LI/PID in M&E processes	M&E guidelines refer to need to consider LI/PID but little about implementation procedures	M&E guidelines implicitly refer to including LI/PID in the process	Use of LI/PID approach is clear criterion in M&E guidelines	
4. To what extent do the organisation's budgeted activities permit LI/PID approach?	No budget allocated for LI/PID	5% of budget allocated for LI/PID	Over 10% of budget allocated for LI/PID	Over 25% of budget allocated for LI/PID	
5. To what extent has the organisation put in place operational procedures and structures to facilitate use of LI/PID approach?	Very little attention given to LI/PID in operational documents, e.g. formal and informal job descriptions do not specify its use	Operational documents refer to using LI/PID approach but this is not implemented in practice except in a few cases or events	Some sections of organisation promote LI/PID using the operational guidelines	Many sections of organisation follow operational guidelines for use of LI/PID approach	
6. To what extent does the organisation facilitate staff training and learning opportunities related to LI/PID?	Training on LI/PID obtained from other organisations	Organisation sometimes offers training and experience sharing on LI/PID depending on availability of funds and support from other organisations	Organisation regularly facilitates training and experience sharing on LI/PID by collaborating with other organisations	Training and experience sharing on LI/PID are well planned and budgeted annually and all staff, including managers, are motivated to find learning opportunities for themselves from colleagues and from other organisations and individuals	

Developing the tool

Example of the assessment question

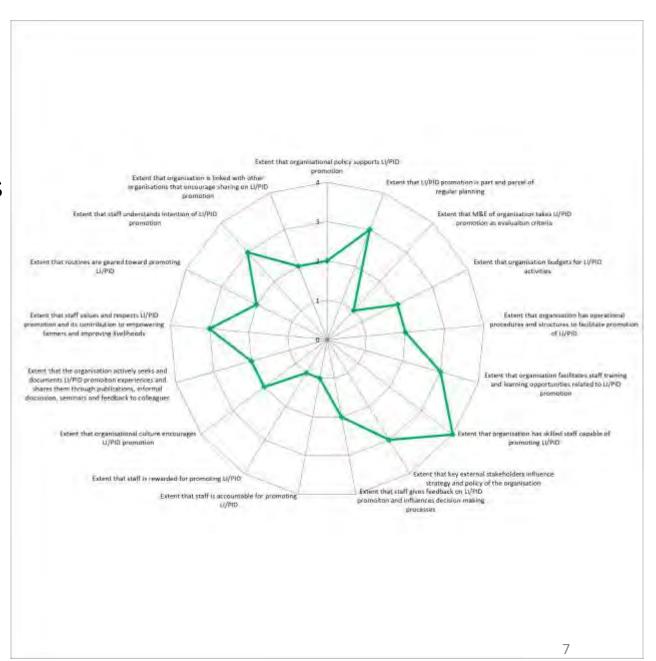**To what extent does the organisational policy (rules/regulations) support use of PID approach?**

☐ level 1-Policy does not support use of LI/PID approach at all

☐ Level 2 - Policy supports use of LI/PID approach but not articulated in policy documents

☐ Level 3- Policy implicitly promotes use of LI/PID approach

☐ Level 4- Use of LI/PID approach is well articulated in policy documents

How the tool works

- Can be used individually and/or in groups
- Contains 17 questions in total
- Results can be analysed on excel
  - Total score: Min.17- Max.68
  - Detailed assessment result via spider web
  - Clearly shows strength and area for improvement

Observations and conclusions
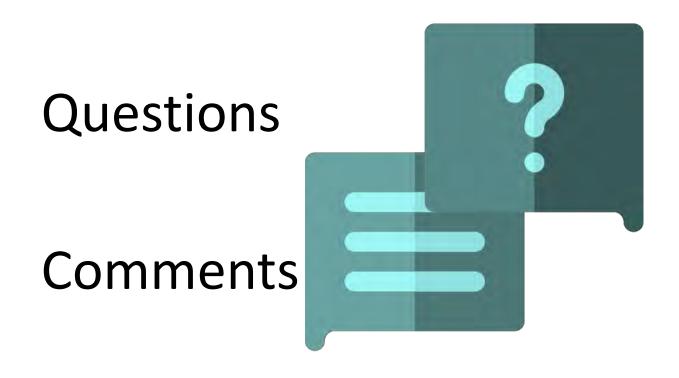
The PID assessment tool:

- Stimulates reflection (individual/group) within an organisation about their PID work

- Leads to a better understanding of what it means to integrate a PID approach

- May require guidance/facilitation to ensure understanding of the questions and statements

- Can be used:
  - As at the **baseline** of an intervention - when planning what needs to be done
  - At the **end** of an intervention-to see what has changes
  - During **the process-** to assess the progress of an organisation in institutionalising PID

Cited sources

- Prolinnova working paper 37
  https://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/resources/working_paper/wp_37_pid_institutionalisation_assessment_tool_final.pdf

- Lizares-Bodegon S, Gonsalves J, Killough S, Waters-Bayer A, van Veldhuizen L & Espineli M (eds). 2002. *Participatory Technology Development for agricultural improvement: challenges for institutional integration.* Silang, Cavite, Philippines: International Institute of Rural Reconstruction / ETC EcoCulture.

Questions

Comments

A framework for assessing PID institutionalisation

	Mission/ mandate	Structure	Human resources
Administrative-Technical: operations	Planning and implementing action plans, monitoring and evaluation, budgeting	Tasks and responsibilities; levels positions and tasks; procedures and instructions; information and coordination systems	Expertise: quantity and quality of staff; recruitment and job descriptions; staff facilities; training and coaching
Political: the power game	Influence from inside and outside in developing policies and strategies; role of management	Decision-making; formal and informal mechanisms; supervision and control; conflict management	Room for manoeuvre: space for innovation; rewards and incentives; career possibilities, working styles
Sociocultural: identity and behaviour	Organisational culture: symbols, traditions, norms and values underlying organisational and staff behaviour; social and ethical standards	Cooperation and learning: norms and values underlying arrangements for teamwork, mutual support, networking, reflection, learning from experience etc	Attitudes: dedication to the organisation, commitment to work, objectives and to partners/clients; stereotyping: willingness to change

Farmer Innovation Fair in WCA - 2015

THE PROCESS

- CPs developed an "**West African-based**" approach

- Important **financial support** from Misereor

- Ahead of the Fair:

  ❑ **Resources mobilization of resources** (concept note)

  ❑ **Workshop on farmer innovation**, to prepare CPs: *how is support for innovation organized*?

  ❑ **On-field logistics organization** in Burkina led by a local partner

- A total of **10 to 12 months of preparation** for an event that lasted 1 week

- **Networking role** during the Fair played by the organizing team

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Farmer Innovaiton Fair in WCA - 2015

THE CHALLENGES

- Delegations prepared how to present their innovations : *how to properly present innovation in another country*

- Type of innovations to be presented, in relation to the **context**

- **Logistical** challenge for some delegations: innovations involving heavy equipment to be moved

- **Dynamics are different** from one country to another

Farmer Innovaiton Fair in WCA - 2015

LESSONS LEARNED

- Delegations prepared how to present their innovations : *how to properly present innovation in another country*

- Type of innovations to be presented determined by the **challenges** and the **context**

- **Logistical** challenge for some delegations: innovations involving heavy equipment to be moved

- **Dynamics are different** from one country to another

- POG: **Huge experiences** of the different members is an asset to coordinate such a large event

- South-South experience sharing is important (Senegal and Burkina very well skilled)
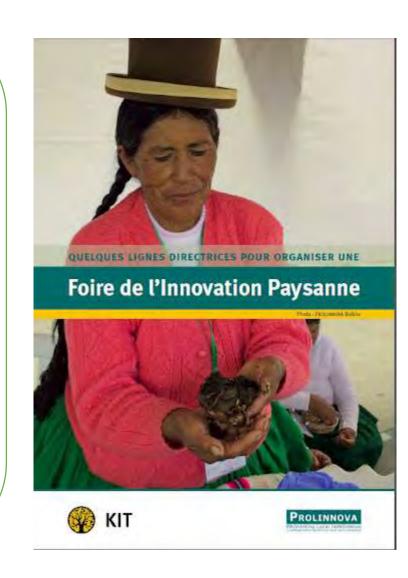
OUPUTS & WAY FORWARDS

- **Systematization of the process**: general framework used for the fair

- Identify the organizations (ready to **pilot the process**) in each country playing a decisive role

- Attract **committed organizations** and resource people who share the ideals of Prolinnova

- **A lot of data collected**, thanks to the input of the various delegations (inputs in the final report, advocacy from the country fed the report)

- Finding the **right combination** for the regionalization process

QUELQUES LIGNES DIRECTRICES POUR ORGANISER UNE

Foire de l'Innovation Paysanne

POG feedback to IPW participants

presented by POG Co-Chair

Virtual meeting through Zoom
5 October 2021

First IPW after start of Covid 19 pandemic

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Changes in POG and network

Thanks to outgoing POG members:
Chris Macoloo, Emily Monville, Joe Ouko

Incoming members:
Farmer Organisation: Ibrahima Seck, Senegal
West & Central Africa: Peter Gubbels, Ghana
Eastern & Southern Africa: Violet Kirigua, Kenya
Asia: TJ James, India
New POG co-chair: Suman Manandhar, Nepal

New IST member: Fanos Mekonnen Birke, Agrecol Association,
Northern Focal Point of Prolinnova network

New Friends of Prolinnova: Chris Macoloo & Mutizwa Mukute

New CP: Benin

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Achievements

- Virtual PID training in Benin, Mozambique, South Sudan & Sudan despite challenges especially when Internet connectivity is poor.

- Virtual African Partners Workshop

- Virtual Global Farmer Innovation Fair

- Cameroon Farmer Innovation Fair (physical)

- Media training by A Growing Concern (AGC) and products for IPW marketplace

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Regionalisation process

- Process of strengthening collaboration of CPs within regions being supported by (sub)regional coordinators:

  – Eastern & Southern Africa: Jacob Wanyama (financed 3 days/week through SULCI-FaNS project)

  – West & Central Africa: Abdel-Karim Ali Mahamane (financed 5 days/week through SULCI-FaNS and Proli-GEAFaSa projects)

  – Asia: Sharad Rai (*pro bono*; no externally funded projects in Asia)

  – Andes: currently not active

POG appreciates hard work of (sub)regional coordinators in following up closely with CPs, justifying value of concept of regionalisation.

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Governance of CPs: active and non-active CPs

- Importance of strong and committed National Steering Committee (NSC) to ensure that CP is functioning well

- Poor communication about "low-energy" phases of CPs creates much work for (sub)regional coordinators and means they cannot offer support in good time

- Some CP members joined because they expect funding through Prolinnova

- Important to involve members who are passionate about promoting local innovation and farmer-led joint research

- Expand network by identifying enthusiastic and active new people/organisations

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New projects in which PROLINNOVA is involved and is developing

- NaviNut (women's innovation in child feeding in Benin and Kenya)

- GIZ Innovation Challenge "Advisory for Agroecology" project (5-month proof-of-concept phase) in Senegal with Groundswell International as lead organisation

- Expression of Interest to GIZ's Innovation for Development Fund (i4AG)

- Several initiatives at CP level to gain new projects and to plan new phases of existing projects

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POG reflecting on its role

In addition to what is outlined in the ToRs for the POG, it should:

- Engage in advocacy at international level in line with the network's strategic objective to mainstream PID in agricultural research, development and education

- Monitor trends of what is happening globally in agriculture and inform CP members

Thank you

Regionalisation

Case: Linex Project
(Cambodia, North India, Nepal)

Suman Manandhar with inputs from Chesha Wettasinha

Summarised: Sharad Rai

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Background

- Local Innovation and Experimentation for Climate Change Adaptation (LINEX-CCA)
- First regional collaborative project we undertook in Asia
- Year: 2012-2014
- Budget: 350000 euros
- Donor: Misereor

Objectives

- Identify and support local innovation of climate-vulnerable communities, especially women, to adapt to climate change

Collaborators/Roles

- The project jointly implemented by LI-BIRD (Local Initiatives in Biodiversity Research and Development) - Nepal, CEDAC (Centre d'Etude et de Development Agricole Cambodgien) - Cambodia Cambodia and INHERE (Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education) - India.

- Technical backstopping by the ETC Foundation - the Netherlands.

- Li-BIRD in Nepal was supposed to be the project contract holder with Misereor, but due to some restrictions on the part of Misereor, CEDAC in Cambodia was requested to take on the contract

- LIBIRD was responsible for the narrative reporting which would then be submitted to Misereor via CEDAC

- Assessed how communities perceived climate change and its effects in their own localities and identified what they were doing to adapt to these changes.

RESULTS

- Local innovations were considered as entry points for initiating participatory innovation development (PID) or farmer-led joint experimentation processes.
- More than 15 local innovations were identified
- More than 2,000 farmers were trained in PID and Climate Change Adaptation (51% women)
- 25 case studies were published in Cambodian Farmer Magazine
- 350 farmers reached through International Farmer Innovation Day in India
- 550 personnel from CSOs and local government trained in PID and climate change adaptation
- Community Groups were involved in joint experimentation for climate change adaptation
- Knowledge exchanged among farmers, researchers and development agents

Reflections (Challenges/Lessons Learned)

- Collaboration between Asia regional CPs set an example for other CPs from the African sub region to collaborate.

- Delays in fund transfer from the donor to CEDAC – Nepal – Cambodia

- Enough thought not given to the experience/ competence required by the project holder (Administrative/Financial Management aspect) and the complications of fund transfers among countries

- Financial management of a regional project was quite challenging, according to the rules of Misereor

- Organisations in the three countries had three different financial calendar years, which meant that they were unable to conduct the 6-monthly audits according to Misereor's time line

Reflections (Challenges/Lessons Learned)

- INHERE complain directly to the donors about these fund delays questioning CEDAC's capacity to lead.

- In order to circumvent the English language barrier that some CEDAC staff encountered, LIBIRD took the responsibility for the narrative reporting submitted to Misereor via CEDAC. This brought about its own challenges in trying to coordinate the timely submission of the narrative reports together with the financial reports.

- Change of CP coordinators during the project also brought some challenges – eg. Suman leaving and Puspa taking over in Nepal.

- The new partner (INHERE) was not familiar with the project management and collaborative processes within Prolinnova - IST had to spend a lot of time trying to manage the collaboration and conflicts between regional partners. And eventually the POG had to step in and resolve the conflict.

- Despite some good work by the individual CPs and scope for doing more, the project not offered an extension as INHERE refused to collaborate with the others and wanted to manage project on its own.

Regionalisation

Reflections from Eastern & Southern Africa Sub-Region

CASE STUDIES FROM ESA-SR

1. Learning visits

- Mozambique/South Africa – x 1 (2009)
- Uganda/Ethiopia x 2 (2010)
- Sudan/Kenya (In preparation)

2. Resource mobilisation

- **Uganda/Kenya** – Farm Forestry Facility: Responsible co-management of forests
- **Ethiopia/Sudan** - Advancing food security and community resilience - indigenous vegetables

KEY

Learning Visits

Resource mobilization

Adapted from: Christo Fabricius 2002

MOTIVATION

- Documentation & promoting PID - EU
- Partnership/motivate formal institution - EU/MS
- Success stories & good practice - UE
- Peer review – EU
- Strengthening cooperation & learning – K/U
- Institutionalising PID – EU/UE
- Mutually supporting links – M/A
- FAIR/LISF - UE
- Sustainability (funding) – UE/MS
- Governance-internal organisation - MS

Organizers: Tefahun Fenta(Agric-Service Ethiopia) & Sekata Moses (EA)

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PROCESS – LEARNING VISITS

- Prolinnova CP Cross-Visit Guidelines

- IST make announcement for the visit

- Concept note/proposal with objectives and letter of motivation and learning agenda

- Identification of delegates (mostly 6)

- Visit and talk to local innovators

- CP mutual exchange & comparison (success/challenges)
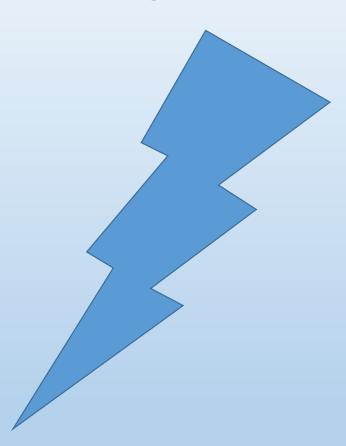
- Documenting the visit (pictures?)

Organizers: Romuald Rutazihana & Brigid Letty

PROCESS – RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- Prolinnova Resource Mobilization Guidelines

- Ordinary lunch hour story chat during IPW in Senegal

- Mutual agreement

- Brainstorming (Coordinated by one of the CPS).

- Delegation of duties including lead person/institution

- Series of drafts to fine tuning – back and forth

- Submission by one of the CP.

LESSONS LEARNED

Visits to projects/PID cases provide a true reflection of how activities

Prolinnova CP Guidelines helps (Visit one may need review)

Motivation is related to the current CP situation, needs and challenges

There is need to evaluate and monitor outcomes of such visits – at regional/sub-regional level

Visiting delegate needs more gender balance

Opportunity for future collaboration: But limited follow-up actions – discontinuity of contacts

Visits dependent on funding availability

FACTORS FOR SUCCESS

Funding

Contacts/ relationships

Mutual interest & situation

Strong CP governance

THANK YOU
MERCI
OBRIGADO

What makes a network work

Million Belay

General Coordinator

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

ABN called the first meeting

Purpose is creating a united and loud African
Voice on right to food and transition to
agroecology

Broad based with 40 networks of networks

ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

Members work in 50 of the 55 African countries

Members include food producers, indigenous
peoples, consumer association, faith based
institutions and CSOs.

Structure

General assembly

Board

Secretariat

- Main office is in Kampala
- Based and registering in Senegal

Context

- Continuing impacts of the industrial agriculture narratives
- Climate emergency
- Narrowing political spaces
- Growing conciousness of African youth
- Growing unplanned urbanization
- Increasing impacts of COVID 19

AFSA'S THEORY OF CHANGE

BUILDING THE MOVEMENT
(Networking & capacity development)

POLICY ADVOCACY
(Policy briefs, multi-stakeholder paltforms)

TRANSITION TO AGROECOLOGY

RAISING CONSUMER AWARENESS
(Communications)

EVIDENCE
(Research & Publications)

Integrating	Agroecology in Climate Action
Strengthening	Farmer-Managed Seed Systems
Empowering	Community Voices for Land Rights and Healthy Soils
Mobilizing	Citizens Support for Sustainable Food & Nutrition Systems

Four exciting projects of AFSA

- Healthy soil and healthy food
- Agroecological enterpreneurship
- Africa Food Policy
- Integrating agroecology in climate emergency policies

Healthy Soil Healthy Food

- Identifying, capacitating, linking and highlighting key works on soil and landscape management.

- Already identified 15 actors across Africa and started project with seven.

- Purpose is to facilitate transition to agroecology through practical activities.

Africa Food Policy

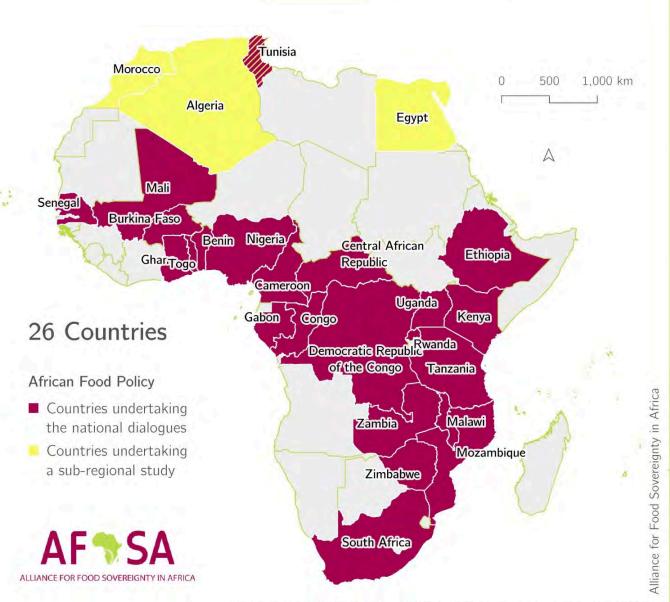Goal is to have a continental food policy

Purpose is to mobilize citizens for food system change

Additional purpose is to create relationships with key actors for advocacy

Hope is to have country-level food policy

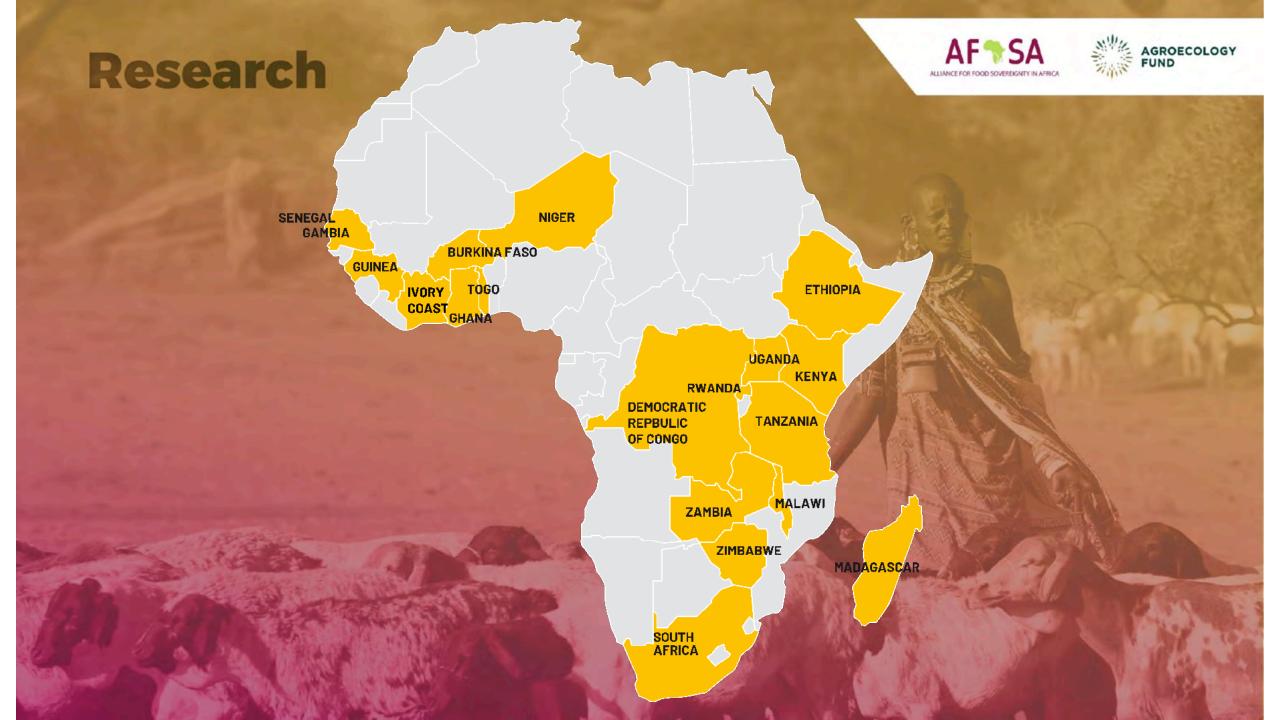Reason is to address coherence, democratic space and influence.

African Food Policy Dialogues

26 Countries

African Food Policy

- Countries undertaking the national dialogues
- Countries undertaking a sub-regional study

Tunisia
Morocco
Algeria
Egypt
Mali
Senegal
Burkina Faso
Benin
Nigeria
Ghan.
Togo
Central African Republic
Ethiopia
Cameroon
Uganda
Gabon
Congo
Kenya
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Rwanda
Tanzania
Zambia
Malawi
Mozambique
Zimbabwe
South Africa

AF SA
ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

Basemap from ICPAC Geoportal (ODbL/OSM) - Countries involved in 2021

Agroecological enterpreneurship

What kind of markets do we need to transition to agroecology?

- Done in collaboration with Agro Ecology Fund

- Final purpose is mobilizing funding to support key agroecological enterpreneurs

What was behind the success of AFSA?

- Having a functioning secretariat
- Regular meetings
- Understanding the importance of money – not money as a focus
- The right kind of board
- Members seeing as benefiting themselves
- Openness
- Seeing oneself as part of the bigger picture

Challenges

- Response to communications
- Partners are busy with their work and life
- Weakness of the leadership of working groups
- Diverseness of the issue
- Tensions between focusing on ground or on regional advocacy
- Tension with members
- Resources

One thing that was most inspiring

use of digitalization

afsa experience presented

institutionalization

partage d'expériences

digitalisation

71359234

flexibility in action

digitalization in pid

afsa experience

inspiring talk

institutionnalisation

afsa

new people joining ipw

regionalization

patience and good humor

digitalization

afsa presentation

discussion digitalisation

One thing you learned that will be most useful for your CP

Various approaches

importance of linking with other CPs

institutionalisation process to document and plan

go beyond telling about activities we implemented, but looking for evidence about the results obtained

Systems and process

Incorporation of digitalization in PID

Find a right partner and set up a mechanism to coordinate regional joint project

Use of other tools to strengthen PID approach

Digitilization and the process of institutionalization

25

One thing you learned that will be most useful for your CP

What regionalisation could bring on board

Institutionalisation PID PID process assessment

Importance of monitoring institutionalization

Good leadership as per AFSA secretariat (selecting and working with skill, knowledgeable and engaged people)

l'institutionnalisation de l'approche DPI c'est à dire la manière de s'y prendre pour avoir des résultats escomptés.

RELATION DPI ET RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE, COMMENT LES METTRE EN PARTENARIAT

- Country Platforms should be active though funding is not available. - Try to involve innovative farmers in the network- Don't have too big Steering committee

Institutiionnalisation of PID, working with other CPs

Challenges in cross-border collaborative projects

25

One thing you learned that will be most useful for your CP

-Steering committee should be small.-Involve innovative farmers as much as possible-Documentation of innovation

Systems and process developed by prolinnova partners

Institutionalization processcollaboration within PP

la régionalisation des plateformes pays pour apprendre des uns aux autres pour l'atteinte global des objectifs du réseau c'est à dire faire accepter la recherche et les décideurs politiques la vision du réseau sur l'approche DPI.

Time keeping

time management

More discussion involve everyone

25

One thing we could have done better

open space organization and action planning

Better preparation of the planning session so that it goes more quickly

More time for group discussion

Have simultaneous translation service in Zoom....we could double the work with that....if we do not have, then borrow from another ally institution

Allowing more discussions after presentations

Regional network coordination and actions

Encourage interaction between the participants

Break out groups-Time was too short and members automatically got diverted to the plenary room with unfinished businesses. It can't be an issue in a physical meeting

- Aware of timing of presentation (should try to finish on time).- Good internet connection- more time for group discussion

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One thing we could have done better

More time for discussions.

Keeping presentations shorter

LE PARTAGE DES DOCUMENTS DE PRSENTAIONS A L'AVANCE POUR FACILITER LA COMPRENSION ET PREPARER DES ECLAICISSEMENT

Improve time keeping

tout à été bien fait à mon avis le plus important pour moi c'était de voir les organisateurs prendre l'initiatives de planifier des ctions sur l'institutionnalisation et la régionalisation pour mieux appuyer les PC. Ceci étant fait rien à ajouter

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