



African Partners Workshop (AfPW)

26–28 October 2020

Via Zoom Platform

Compiled by

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Acronyms

ACDEP	Association of Church-based Development Projects
ADAF	Association pour le Développement des Activités de production et de Formation
ADCR	Associação para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais
AfPW	African Partners Workshop
AGC	A Growing Culture
AOPP	Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes
ARD	Agricultural Research in/and Development
BMEL	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Germany)
CBO	community-based organisation
CEAL	Centre for Ecological Agriculture and Livelihoods
CEDD	Centre d'Ecoute et d'Encadrement pour un Développement Durable
CIRAD	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement
CNP	Comité National de Pilotage
CoP	Community of Practice
Covid-19	Corona virus disease 2019
CP	Country Platform
CSO	civil-society organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DITSL	German Institute for Tropical & Subtropical Agriculture
DLPF	David and Lucile Packard Foundation
DNA	Direction Nationale de l'Agriculture
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESA	Eastern & Southern Africa
ESAPP	Eastern & Southern Africa ProInnova Platform
EU	European Union
EVM	ethnoveterinary medicine
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FaReNe	Farmer-led Research Network
FIF	Farmer Innovation Fair
FIPAC	<i>Foire d'Innovation Paysanne au Cameroun</i> (Farmer Innovation Fair in Cameroon)
FLIN	Farmer-Led Innovation Network (United Kingdom)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIC-APINK	Groupe d'Initiative Commune des Apiculteurs de Nkométou
IER	Institute d'Economie Rurale
IPR-IFRA	<i>Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée</i>
IPW	International Partners Workshop
ISFM	Integrated Soil Fertility Management
IST	International Support Team
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal

LI	local innovation
LISF	Local Innovation Support Facility/Fund
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Uganda)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP	multstakeholder platform
NABOCADO	Navrongo Bolgatatayo Catholic Diocesan Development Organization
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation (Uganda)
NaviNut	Enhancing women's agency in navigating changing food environments to improve child nutrition in African drylands
NCR	National Center for Research (Sudan)
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NRM	natural resource management
NSC	National Steering Committee
Nuffic	Netherlands organisation for internationalisation of education
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
PK	Prolinnova–Kenya
POG	Prolinnova Oversight Group
PPT	PowerPoint
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
Proli-FaNS	Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security
Proli-GEAFaSa	<i>Promotion de l'innovation locale dans la gestion de l'eau en agriculture familiale au Sahel / Promoting local innovation in water management in family farming in the Sahel</i>
SA	South Africa
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFECS	School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences
SRC	Subregional Coordinator
SAED	Société Nationale d'Aménagement et d'Exploitation des Terres du Delta du Fleuve Sénégal
SULCI-FaNS	Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security
TMT	Tailor-Made Training
ToT	Training of Trainers
UJAK	<i>Union des jeunes agriculteurs de Koyli Wirnde</i>
UNFFE	Uganda National Farmers Federation
WCA	West and Central Africa
ZIMSOFF	Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum

1. BACKGROUND

The African Partners Workshop (AfPW) is a regional workshop held every second year. It brings together the Prolinnova Country Platforms (CPs) in Africa to review their activities and lessons learned in promoting farmer innovation and farmer-led joint research and to plan for the next year. This event is also part of Prolinnova's regionalisation process, which envisages the establishment of Prolinnova regional networks in Africa, Asia and the Andes. In Africa, the process was initiated under the Proli-FaNS (Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security) project (2016–19) and is being further supported by the SULCI-FaNS (Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security) and Proli-GEAFaSa (*Promotion de l'innovation locale dans la gestion de l'eau en agriculture familiale au Sahel* / Promoting local innovation in water management by family farmers in the Sahel) projects.

Originally, this year's workshop was set to be a face-to-face event in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in October 2020 and was to be organised back-to-back with the annual partners meeting for the SULCI-FaNS project and a Cameroonian Farmer Innovation Fair (FIF) called "*Foire d'Innovation Paysanne au Cameroun*" (FIPAC). However, following the World Health Organization's declaration of Covid-19 (Corona virus disease 2019) as a pandemic and the subsequent imposition of global restrictions on travel and physical distancing, a decision was made to postpone many of the scheduled face-to-face meetings, but it was agreed to hold the AfPW virtually using the Zoom platform. On 26–28 October 2020, the AfPW brought together over almost 50 participants from 11 African CPs. It was organised and facilitated by members of the Prolinnova International Support Team (IST), primarily the two Subregional Coordinators (SRCs) in Africa.

It provided an opportunity for CPs to present their main achievements in their respective countries since the International Partners Workshop (IPW) in 2019, discuss their challenges and issues, and share experiences in promoting local innovation and participatory innovation development (PID).

As it was the first time a Prolinnova workshop was being held virtually, a series of preparatory actions related to using the Zoom platform were taken before the workshop to ensure its success. These included:

- Training of IST members (including SRCs) in use of Zoom for webinars and workshops, by A Growing Culture (AGC);
- Preparing and sharing with the CPs two guidelines, one on use of Zoom by facilitators/moderators and the other on CP presentations;
- Holding rehearsals for IST members and CPs to familiarise all selected participants with the use of Zoom, to minimise technical issues during the actual workshop.

The following is a report on the proceedings. It provided summaries of the daily proceedings and presentations. The full PowerPoint (PPT) presentations can be found on the Prolinnova website (<http://www.prolinnova.net/resources/ipw-resources>).

2. PROCEEDINGS

DAY 1: MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2020

SESSION 1: WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, PROGRAMME

The session began at 8:00 UTC with attendance of 35 participants, mainly from Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) and West & Central Africa (WCA). It was facilitated by Jacob Wanyama (SRC for ESA) and Abdel-Karim Ali Mahamane (SRC for WCA). The session began with brief welcoming remarks from Joe Ouko, a farmer innovator from Kenya who is a member of the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG). Joe expressed his pleasure to welcome all participants, stating that it was an exceptional opportunity for the African region to host the first regional meeting conducted virtually. He said that the Farmer-Led Innovation Association in Kenya has now been registered and hoped that similar associations would be set up in other countries, as also in the UK. He wished all attending the workshop a wonderful time and expressed hope that the workshop outputs would go a long way to benefit all those within the network.

Then came the self-introductions by the participants. As an ice-breaker, participants were asked to choose an animal as a symbol of what they consider represents their personality. Each participant then gave his or

her name, the country of domicile, organisational affiliation and role in the Prolinnova network – and then explained the choice of animal to represent them. The list of participants can be found in Annex 1.

The introductions were followed by remarks from the host of the session, Abdel. He explained that it was not possible to use the translation function on Zoom, since the license purchased by SULCI-FaNS did not include that function.

It was also reported that the CPs in Ethiopia and Sudan had requested more time to enable them to complete their presentations. It was noted that the CP in Ethiopia had problems with electricity but was trying to find a way to complete the PPT and to have it presented during the course of the workshop. It was suggested that, in case they would be unable to present, they could circulate the PPT by email.

The participants were then informed about the Open-Space session, which offers an opportunity to raise issues for discussion. Those topics that attract interest from several participants would be discussed during the Open Space session. The issues would be collected during the afternoon of Day 2.

In order to capture the proceedings of the day, note-takers were identified at the start of each day. For Day 1, Martha Opondo from Kenya and Siaka Bangali from Burkina Faso volunteered.

SESSION 2a: CP PRESENTATIONS

The facilitator for this session was Abdel, while the Zoom platform was hosted by Wanyama. The session involved a series of presentations from representatives of the various CPs taking part in the workshop. Because of the large number of CPs, the morning session covered six CPs: those in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Sudan and Zimbabwe. The second batch of presentations from the CPs in Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda followed in the afternoon.

The presenters – usually the CP coordinators – gave summaries of CP activities and achievements. Each presentation was followed by a short session of questions, comments and recommendations from participants and responses from presenters. In the following are summaries of each presentation and feedback afterwards. The PPTs can be found at <http://www.prolinnova.net/resources/ipw-resources>.

Prolinnova–Burkina Faso, presented by Do Christophe Ouattara

Background

Four projects are in progress: 1) Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel (PROFEIS); 2) Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security (SULCI-FaNS); 3) Promoting local innovation in water management in family farming in the Sahel (Proli-GEAFaSa); and 4) Farmer-led Research Networks (FaReNe) Phase II. Each of these projects has different objectives but all are geared towards promoting local innovation and PID as well as helping to strengthen national and subregional policy dialogue on the contribution of local innovation and PID.

Activities implemented

The details on each project can be found in the PPT presentation (see www.prolinnova.net/resources/ipw-resources). Overall, the CP has implemented activities related to identifying local innovation, raising awareness and promoting local innovation and PID, training and capacity building of farmer innovators, and project implementation. The following were the main activities in somewhat more detail:

- Identifying and characterising farmer innovations and validating them through joint experimentation. Some of the innovations have been adopted by the vast majority of producers, e.g. the *zai* pits and *demi-lunes* and reformulating the composition of the enriched flours developed by mothers. Innovations that have been identified and validated include:
 - production and use of compost enriched with Efficient Microorganisms (EM) and biopesticides.
 - transforming local products and non-timber forest products into cakes, couscous, biscuits, syrup.
 - producing biopesticides based on *Typha angustifolia* (a weed).
 - improving forage performance of improved varieties of sorghum and cowpea.
 - technique for reclaiming degraded land.
 - producing and improving feeds to stimulate laying by poultry.



- Raising awareness and promoting farmer action research, PID, LISF (Local Innovation Support Facilities/ Funds) and gender issues through:
 - producing communication materials (films, technical sheets, leaflets, etc.) on farmer innovations.
 - training local journalists and communicators to disseminate innovations through radio broadcasts and newspapers.
 - facilitating sharing of experiences between farmer innovators and other farmers through fairs and exchange visits.
 - participating in ProInnova workshops, National Farmers' Days etc.
- Training and capacity building of farmers through:
 - accompaniment of innovative farmers (monitoring and evaluation / M&E).
 - continuous technical support and training (e.g. on reformulation of enriched flour for children).
- Project planning and implementation, including:
 - organising two information meetings and setting up local MSPs at new sites (Kirsi and Réo).
 - training members of both local MSPs on PID, LISF and gender.
 - holding quarterly review and planning meetings with the National Steering Committee (NSC).
 - negotiating partnership agreements with research institutions.
 - developing joint project proposals: PROLI-FaNS, FaReNe, Proli-GEAFaSa.
 - Steering of the Greening the Sahel Initiative (communities are greening the Sahel).

Governance

The structure of the Burkina Faso CP includes the NSC, the National Coordination Team and the local MSPs of Gomponsom, Gourcy, Kari, Réo and Kirsi. The activities related to governance are:

- Holding regular quarterly meetings of the NSC and CP members.
- Renewing membership with five technical coordination team members and one NSC member and the creation of three new MSPs: one for SULCI-FaNS and two for Proli-GEAFaSa.
- Continued strengthening of partnership with scientific research and state services to facilitate the institutionalisation of PID and LISFs in public policies.
- Capacity building of members of the technical coordination team on PID, LISFs and gender.

Challenges

The Covid-19 pandemic has hindered several CP activities, as follows:

- Postponement of several training courses – MSP, NSC, GRA (Groupe de Recherche-Action) – to the project's second year.
- Changes in advocacy activities at strategic level, i.e. three collaboration protocols with three local radio stations in the project area to facilitate dissemination of innovations on a large scale.
- Postponement of Inter-group visits.
- Challenges in adoption of agroecological practices in the cotton zone (Mouhoun).
- Difficulties in organising events for disseminating innovations.
- Challenges to mechanism for close M&E of the farmer research groups.
- Delay in formalising partnership agreements with research institutions under Proli-GEAFaSa project.

Feedback from plenary

- Amina, Cameroon: What were main achievements under the SULCI-FaNs project so far? PID was done with agricultural advisors. An experiment on the cassava- and cowpea-based flour has been improved and is being done together with students from University of Ouagadougou and Diobass.
- Amina, Cameroon: What is the strategy for institutionalising PID and LISFs in Burkina Faso? The answer was that Burkina Faso has taken steps with universities (Master with Agrinovia) and national research institutes (INERA and IRSAT) and professional schools (seminars, training module).
- Diakit , Mali: Institutionalisation may need to be approached from the context of integration into development plans and local governments.



Background

Prolinnova–Kenya (PK) is implementing the Misereor-funded project SULCI-FaNS as one of four CPs involved in this project. It aims to: 1) strengthen the innovative capacity of smallholder farmers to improve food and nutrition security and resilience of local communities; 2) make national and local MSP members major players in facilitating and scaling up the PID approach in all SULCI-FaNS partner countries; and 3) complete the Prolinnova regionalisation process in Africa.

Activities implemented

Under this project, PK has carried out the following activities:

- 24 innovations identified, including 75% innovations by women. This surpassed project target of at least 20 local innovations. Out of these, 15 have been validated by the MSP.
- 21 coordination/support team members and innovative farmers were trained in PID in six action-learning sites in Kisumu and Makueni with Training of Trainers (ToT) modules. The trained members are expected to train others in their respective institutions and/or organisations. Partnerships are underway with institutions to train trainers in PID.
- Detailed and continuous documentation of identified innovations ongoing at action-learning sites. This is done at three levels: coordinator, innovator and implementing partners (Local Steering Committee). The innovations are compiled in a catalogue for dissemination. The documentation is progressive, updating all innovations from the previous project Proli-FaNS. The next version of the innovation catalogue will be made after three years.
- As a roadmap to institutionalising PID, PK has developed a policy-dialogue concept and institutionalisation strategy. The changing political context of the country must be taken into account in order to adapt the roadmap. As such, the strategies and concepts are periodically modified and/or customised depending on prevailing issues. This could make it possible to achieve the objectives related to the integrating PID into the country's policies (case of the institutionalisation of local agricultural innovation in the country's extension policy). Stakeholders and institutions at learning sites are being engaged to better understand policymaking processes in their various institutions.
- As for fundraising activities, there were six projects (with or without a CP consortium) proposed and submitted; out of these, two were not successful. There were also seven initiatives, two of them jointly with the CP in Uganda, four own and one as a consortium. Out of these, three were unsuccessful and four are awaiting feedback (two are in the second phase of submission and the other two have not yet received a response).



Governance

- There have been changes in the NSC with a replacement of the chairperson Geoffrey Kamau (Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization / KALRO) with Bell Okello (ETC Consulting).
- Two additional members joined: George Chemining'wa from Turkana University College and Florence Olubayo from University of Nairobi.
- A new organisation, Center for Research and Development in Drylands (CRDD), has joined PK. As a result, PK has been co-opted into the NaviNut (Enhancing women's agency in navigating changing food environments to improve child nutrition in African drylands) project, subject to proposal approval.

Challenges

All these activities were carried out despite the funding delay and the unavailability of some partners. It should be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the implementation of activities in the field. This led the



SULCI-FaNS project to postpone activities and even suspend some. So, in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, barrier measures were applied with rigour for the implementation of certain activities, which made it possible to have results. Other challenges include:

- Tied project funds, making it difficult to explore other areas which otherwise could bring more out.
- Limited resources, especially funds, which disappointed some prospective partners because of unmet expectations.
- Clashing schedules, especially with other partner organisations, has sometimes delayed some activities. This becomes a big challenge when coupled with delayed fund disbursement for ongoing projects.

To address these challenges, PK has been:

- Responding to many calls for proposals to ensure sufficient funds to reach out to new areas.
- Explaining to partners at the time of joining how PK operates, particularly on compensations and reimbursements.
- Maintaining flexibility in its workplans; we are also engaging partner organisations to mentor at least one additional staff member in Prolinnova activities and approaches.

Feedback from plenary

- In response to Diakit 's question, Vincent explained that institutionalisation is good but it is important to understand that it takes time to realise and is a long process. However, it is easier when it is started gradually from the lower levels, the grassroots. It is also important to present evidence through the PID process and share this evidence. This applies to Kenya as well as other countries.
- In response to Chesha's question, Vincent explained that some of the 21 participants trained in PID have trained others within their organisation. This is in the M&E report.
- In response to a question from Domingos, Mozambique, about fundraising, Vincent explained that PK has been doing Internet searches on relevant sites for non-governmental organisation (NGO) funding such as the Peak Proposals and other random sites so as to get to know about calls for proposals, and they select those that suit Prolinnova.
- On another question from Domingos about results of policy engagement and integration of promoting PID in local policies in Kenya, Vincent explained that there has not been any integration yet.
- Joe Nchor asked how PK has coped with the Covid-19 challenge. Vincent explained that PK is applying the Ministry of Health guidelines to operate. He acknowledged that PK has been affected by the ban on social and official gatherings and the cessation of movement in Nairobi. This slowed down the activities a little, but did not stop the work completely, and they were still able to identify local innovations.
- Joe explained that there is no need for PK to continue identifying local innovations. There is restricted time that the project can spend on identifying innovations and more time should now be spent on institutionalisation activities. The CP should focus more time resources on the scaling-up plans.
- Abdel asked what has been done to scale up the local innovations in Kenya, e.g. to make Joe Ouko's innovation available to other farmers, and how other CPs can benefit from the comparative advantage that PK has in proposal writing. Vincent reported that PK documented innovations and published catalogues, which are shared with partners, and also held farmer fairs, where the innovations have been showcased to the public.

Prolinnova–Mali, presented by Diakit  Bourama

Background

The CPs in Mali and Burkina Faso are jointly implementing the second phase of the project "Supporting and strengthening farmer research networks to improve local innovation in Burkina Faso and Mali" (FaReNe II). The following activities have been implemented so far by the project in Mali:

- Joint experiments: Research on combinations of legumes and sorghum was done by 20 innovators at two learning sites (Nadia and Tambougou). In Nadia, the results for sorghum and legume associations (3 lines of cowpea and 1 line of sorghum) show production levels 83–88% higher than the sole



cultivation of sorghum or legumes. In Tambougou, a sorghum and legume combination (1 sorghum line and 3 peanut lines) brought yields 66–80% higher than with sole cropping.

- **Implementation of LISFs:** 20 innovators were trained in LISF management and local-level management committees have been set up. In addition, 1,000,000 FCFA have been granted to 20 people from two villages to fund sheep fattening, with benefits varying from 40% to 60% from one village to another and average income per disbursement ranging from 15,000 FCFA to 38,500 FCFA.
- **Improved products:** For child nutrition, an enriched flour is being developed with the IPR/IFRA (*Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée*) of the University of Katibougou. A study was carried out on improving infant nutrition by using two feeding formulas in the villages of Fambougou and Niatia. In addition, a training was carried out for 20 women on good childcare practices and enriched flour production. Experiments were carried out with students and health workers from October to December 2020. A survey on the adoption of good nutritional practices among women is ongoing.
- **Supporting formal and informal farmer-led research networks:** 20 members of the networks (including 5 women) were trained on leadership, one study tour was organised between the producers in Niatia and 22 producers (including 6 women) supported by World Vision and one experience-exchange visit was organised with 20 participants (including 10 women).
- **Fundraising:** The PROFEIS project ended in May 2020, and a request for a fifth phase was made in September 2020 to Misereor.



Korotoumou Traoré experimenting with crop associations in Togo

Governance and institutional development

To improve governance of Prolinnova–Mali, the following activities have been carried out:

- Monthly meetings of the partners: ADAF/Gallé (*Association pour le Développement des Activités de production et de Formation*, CP host organisation), AOPP (*Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes*), DNA (*Direction Nationale de l'Agriculture*) and IER (*Instituted d'Economie Rurale*).
- Research and information sharing on calls for projects.
- Producing a magazine on the achievements of Phase IV of PROFEIS.
- Producing annual report on FaReNe Phase II (Burkina Faso and Mali).
- Involving finalist students of IPR/IFRA Katibougou in framework of ECs.
- Setting up new collaboration for conducting FaReNe activities.
- Collecting data on joint experiments (2020–21), still in progress.
- Making joint field missions by PROFEIS and FaReNe with the technical team of the partner organisations (ADAF/Gallé, AOPP, DNA and IER).
- Participation of the Mali CP in the POG (Samba Traoré).
- Submission of new PROFEIS project proposal to Misereor after Phase IV ended in May 2020.



Visit to exchange experiences on association of millet on ridges and groundnut in furrows

Challenges

- Insecurity linked to terrorist attacks, which make travel and community meetings difficult.
- Emergence of Covid-19 and related restrictions.
- Limited access to land for women and youth.

Feedback from plenary

- Chesha asked if the CP in Mali was still carrying out the Misereor-funded PROFEIS Phase IV. Diakitè responded that the CP did not expand during Phase IV, which mostly involved dissemination. Thus, 400 people were trained in local innovation, both nationally and internationally. Twenty-four producers

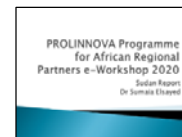
were trained under Diobass in one innovation called *banco*, an egg incubator. A proposal for PROFEIS Phase V (3 years) has been submitted to Misereor and is awaiting response.

- Adama asked what kind of experiments were currently being done with cowpea. Diakité responded that the CP will be experimenting on the enriched porridge from October to December this year. The CP will share the research protocol for a better understanding.

Prolinnova–Sudan, presented by Ms Sumaia Elsayed

Background

Prolinnova–Sudan was established in 2003. It was first hosted by Practical Action, later moved to SOS Sahel and now it is hosted by the National Center for Research (NCR). After many years of inactivity, the CP became re-activated in 2017 after the SRC for ESA, the late Amanuel Assefa, visited and facilitated the appointment of a new NSC. Since then, many activities have been carried out mainly by the CP members with other stakeholders. However, in late 2018 and in 2019, the CP remained on the back burner because of the country's political instability at that time.



Activities implemented

The following are the main activities that have been implemented by the CP thus far:

- **Creation of micro-gardens with two women's associations:** This included holding two homegardening workshops in partnership with Workers Microfinance Company Limited and the Women's Association in NCR, funded by the two partners and coordinated by AlZaim AlAzhari University. The objective was to enhance homegardening by women, especially housewives. After the workshop, all participants were expected to plant their own crops, mainly vegetable, at their homes.
- **Pilot in organic farming in partnership with university:** This included a Farmer Innovation Day with the objective to promote organic farming, organised together with AlZaim AlAzhari University and coordinated by the Sudanese Organization for Agriculture Extension and Rural Development. The fair involved farmer innovators, students and lecturers and included field visits to different organic farms and homegardens. The output was communication with farmers and establishing a farmers' platform on organic farming and partnership with the University's Faculty of Agriculture.
- **Training:** A fertilisation training was carried out in partnership with the University. A lecture on organic fertiliser was given by Mohmed Dahoom (farmer innovator) in October 2019.

Governance and networking

Prolinnova–Sudan implemented the activities through CP members networking with other organisations. The CP also made a self-assessment of network functioning. In 2019, there was only one NSC meeting. This is because the NSC members, like other Sudanese citizens, were completely involved in the revolution and transition period, so the communication within the NSC and CP was very limited. There was some communication with the SRC and POG member for ESA, but more limited than in 2018.

Activities in the pipeline

A Tailor-Made Training (TMT) project "From despair to hope: promoting women's and youth innovation for food and nutrition security and community resilience in Sudan" funded by Nuffic (Netherlands organisation for internationalisation of education) is planned in partnership with AlZaim AlAzhari University and the Royal Tropical institute (KIT) Sustainable Economic Development and Gender Unit/ Prolinnova IST. Also planned is the documentation of innovations in Sudan.

Challenges

- Lack of funding, including funds for documentation and dissemination of the PID concept in North Sudan, where the innovators live.
- Very great distance between the members of the NSC of the CP.
- Self-assessment revealed that communication between NSC members and the regional level has been very limited.
- Insufficient partnership with state services for institutionalisation of PID in the extension system.
- Large capacity-building needs of NSC members and farmer in PID, LISF and gender issues.

Looking ahead, the NSC intends to focus on:

- Fight against the negative impacts of climate change on people, in collaboration with AlZaïm AlAzhari University.
- CP should approach partners in the states of Sudan; many states are nominated, some communication was started but unfortunately nothing is moving forward.
- Strengthening capacities of the members of the NSC and coordinator.
- Develop programme for broader capacity building.
- Mobilisation of funds.

Feedback from the plenary

- Chesha asked if the CP is looking for local innovation in the homegarden project and how the project is connected to the PID approach. Sumaiya explained that the CP is trying out several innovations around modifying the traditional sacks for gardens to come up with more efficient and more productive types. This is also likely to change the eating habits of people by improving availability of other foods.
- Chesha asked whether the CP can use local radio for dissemination. Sumaiya confirmed that indeed they are using radio, because people in rural areas can only access radio.
- Abdel noted that most of the activities the CP is carrying out are based on AlZaïm AlAzhari University, which is a public university, and wondered how the CP handles public research institutions in PID processes. Sumaiya explained that they chose a university that has extension services in its curriculum as it would be willing to involve students. The University has a School of Rural Extension. The students go to work in the rural areas, thus providing the CP with an opportunity to engage them. The CP has proposed to the University to include local innovation and PID in the curriculum.
- Abdel observed that the institutional organisation of universities and research institutions may not favour inclusion of PID in the curriculum. However, students can be involved through some CPs without this necessarily being in the curriculum. Students can be sensitised about new ways of doing things, different from the classical ways they know. Chesha gave an example of Nepal, where farmer innovators shared their experiences with students in class.
- Ann noted that there has been much discussion on this topic, e.g. Jean-Marie Diop collected and shared experiences in integrating PID into curricula; this showed that most of the efforts were by interested individuals in the university. But it was difficult to sustain the courses after these individuals retired.
- Sumaiya observed that including PID in a course is easy. The problem is developing a new course. It is much easier to incorporate PID into existing courses, especially for extension workers.
- It was concluded that, to institutionalise PID, public universities must be involved to make them open to the idea. This should involve developing tools, modules and curricula on PID, LISF and gender issues, and placing students to do their theses on these topics. It should include use of other farming methods than the traditional ones. The media, such as radio broadcasts, should be used for communication.

Prolinnova–Zimbabwe, presented by Theophilus Tawanda Mudzindiko

Background

Prolinnova–Zimbabwe is fairly new (in the process of being established), having been initiated in April 2019 by five organisations that formed the NSC. These include three NGOs, one farmer organisation and one research organisation. The CP was created for the following reasons:

- A group of organisations seeks to develop and strengthen Zimbabwe’s agriculture sectors, which include crop and livestock production, fisheries and forestry, by integrating endogenous solutions into rural development policies, practices and strategies.
- Need for appropriate documentation, packaging and dissemination of local innovations.
- Inadequate coordination among civil-society organisations (CSOs), public-sector organisations and academia involved in PID.
- Limited funding for testing, improving and scaling of innovations.



Activities implemented

Although a comprehensive study is yet to be done, the CP worked mainly in the area of identifying and promoting local innovations in Zimbabwe. The following are the main activities done so far:

- Setting up and running the Phiri Awards, which was started in 2014 to identify and give prominence to farm and food innovators in Zimbabwe. The award is named after the late [Zephaniah Phiri](#), a master of harvesting water in landscapes. His water infiltration pits in contour ridges and clay-lined ponds in vleis are now adopted by tens of thousands of dryland farmers.
- Identification of four farmer innovations: mole trap, orchard from rocky ground, water surveying, and domestication of mopane worms. Examples of innovations identified are shown in the pictures below.

Governance

Currently, the CP has an NSC with five member organisations, one of which – PELUM (Participatory Ecological Land Use Management)–Zimbabwe hosts the CP secretariat. The members include:

- Centre for Applied Social Sciences (CASS)
- Cluster Agricultural Development Services (CADS)
- PELUM–Zimbabwe (Secretariat)
- Phiri Awards
- Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers' Forum (ZIMSOFF).

A second meeting was held in October 2019 to map the way forward for the CP. Its application to join the Prolinnova Community of Practice (CoP) was approved by the POG in November 2019.

<p>Water surveying <i>Innovator:</i> Farmer from Mutoko (Kahukwa) Kanyonganise <i>Innovation:</i> <i>Mukute</i> (<i>Syzygium cordatum</i>) or <i>muhacha</i> (<i>Parinari curatellifolia</i>) used to survey for water. Fork shape; it begins to shake visibly when it locates water.</p>	 	
<p>Mole trap <i>Innovator:</i> Paguei Takura (a farmer from Chikukwa) <i>Innovation:</i> Lost sweet potatoes and bananas to moles. Through experimentation using different materials, he developed a highly effective way of catching moles. Bark, bamboo, cooking oil bottles and finally the 250ml Vaseline bottle worked.</p>		<p>Orchard from rocky ground <i>Innovator:</i> Wilson Sithole had almost 2 ha of unfarmable land covered with rocks. <i>Innovation:</i> He used firewood to crack and break up the rocks and gradually broke up all the rocks on his farm and turned them into contour bunds, combined with ditches. His neighbours mocked him saying: "This old man smokes marijuana" After 20 years, he had 20 bunds and ditches. In between the bunds, he has planted bananas, pineapples and citrus trees. For bananas, his harvest averages 480 kg per month.</p>

Way forward

The CP plans to implement the following activities:

- Regroup to revive the interest through, if possible, a physical meeting
- Revisit original action plan and chart way forward
- Develop a 2-year strategic plan document
- Conduct study to generate information on existing PID in Zimbabwe
- Implement joint activity, including identifying and visiting at least two innovations with potential for PID
- Resource mobilisation through proposal writing for scaling PID.

Feedback from plenary

- Ann appreciated the work that the Zimbabwe CP has done in building on work done before, in documentation of local innovation and PID as well as giving awards to local innovators.
- Also Abdel was impressed by the work. He was surprised that there are drylands in Zimbabwe. Theo responded that there are different agroecological zones in Zimbabwe. Some zones are hot and dry. These are the zones where innovations in water-harvesting technologies are being developed. He pointed to a recent study, which revealed that dry areas in Zimbabwe are increasing while wet areas are decreasing on account of the effects of climate change.
- Abdel wanted to know if the tree whose branches are used in the innovation to detect water in Zimbabwe have the same properties as the one in Senegal, given that Senegal is mostly dry and may need an innovation like this one. Theo confirmed that the tree belongs to the same genus. Ann added that the technology is not just about the tree species but also the persons using it (called *water diviners*). There are only special people who can use this technique with a rod. She knew a German man who was particularly skilled in this and was cheaper and more effective than water engineers in finding underground water. Abdel observed that the genus or species might have the same properties that allows the engineers to use the metallic rods or electronic ions. The species may be working the same way. Olubayo gave an example from her area, where her local borehole was surveyed in the same way by a local artisan in 1998 and she is still using the borehole to date.

Prolinnova–Mozambique, prepared by Gilda Fafetine, Miriam Morgado, Romuald Rutazihana & Domingos Tsucane

Background to Prolinnova–Mozambique

The CP was formed in December 2006 and was admitted to the Prolinnova CoP in 2007. However, the CP was inactive in the period 2013–17. Membership has fluctuated over time. There were 16 founding members. Between 2006 and 2019, 12 new members joined. The CP now has 13 members: three from local NGOs, one from a community-based organisation (CBO), five from farmer organisations, one from an educational Institution, one from a government department and two independent persons.



Activities implemented

- Several innovations by two farmers (Ms Veronica Siteo, Domingos Nguenha) were disseminated: biopesticides and biofertilisers, improved granary Gorongosa model, drying of vegetables and seed preservation using biopesticides.
- A farmer innovator was identified who makes bricks from clay brought by floods in Tchemulane, Chibuto District, Gaza Province. ADCR (*Associação para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais*) trained him in PID in 2013–17. He innovated because flooding in the Limpopo River Valley in 2019 interrupted farming activities, leading to poor harvests. The innovation now involves 150 farmers (over 80% women), facilitated by ADCR with funds from CIC (*Centro de Iniciativas para la Cooperación*)-Batá.
- A CP meeting held virtually and face-to-face on 29 August 2020 in Xai-Xai, Gaza Province was attended by 13 partners. A new NSC Secretary was elected, activities were planned for the year and confirmed, and the list of participants for the Nuffic-funded PID training was confirmed.



Biopesticides and biofertilisers

Improved granary: Gorongosa model

Preserving seed with biopesticides

- The CP is implementing the Nuffic-funded training project “*Practical application of PID for improving food and nutrition security among poor farming communities*”, hosted by Kulima, a local NGO and member of the CP. It planned to carry out a PID training workshop at the beginning and a feedback workshop at the end. The training was held virtually and face-to-face on 14–17 September 2020 in Maputo, facilitated by Domingos Tsucane, Romuald Rutazihana, Brigid Letty, Chesha Wettasinha and Jacob Wanyama. It involved 18 trainees from 16 institutions, including both members and non-members of the CP.
- After the training, the participants submitted proposals for PID pilot projects, of which four were approved and funded in three provinces: Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane. The pilots are being carried out from October 2020 to March 2021, when the feedback workshop is planned.



Challenges

- Suspension of activities by many members.
- Weakened governance structure.
- Death of ADCR Director (host organisation).
- Relationship with ADCR changed; CP looking for new host.
- Covid-19 pandemic changed format and timing of Nuffic-funded PID training project.



Feedback from plenary

There was no reaction from the participants, so we moved on directly to the next presentation.

SESSION 2b: CP PRESENTATIONS CONT'D

Prolinnova–Ghana, presented by Ms Margaret Ama Kyiu

Key activities implemented by CP

Prolinnova–Ghana is hosted by the Association of Church-based Development Projects (ACDEP). Since the last IPW, the CP has implemented the following activities:



- Identification, documentation and dissemination of local innovations: 40 innovations have been documented, of which 30 were by women, seven by men and three by mixed groups; 29 of these innovations were shared at three action-learning sites and with the general public, reaching about 10,500 people. In addition, documentation materials were produced for sharing and advocacy on local innovation and PID.
- PID: Eight innovations (2 by men, 6 by women/women’s groups) were improved through PID processes and results disseminated.
- Recognition of women innovators: Ten deserving innovators (9 women, 1 man) were given awards at the annual National Farmers Day. In addition, the Bongo sheabutter innovation group was registered to become a legal entity. The group entered into a partnership with KOICA (Korean International Cooperation Agency) for further training and equipment support.
- Networking & policy dialogue: ACDEP supported the organisation and facilitation of the Proli-FaNS end-of-project sharing and learning workshop in May 2019 in Senegal. The Centre for Ecological Agriculture and Livelihoods (CEAL) took part in two major organic farming conferences in Ghana. In November 2019, CEAL and NABOCADO (Navrongo Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Development Organisation)



attended the 5th West Africa Organic Conference in Accra on behalf of Prolinnova–Ghana. NABOCADO shared information on promoting local innovation and PID at regional Research–Extension Liaison Committee (RELC) meetings.

- **Fundraising:** The CP supported and coordinated the preparation and submission of a proposal to Misereor for a follow-on project to Proli-FaNS in June 2019. ACDEP and partners also developed and submitted a proposal to Misereor for a 3-year ethnoveterinary medicine (EVM) project; implementation began in October 2019. ACDEP submitted a funding proposal in October 2020 to Expertise France/ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), in partnership with the University for Development Studies (UDS), but this was not under the Prolinnova umbrella.

Key activities implemented in SULCI-FaNS

The following are main activities carried out under SULCI-FaNS:

- **Farmer-led research:** 30 innovations (15/action-learning site) were documented, out of which eight priority innovations (6 by women, 2 by men), 4/site were selected for PID.
- **Capacity building:** There were two trainings on promoting local innovation and PID, gender issues and M&E: one at anglophone subregional level in February 2020 and another at CP level in June 2020. In total, the training benefitted 23 persons (9 female, 14 male). There was also training in LISFs in September 2020.
- **Policy dialogue and advocacy on PID approach:** District policy-dialogue meetings were held at the action-learning sites for a total of 39 persons (30 men, 9 women). In addition, six innovations (3 per site) shared by women innovators at stakeholders’ policy-dialogue meetings were also aired by three local radio stations.
- **Governance:** Governance bodies have been reconstituted, which include a 7-member NSC and an expanded Core Team.



Key activities implemented in the EVM project

- A project inception workshop was held with multiple stakeholders in January 2020.
- Then 20 project communities were selected and 24 innovations (herbal treatments) for treating 18 different diseases/conditions were selected and documented.
- In addition, six innovations were selected for scientific validation and district platforms were established for learning and advocacy.



Challenges faced and measures adopted

- The CP still faces inadequate capacities to effectively facilitate and support the PID approach.
- Government imposition of Covid-19 lockdown in the country from March to July 2020 drastically slowed down activities.
- CP membership and networking activities at country level were also thwarted because of the Covid-19 restrictions.
- The CP provided awareness and education on safety protocols in the face of Covid-19 and procured and distributed personal protective equipment.
- The CP increasingly used virtual means in communicating with partners.



Outlook

With the easing of restrictions, the CP hopes to be able to undertake more activities geared towards creating greater awareness on the PID approach to positively influence national/regional agricultural advisory programmes and actors to take up the local innovation and participatory research approach.

Feedback from plenary

- Chesha pointed out that it was not intended that the local innovation and PID training be replicated exactly as it was in the ToT. The CPs need to tailor the concepts according to the needs of those being trained. The PPT presentations (used in the initial training of CPs) were shared but were not meant to be used as they were to show to different audiences. Something has to be done about tailoring the training to the different groups we are dealing with.
- Abdel asked about the proposal submitted to Expertise France/ECOWAS. Margaret responded that a full proposal was submitted in October and the CP is still awaiting a decision. (*This was not under the Prolinnova umbrella, so should not actually be included in the report for Prolinnova–Ghana.*)

Prolinnova–Senegal, presented by Djibril Thiam

Background

The Covid-19 pandemic led Senegal, like other countries in the world, into confinement from mid-March to early June 2020, which caused a slowdown in the CP's activities.

However, Prolinnova–Senegal, a CP that brings together different actors (farmer organisations, advisory service, university, State service), expanded by welcoming new members and also by hosting the Proli-GEAFaSa project. This is focused on local innovation in agricultural water management in small-scale family farming in the Sahel. It operates in the Dagana and Podor Department in the Saint Louis Region of Senegal.

Since the IPW in May 2019, the CP has implemented the following activities.

- Restructuring the platform: The CP has been restructured with new members joining: training centre, women's association, resource centre and producer network. The new members are: Green Sahel Centre; CEDD (*Centre d'Ecoute et d'Encadrement pour un Développement Durable / Listening and Support Centre for Sustainable Development*); CRABS (*Centre de Ressources en Agriculture Biologique et Economie Sociale et Solidaire / Resource Centre for Organic Agriculture and Social and Solidarity-based Economy*) and *Fraisen* (Pan-African Strawberry Growers' Network).
- Project design: Three project proposals were developed: Proli-GEAFaSa, Biosol4Rural and Innovations in the face of Covid-19. Out of these three proposals, only one received a positive response so far, namely Proli-GEAFaSa; the other two are pending.
- Sharing the project with the NSC: Project sharing workshops were organised with the NSC on 11 January and 17 July 2020 at the office of Agrecol Afrique. Several organisations visited the project: FPA (*Fédération des Périmètres Autogérés*), SAED (*Société Nationale d'Aménagement et d'Exploitation des Terres du Delta du Fleuve Sénégal*) Dagana Delegation, SAED Podor Delegation, UJAK (*Union des jeunes agriculteurs de Koyli Wirnde*), AFUP (*Association des Fédérations et Unions des Producteurs de Podor*), UGPAR (*Union des Groupements et Agriculteurs de Rao*), Andando NGO, Dagana Delegation, SAED Podor and UJAK Podor.
- Training: Two training workshops were organised on PID, MSPs, LISFs and gender concepts. One was targeted at actors in two projects (SULCI-FaNS and Proli-GEAFaSa) and the other was for local actors in our intervention areas (Dagana and Podor).
- Signature of partnership agreement: Two partnership agreements were signed between AgriBio Services and the *Centre Interprofessionnel de Formation aux métiers de l'Agriculture* (CIFA) and the *Centre Forestier de Recyclage de Thiès*.
- Identification of local innovations: Four innovations were identified:
 - a. Use of buried pvc pipe of 55 mm diameter as irrigation system for market gardening beds.
 - b. Use of 20-litre bottle buried in ground as watering technique in market gardening.
 - c. Combination of pepper and lettuce cultivation to reduce water consumption.
 - d. Setting up an okra nursery as a means of saving water.



FPA Dagana

Summary of achievements

Table 1 summarises of achievements by Prolinnova–Senegal since the IPW in May 2019.

Table 1: Summary of achievements by Prolinnova–Senegal

Activities	Results
Information missions	8 local organisations in Dagana and Podar informed
Actors' Farming Workshop	10 actors: 6 men and 4 women
Training workshop for local actors	22 participants trained (8 women, 10 youth)
Identification of local innovations	6 local innovations previously identified, of which 1 by a women and 3 by youth
Characterisation of local innovations	6 innovations documented
Increasing CP membership	4 new members joined the CP
Partnerships formed	2 partnership agreements drawn up and signed

Challenges

Prolinnova–Senegal faced several challenges, including:

- Bringing in research institutions such as ISRA (*Institut Sénégalais de Recherche Agricole*) and ITA (*Institut de Technologies Alimentaires*) as suggested by the SRC.
- Creating online fairs for innovators.
- Creating a Facebook page to allow innovators to share their innovations.
- Getting local authorities to join the CP to facilitate advocacy and policy dialogue.
- Supporting the operation of local MSPs through virtual tools in a Covid-19 context.
- Finding out what has been developed by local people, particularly farmers, to deal with this crisis.

Conclusion

Thanks to the various activities carried out by the CP, it is growing day by day and welcoming new members. This will be strengthened by the Proli-GEAFaSa project, which brings a new dynamism to the CP.

However, in order to better achieve its objectives, the CP will have to work harder to get more members to join and to get the vision of Prolinnova accepted by actors in agricultural research and development (ARD). This will be done by selecting relevant actors who will be able to participate in this change.

Feedback from plenary

- It is noteworthy that Prolinnova–Senegal is reaching out to a wider group of partners. The network will not become static.

DAY 2: TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2020

SESSION 3: CP PRESENTATIONS CONT'D

This session started at 8:00 UTC with an introduction by Wanyama and Abdel, the SRCs for ESA and WCA, respectively. They welcomed the participants and highlighted the main topics of the day: 1) Conclusion of CP presentations (South Africa, Cameroon and Uganda); 2) Presentations by the SRCs; 3) POG feedback (report and Issues) presented by the co-chair, Lisa Williams van Dijk; 4) Advocacy strategy facilitated by Chesha; and 5) Fundraising facilitated by Chesha. After each CP presentation, there was a plenary session for questions and comments for 5–10 minutes. Each of these presentations is summarised below.



Background

Prolinnova–South Africa (SA) is in the process of reviving itself. To do this, the host organisation (Institute of Natural Resources) is engaging with Core Team members from KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces to find common focal areas for engagement. The focus is on virtual engagement between provinces and finding ways to work together around common issues within provinces. The CP is also looking to use funded projects to identify and support local innovation. It has engaged in activities in 2020 to try to ensure broader participation. The common focal area is household water supply. Many rural households are not serviced with water. They instead rely on natural water sources. The CP members have encountered a social innovation by households with a collective system. PACSA (Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action) is also supporting this independently. The issue is how to share these innovations – social (water allocation) and technical (repairs). There is also a very strong gender element in this innovation.



Meeting with household members and UNDP Accelerator Lab about the water supply

There are opportunities for brokering/engaging stakeholders, especially the Municipality and NGOs. There has also been interest from the UNDP Accelerator Labs – with a view to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the short term, the active members plan to revive the network and re-establish a Steering Committee – a process that will need government involvement.

Feedback from plenary

- It is good to see that the CP is being revived in KZN and Mpumalanga Provinces.
- In the focal area of the water supply innovation shared, there are 14 households that came together for water supply. Many rural households in SA are not serviced and rely on natural resources, so emphasis is put on social innovation, where households have a collective system for ensuring access to water.
- The second innovation shared focused on urban settlement areas, where there is limited space for vegetable production.
- The garden innovation was identified through a project that was introducing tower gardens for vegetable production, using grey water. Grey water is waste water from washing and bathing in households. It is different from black water (with faecal load), the use of which is not allowed in SA.



Terracing in urban settlement using limited space for vegetable production, Madiba, KZN (Mr Ndlela)

Prolinnova–Cameroon, presented by Jean Bosco Etoa

Activities implemented

The CP is implementing two projects under the Prolinnova umbrella: SULCI-FaNS and FIPAC, each with different objectives.

SULCI-FaNS in Cameroon has two objectives: 1) rural communities further develop their innovative capacities to effectively improve food security, nutrition security and nutritional diversity; and 2) women are more widely recognised as innovators and are supported in further developing their innovations, the benefits of which they control. The FIPAC has three objectives: 1) to disseminate already identified local innovations related to food and nutrition security; 2) to create a networking space in which farmers, researchers and rural advisors raise awareness about farmer innovation; and 3) to promote policy dialogue and institutionalisation of promoting local innovation and PID.



Under these projects, Prolinnova–Cameroon has achieved a number of outcomes/results in areas of farmer-led research, documentation and sharing, capacity building within the CP as well as advocacy/ policy dialogue. The following are the main achievements:

- **Farmer-led research:** Ten innovations have been identified, of which six were validated by the Local MSP. ODECO (*Organisme de Développement, d'Etudes, de Formation et de Conseils au Cameroun*) has supported an interesting organisational innovation by bringing groups of small-scale farmers to respect international standards in food production and processing. Nachtigal Hydro Power Company (NHPC), major consumers of the standardised products, wants to present it as a social aspect of their work.
- **Documentation and sharing:** The research on the Ekani couple's innovation to reduce cocoa cake bitterness using natron has been published in the journal *Food Science and Nutrition*. The beekeeper innovator Serge Ayangma has set up a WhatsApp group with 93 members, in which information about the *fonge* beehive and local bee-colony multiplication and other beekeeping issues is shared. Serge also shared the *fonge* innovation in the FAO TECA (Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers) e-platform to over 70 participants and has participated in radio broadcast panels.
- **Capacity building within the CP:** Two training sessions were organised to build the capacities of CP organisational members in promoting local innovation. Three NSC meetings were organised to validate the FIPAC concept note and budget and to assess the CP's activities and institutionalisation strategy.
- **Advocacy/policy dialogue:** The SERVinnov (*Service d'appui à l'innovation*) project of CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) joined the CP, and membership of Green Cameroon, an NGO based in Buea, is in the pipeline.
- **Fundraising:** Misereor has agreed to partially fund the FIPAC, and negotiations are ongoing for support from local services. A concept note was submitted to ALC Foundation but without success.



Governance

There have been some changes in the CP structures. GIC-APINK (*Groupe d'Initiative Commune des Apiculteurs de Nkométou*) was replaced by JAEC (*Jeunes Agriculteurs Emergents du Centre*) as representative of the local MSP, while GIC-APINK were promoted to the NSC as representative of farmer organisations. As representative of PCP-ACEFA (*Programme de Consolidation et de Pérennisation du conseil agropastoral*) in the NSC, Mr Ntankeu was replaced by Ms Ngambia.

Challenge

The CP has managed to gain 72% of the funds needed for FIPAC but needs to raise the remaining amount.

Feedback from plenary

The main aspects of Prolinnova–Cameroon's work appear to be dissemination and scaling up local innovation for food and nutrition security, networking, promoting policy dialogue and establishing new institutional partnerships in PID.

Prolinnova–Uganda, presented by Joshua Zake

Introduction

The summary of Prolinnova–Uganda activities since the last IPW was largely derived from the CP's annual report for 2019. It presented the key achievements, challenges and perspectives during the reporting period. Notable is that, during this period, the CP was largely constrained in terms of funding to effectively deliver on its aspirations. Despite this, the CP Secretariat at Environmental Alert ensured that the CP remained visible and active among the members, key stakeholders and partners. This was achieved through facilitating and supporting networking activities among members for information sharing and exchange, largely through online interactions and participation in activities led by



CP members. Furthermore, greater focus and effort were invested into resource mobilisation and fundraising as part of the development of the Prolinnova–Uganda programme.

Achievements and perspectives

The following are the achievements of the CP since the last IPW:

- **Information sharing:** The CP Secretariat participated in the National Agroecology Actors’ Symposium (NAAS) held on 30–31 May 2019 and organised by PELUM–Uganda. The key outcomes from the symposium included creation of a deeper, harmonised understanding and appreciation of agroecology by the different stakeholders as a result of disseminating research findings and farmers’ lessons; a clear roadmap for developing the National Strategy on Scaling up Agroecology in Uganda; launching of the National Agroecology Actors Platform (NAAP); and a communiqué on Scaling up Agroecology. In addition, a member of the CP Secretariat took part in the IPW held on 13–17 May 2019 at Sahel Vert Agroecology Training Centre in Centre Mampuya in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal.
- **Capacity building for CP members:** Two members of the Secretariat and one other member of the CP (Kikandwa Environment Association) benefited from an interactive training on ‘Lobbying, Policy Analysis and Advocacy’ held on 10–11 October 2019. The training targeted at enhancing knowledge and skills of CSOs to effectively engage in influencing duty bearers to actualise climate-change-resilience actions at national and community levels. In addition, Wageningen University conducted a 2-day ToT on Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) in collaboration with the Kawanda Agricultural Research Organization and Environmental Alert. This involved 30 participants, including banana farmer innovators, food processors, and district and sub-county extension staff from project sites in Birere, Rugaaga and Rwimi in Isingiro and Bunyangabo Districts.
- **Development of partnerships:** Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were developed with two strategic partners:
 - a. PELUM–Uganda: a 5-year MoU was endorsed between Environmental Alert (host of the CP Secretariat) and PELUM–Uganda to provide an overarching framework for collaboration and partnership between PELUM–Uganda and Prolinnova–Uganda towards achieving shared goals and aspirations in the agriculture; environment and natural resource management (NRM), and land-management subsectors based on their respective institutional mandates.
 - b. Makerere University, School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences (SFECS): the CP Secretariat held a meeting with the Dean of SFECS and agreed to develop an MoU between SFECS and Environmental Alert, host of Prolinnova–Uganda, targeted at developing a framework for structured collaboration for advancing farmer innovation in Uganda through research and development. A draft MoU in this respect was developed and is under review by both parties.
- **Networking:** The Secretariat focused on popularising the CP so as to mobilise new members/partners. This is continually done through the website and social media. The CP membership is still maintained at 40 member organisations. Some CP members, e.g. PELUM–Uganda, NARO (National Agricultural Research Organisation), MAAIF (Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries), Horizon 3000, Makerere University and partners such as AGC, continued to implement activities to promote farmer innovation and agroecology for food security, nutrition and sustainable NRM. A second contact person for Prolinnova–Uganda, Alex Lwakuba from MAAIF, was elected by the members of the NSC and Core Team. Thus, MAAIF has become a focal point, which will further enhance information exchange among members, partners and stakeholders at different levels.
- **Documentation:** The CP Secretariat provided technical inputs into the brochure and charter for the Eastern & Southern Africa Prolinnova Platform (ESAPP).
- **Resource mobilisation:** The CP is continuously involved in resource mobilisation efforts/initiatives as part of programme development for the CP. Some of the proposals prepared and submitted include:
 - a. A consortium concept note involving AGC, Environmental Alert as host of Prolinnova–Uganda and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), titled “Innovation and climate adaptation: women smallholder farmers lead the way”, targeted for implementation in Uganda and Kenya. The proposed project is for two years with a total budget of 600,000 USD. AGC as lead partner is

marketing this concept to potential development partners and has yet to share information about the fate of this concept note.

- b. A consortium proposal that involved 21 research, academic and CSOs in Europe and East Africa (Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania) was prepared in response to the European Union (EU) Horizon 2020 call published in 2019. The proposal is titled “Traditional Ecological & Indigenous Knowledge based Bio-Solutions & Business Models to Diversify Revenues in East African Rural Communities (TEKBioMEs)”. Three CP members (Environmental Alert, Makerere University and NARO–Kawanda) were involved in preparing the proposal and are partners in the research consortium led and coordinated by *Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung (ZALF)* based in Germany. The proposed project was for five years with a total budget of 68,970,000 Euros. The concept note was not successful in proceeding to the next stage of assessment.

Governance

- Two Prolinnova–Uganda NSC meetings were held.
- Regular communication and coordination with Prolinnova partners and stakeholders at the national, subregional and international levels, largely through online platforms, has kept the CP alive and active. The Prolinnova Googlegroup membership was updated; all CP members now receive notifications on their emails via the Googlegroup.
- In the NSC, Ms Christine Nakato, who is no longer with the Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE), was replaced by Mr Ssentogo Daudi, who was appointed by UNFFE as their representative. UNFFE chairs the NSC.
- The Prolinnova–Uganda consolidated annual report was prepared for 2019.

Challenges

- Inadequate funding for Prolinnova–Uganda limits it from implementing undertakings and aspirations as described in the strategic plan of the international Prolinnova network. This is being addressed through writing concept notes and proposals and pursuing collaboration with strategic partners.
- Delayed disbursement of funds by the development partners to support implementation of activities/ outputs for running projects.

Outlook

Moving forward, the CP and its members will tap into existing opportunities at national and international level to advance development of the CP in ways that fit into the aspirations laid out in the strategic plan of the Prolinnova network, e.g. promoting and mainstreaming PID in national policies and programmes, while addressing the underlying issues pertaining to innovation in ecologically sound agriculture and NRM based on the national and local context in Uganda.

Feedback from plenary

- The greater focus and efforts are invested into resource mobilisation and fundraising as part of the CP programme, and the CP is to be commended for its efforts.
- The key issue for moving forward will be to engage and involve new members in the CP.

SESSION 4: PRESENTATIONS BY SRCs

The SRCs each presented a summary of activities at subregional and regional level, followed by questions/ comments/recommendations from participants. Do Christophe facilitated the session; the presenters were Abdel (SRC for WCA) and Wanyama (SRC for ESA). Their presentations are summarised in the following.

SRC activities in WCA, presented by Abdel-Karim Ali Mahamane

Objectives and areas of expected achievements for the SRCs

The SRCs for Prolinnova in Africa are assigned four main objectives:

- 1) To strengthen the composition and functioning of the subregional working group so that it can create a subregional coordination body and set up a supervision group.



- 2) In consultation with the working group, to finalise the subregional charter.
- 3) To strengthen the activities of the subregional platform, in particular its engagement within the framework of policy dialogue at subregional level.
- 4) To coordinate and prepare multi-CP meetings/workshops/events, and compile and disseminate reports on these events at subregional and regional levels (joint task of both SRCs).

There are six major areas of expected achievements by the SRCs, each with specific activities, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Expected achievements by SRCs

Main areas of expected achievements	Specific activities
1) Regionalisation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subregional/regional platform • Content for multi-CP events • CP status • Capacity building
2) Policy dialogue and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy briefs and influencing • Advocacy for local innovation & PID approaches
3) Networking and partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergies and mutual learning • Networking and cross-learning with ESA subregion
4) Resource mobilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy to mobilise funds • Support mobilisation of funds at CP level • Mobilise funds at subregional level
5) Backstopping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support to CPs • Assist in improving governance within CPs • Support to M&E and documentation
6) Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and reporting • Documentation and publication

Achievements in WCA since the last IPW

The following are the achievements in the WCA subregion in each of the six main areas:

Regionalisation process

- A taskforce has been set up.
- The subregional charter was prepared and circulated for feedback and inputs at both CP and IST level and is now awaiting endorsement.
- A draft was developed describing the different coordination bodies and structure for the subregional platform and was circulated, discussed and endorsed at IST level. There is also a structure for links between the two subregional platforms in Africa.
- The SRC for WCA participated in the planning of the AfPW and the SULCI-FaNS annual meeting.
- Several meetings with IST, POG and Friends of Prolinnova to discuss the regionalisation process.

Policy dialogue and advocacy

- One policy brief was produced, published and uploaded on the Prolinnova website.
- The SRC for WCA also provided comments on the Prolinnova strategy document.
- Limited work was done on advocacy for local innovation and PID approaches.

Networking and partnership

- Three proposals were submitted; positive feedback was received from Misereor for the Proli-GEAFaSa and SULCI-FaNS projects.
- Experience sharing on M&E was organised between the CPs in Ghana and Cameroon.
- The SRC for WCA actively contributed to preparation of a Global FIF.
- There was good collaboration between the SRCs for WCA and ESA.

Resource mobilisation

- A table of funding opportunities was developed and circulated, and the SRC continue to update this.
- Several attempts were made to develop both multi-CP and CP-level proposals. These included a pre-proposal with the German Institute for Tropical & Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL) and the Nuffic TMT+ proposal, out of which a new CP in Benin could emerge. The fundraising attempts also included the two follow-on projects after Proli-FaNS and FaReNe. Moreover, the SRC assisted Prolinnova–Cameroon in developing a concept note in order to apply to a call for proposals launched by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation (DLPF).

Backstopping

- Backstopping visits were organised with the CPs/contact persons in Benin, Burkina Faso and Ghana.
- The SRC provided support to improve M&E at the CP level.
- The SRC provided support to Prolinnova–Cameroon in organising the FIPAC (postponed to 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic).
- Inception workshops were organised in the subregion for the SULCI-FaNS and Proli-GEAFaSA projects.
- The SRC WCA organised and facilitated several Zoom meetings with CPs in order to give them technical support and was involved in monthly IST meetings as well as meetings to prepare the AfPW and the virtual Global FIF. He also used these meetings to identify the CPs' needs in terms of backstopping.
- The SRC attempted to revive dormant CPs in Niger and Nigeria and also encouraged people in Guinea and The Gambia who expressed interest in setting up new CPs.

Documentation

- The SRC prepared and circulated three reports: two workshops reports and one annual report.
- The SRC provided support and translation for policy briefs, reports and guidelines.
- Monitoring of activities of the CPs was carried out virtually through frequent Skype meetings.

Issues and challenges

The SRC experienced several challenges in implementing the work both at CP and at subregional level.

The main challenges at CP level were:

- Covid-19 restrictions prevented travelling and made face-to-face backstopping of the CPs impossible.
- Difficulty to interact with the CP in Mali (several emails remained unanswered).
- Sometimes delays in answers from CPs to the SRC's emails.
- Dormant CPs (Niger, Nigeria) did not express any interest to revive their CP.

The main challenges at subregional level were:

- Covid-19 restrictions made international face-to-face gatherings impossible.
- Funding opportunities that match well with Prolinnova principles and objectives are scarce.
- It is difficult to enroll new partners who share the Prolinnova vision.
- The subregional taskforce members are not very responsive.

Opportunities for improvement

There are several opportunities for improvement at CP and subregional level. At CP level, these include:

- Continue the Skype/Zoom interactions and envisage a physical backstopping after restrictions are lifted.
- The CP in Mali remains a big issue (how should we proceed with the CP?).
- CPs should designate some staff members to deal with certain issues (fundings, networking etc).
- Continue trying to revive dormant CPs, backstopping where possible.
- Assist CPs to develop a national networking and fundraising strategy.
- Assist CPs to develop a communication strategy to support policy influencing and advocacy.
- Assist CPs to develop policy-dialogue/advocacy plans for their projects (SULCI-FaNS, ProliGEAFaSa, FaReNe, EVM etc) and for each CP as a whole.

At subregional level, opportunities for improvement include:

- Continue with virtual meetings until restrictions are lifted for crossborder gatherings.
- Attempt to connect with donors for direct negotiation of funding instead of responding to calls.
- Make policy dialogue and influencing more efficient by involving partners.
- Revive the subregional taskforce and create a Subregional Oversight Group.
- Develop a subregional networking and fundraising strategy.
- Develop a subregional communication strategy to support policy influencing and advocacy.
- Coordinate development of multi-CP initiatives with the support of the Subregional Oversight Group, the IST and the POG.

Perspectives of development

For future development of the subregional platform, priority will be given to the following activities:

- Subregional Charter approved and signed by the different parties .
- Set up the subregional bodies.
- Develop a subregional fundraising and networking strategy.
- Reinforce cross-learning within CPs.
- Train CPs and NSCs in networking and resource mobilisation.
- Backstopping to CPs (Mali, Cameroon).
- Revive dormant CPs (Niger, Nigeria).
- Assist people in countries seeking to set up new CPs (Benin, Gambia, Guinea, Togo).

SRC activities in ESA, presented by Jacob Wanyama

Key areas of delivery and planned activities

The key delivery areas and specific activities planned in the subregional platform in ESA are the same as shown for WCA in Table 2 above.



Achievements in ESA since the last IPW

The following are the achievements of the SRC in ESA for each of the key delivery areas.

Regionalisation, which involves setting up well-functioning coordination and governance bodies:

- The subregion has six active CPs and five members of the taskforce for regionalisation.
- Three CPs (Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa) are in the process of being revitalised.
- A draft charter was refined further and circulated to the taskforce for inputs, but inputs were received from only three CPs (Kenya, Uganda and Mozambique).
- The SRC for ESA contributed content to crossborder fundraising initiatives by two CPs (Uganda and Kenya) to the DLPF.

Backstopping and capacity building of CPs on governance and M&E:

- The Prolinnova–Ethiopia coordinator resigned, which affected that CP’s activities. Before then, there were attempts to improve the CP’s participation in the then ongoing Proli-FaNS project.
- The Nuffic-funded TMT project in Mozambique was approved and implementation started after a short delay because of the Covid-19 outbreak. Two local consultants were engaged to support the project, and the SRC provided technical backstopping.
- The SRC followed up virtually with the new CP that had formed in Zimbabwe. He held a Skype meeting with Mutizwa Mukute (now a Friend of Prolinnova) to understand the situation on the ground. After several attempts, the SRC held a Zoom meeting with the CP coordinator, Ms Gertrude Pswarayi. The main issue raised was the CP’s inactivity – mostly because of lack of resources to mobilise members.
- The SRC supported Prolinnova–Kenya to develop and present a case study on farmer innovation at the 2020 Horn of Africa & Sahel Knowledge Share Fair organised by FAO.

- The SRC conducted a virtual mapping exercise of CPs in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique, SA and Zimbabwe and identified main issues as governance, revitalisation and non-responsiveness of the CPs.
- The SRC gave technical backstopping to the CP in Kenya with respect to the SULCI-FaNS project.

Policy dialogue, networking and fundraising:

- The SRC supported Prolinnova–Kenya to draft its own policy-dialogue and institutionalisation strategy for PID in Kenya.
- The SRC tried unsuccessfully to contact a former coordinator of Prolinnova–Kenya (who is now with the University of Zambia) with the aim of discussing how to institutionalise PID into universities.
- The SRC explored the possibility of linking the ESA subregional platform with FARA (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa) through email communication with the subregional focal point.
- The SRC participated in two workshops: the SULCI-FaNS inception workshop and the SKI (Seed and Knowledge Initiative) Agroecology Workshop.
- The SRC provided inputs to the Three-Year Strategic Plan (2019–22) for SARFAAS (Southern Africa Regional Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services).
- Discussions have been initiated on possible collaboration between the Prolinnova ESA platform and Natural Livestock Farming (NLF), a network that promotes use of local remedies to reduce antibiotic use in dairy cattle.
- Three proposals were developed and submitted; one for the Mozambique CP to Nuffic, one for the CPs in Kenya and Uganda jointly to DLFP and one for the Sudan CP to Nuffic. Those for the CPs in Mozambique and Sudan succeeded, and the one to DLFP is still waiting for feedback.
- The SRC contributed to and participated in various issue-based and planning meetings at IST level.

Documentation and information sharing:

- The SRC provided comments in some Prolinnova Googlegroup discussions and attended several webinars.
- The SRC compiled and contributed to various documents, including a local innovation policy note and the ESA platform charter.
- There was continuous general communication between the SRC for ESA and the CP coordinators on issues of funding opportunities, annual reports, subregional platform charter, policy briefs, etc.

Issues and challenges

The main issues and challenges and issues that were encountered by the SRC for ESA include:

- Travel and other restrictions imposed globally because of the outbreak of the Covid–19 pandemic made it impossible to hold face-to-face meetings and to travel to the various CPs for backstopping missions. As a result, there was little crossborder learning, experience sharing and networking.
- Insufficient resources remained a major constraint for those CPs that do not have any specific externally funded project under the Prolinnova umbrella. This also affected the achievement of regional-level initiatives, as funding opportunities were lacking that match Prolinnova principles.
- In Ethiopia and Mozambique, the lack of a strong host organisation for the CP negatively affected the development of the CP.
- In general, many CPs face challenges of governance in their coordinating bodies, especially the NSC.
- Dormancy or inactiveness of some CPs such as Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique (initially) was a major challenge. This was reflected in the non-responsiveness of these CPs and their subregional taskforce members to the SRC’s emails.

Future actions

Table 3 shows the future actions planned by the SRC for ESA.

Table 3: Future actions planned by SRC for ESA

Key delivery areas	Planned priority activities
Regionalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclude subregional Charter and have it signed by the different parties • Set up the subregional bodies • Virtual meetings until lifting of Covid-19 restrictions
Policy dialogue and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop policy-dialogue/advocacy strategies and plans with CPs
Networking and partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish strategic partnerships for resource mobilisation and policy influencing (at CP, subregional, regional and international level) • Reinforce cross-learning within and across CPs
Resource mobilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop CP- and subregional-level fundraising and networking strategy • Monitor and respond to funding opportunities • Multi-CP/crossborder resource mobilisation (Kenya–Uganda, Ethiopia–Sudan–South Sudan, SA–Mozambique–Zimbabwe)
Backstopping and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen CP capacities in networking and resource mobilisation • Strengthen governance – NSCs • Support new and emerging CPs (Zimbabwe, Zambia, etc) • Revitalise weak/dormant CPs (Ethiopia, SA)
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop communication strategy to support policy influencing and advocacy

Feedback from plenary

- Membership should be broader as a CoP. The taskforces have the task to help to set up the subregional platforms and should be phasing out and replaced by other organs when this task is completed.
- There should be more representation of women, and appropriate tools for communication should be used to promote this. Women were not specifically mentioned in the reports.
- We need to make the subregional and regional platforms less heavy and less formal.
- The main challenge is identifying opportunities for development at CP and subregional levels in WCA and ESA. Development of national networking and PID and communication strategies is important.
- The focal point in Benin did not join this workshop. Chesha reported that Nuffic is funding PID training in Benin, and there are plans to set up a CP. An exchange visit that was planned this year from Benin to northern Ghana had to be postponed to 2021 on account of Covid-19.
- Peter pointed out that FAO is working in Senegal and Ghana to facilitate transition to agroecology. Prolinnova has much to say on the ARD approach; the SRC could engage with actors involved in the FAO work so as to help shape its strategy related to agroecology. There is a network for agroecology in West Africa, including CIRAD for the research dimension; the SRC and other Prolinnova partners in the area could bring their ideas and experience into that network. Also McKnight Foundation supports a lot of learning in their CoP; Prolinnova could become more actively engaged with that. Abdel noted that a regional office of FAO is located in Dakar; he could take up contact with them. Christophe explained that the FaReNe project is funded by McKnight, so they are aware of Prolinnova and its approach. The CP in Burkina is involved in McKnight’s CoP. Brigid also commented that she did a study for McKnight on farmer-led research networks; she could follow up and try to integrate Prolinnova principles.

SESSION 5: REGIONALISATION PROCESS / SUBREGIONAL CHARTERS AND STRUCTURE

Originally, it was planned that the SRCs present milestones on the regionalisation process (achievements, challenges, issues and opportunities) and the subregional charters for governance. The participants were then to break out into two (virtual) rooms (WCA and ESA) for discussion facilitated by the taskforce leaders. In plenary, each taskforce leader was to present the results from the breakout group, followed by plenary discussion. The session was to be facilitated by Brigid Letty.

However, because of the workshop was running behind time, it was decided that groups be given the charters and structures of the two subregions and be asked to go through these and provide inputs. Four

breakout groups discussed the charters and structure and presented the outcomes of their discussions. They gave suggestions and comments that the SRCs will now incorporate into the final version of the subregional charters for ESA and WCA.

It was suggested that all the CPs in Africa should hold virtual meetings with their in-country partners about the subregional charters. A main reason for working on regionalisation of Prolinnova is do that the CPs can strengthen each other in trying to integrate the approach of promoting local innovation and PID into ARD and higher-education policy at all levels: subnational, national, subregional and regional within Africa. The general impression thus far is that this aim of mainstreaming Prolinnova’s approach has not been achieved and that more efforts – based on a well thought through strategy at both national and subregional level – need to be devoted to this.

There was a suggestion that membership in the taskforce not be limited to active members; it should be broader as a community of practice and include more women. However, It was explained that the taskforce was set up to help the SRC coordinate the regionalisation process and, once that task is completed, the taskforce should be replaced by a more permanent organ. A less heavy structure was recommended.

SESSION 6: POG FEEDBACK (REPORT/ISSUES)

Feedback from the POG, presented by Lisa Williams van Dijk, POG co-chair

Analysis of Prolinnova’s strengths, opportunities and challenges

Lisa provided an analysis of the Prolinnova network at national, subregional, regional and global level in terms of its strengths, existing opportunities and challenges.



Strengths

- Contribution of new SRCs and new IST members.
- Despite challenging times, we continued to implement and develop new projects under the Prolinnova banner.
- Global virtual FIF being prepared.
- Two new Friends of Prolinnova were identified and welcomed: Mutizwa Mukute of Zimbabwe and Pratap Kumar Shrestha of Nepal.
- The POG acknowledged the contribution of Abdel and Wanyama, who took up their positions as SRCs during the Covid-19 pandemic and have made enormous efforts to get to know and support their CPs at a distance and also to organise the AfPW and the global FIF; it also acknowledged Brigid, who served as interim SRC for ESA, is now an IST member and holds the IST seat in the POG, replacing Ann.
- It also acknowledged the several projects being implemented and developed under the banner of Prolinnova, e.g. SULCI-FaNS and ProligEAFaSa, to name only a few.
- Leading up to the Global FIF scheduled for December 2020 (later postponed to February 2021), many interesting technical and social innovations by individuals and groups have been submitted.

Mutizwa Mukute of Zimbabwe is a longstanding supporter of Prolinnova since the idea was first discussed in the NGO Committee of the CGIAR in 1999. He is a person who adds value from ESA (based in Zimbabwe), has a good understanding of Prolinnova having undertaken evaluation work for us previously, and has encouraged the establishment of a CP in Zimbabwe. Mutizwa regretted that he could not join the AfPW on account of a prior engagement.



Pratap Shrestha completed his long period of service as POG member and became a Friend of Prolinnova. He was instrumental in establishing the Prolinnova–Nepal CP and was CP coordinator for five years. He also served as POG co-chair. Suman Manandhar from Nepal was elected to take Pratap’s place as an independent POG member.



Opportunities

- We continue to join forces and resources, build capacity and facilitate joint learning through our network activities and implementation of ongoing projects.
- Opportunities exist for finding local funding within CPs and within subregions.

- Increase the use of virtual platforms for communication on CP level as well as cross-exchange between countries and regions.
- In the session of fundraising, Chesha will already mention the need to look for local funding opportunities. This can be underscored by the POG, also the fact that **“networking” is not primarily about getting external funds but rather about joining forces and resources** to achieve a common aim.
- The restrictions made necessary by Covid-19 have revealed how relatively easy it is to do virtual networking, e.g. this AfPW and also the Global FIF. These same possibilities can be harnessed for networking and planning, including NSC meetings, within countries and also sharing between countries and regions.



Challenges

The main challenges that have affected the network include:

a) Network governance: Lack of CP regional representation in the POG

There is lack of representation of CPs from WCA in the POG. The CPs should select a POG member who is willing and interested in representing them in the POG, as emphasised in Abdel’s presentation. The position does not necessarily have to be rotated among the countries in the region; it is more important to choose the right person. Stress the need for CPs to select POG members who will represent their interests. Over the years, some POG members who were selected by CPs in a region were not active; they did not respond to emails and they seldom or never joined POG meetings. When selecting POG members, it is important to ask: “Whom do you select, and what do you expect from them?” The country they come from is less important. This will reinforce the point about governance mentioned by the SRCs in their presentations.

b) Supporting CPs through challenging times

It is normal for CPs to have periods during which they face challenges and are unable to be active; ‘struggling’ CPs should be encouraged to share their challenges with others and find ways to overcome them, for example, in Ethiopia and Tanzania.

c) Carrying the Prolinnova vision forward through injecting in ‘inspiring new blood’

We seem to stick with the same “old” group of partners in the CPs. How do we reach out to new and younger partners? Could this be a discussion for the Open-Space session? The CPs should outline a process to be followed with new partners who join the network, e.g. ask each CP to describe: if a new person or organisation wants to become part of the CP, how do or could you get them actively involved?

Suggested Open-Space topic: *How to welcome and engage new members, revive old members in CPs and thus carry the Prolinnova vision forward?*

Brief on European-level platform to promote farmer-led innovation

- The Farmer-Led Innovation Network (FLIN) in the UK was the first CP in Europe to join Prolinnova.
- The platform has a Twitter account: @FLINetwork, a YouTube channel and is now developing a website.
- There is increasing interest in policy issues related to farmer-led innovation and so there is an opportunity for setting up a European-level network.
- Currently, we have a European Innovation Platform for Agriculture (EIP-AGRI) Focus Group. These Focus Groups are temporary groups of selected experts focusing on a specific subject, sharing knowledge and experience. Each group explores practical innovative solutions to problems or opportunities in the field, and draws on experience derived from related useful projects.

Suggested Open-Space topic: *Ideas for enhancing networking between European and non-European CPs.*

SESSION 7: NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY AT REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL LEVELS

After a 10-minute presentation by Abdel and Wanyama, the participants were divided into groups for 20 minutes of discussions in breakout rooms. Then there was a plenary discussion for 30 minutes. The groups discussed the following topics:

- How to connect with networking and advocacy partners?
- How to engage in policy dialogue on the PID approach?

In the breakout groups, the participants brainstormed on ways to develop networking and advocacy strategies at CP and subregional level. They also touched on fundraising issues, although this differs from networking and advocacy and is a topic for the following day.

In the plenary, it was stressed that a key task of the SRCs is to improve networking between the various CPs for mutual learning as well as for collaboration in advocacy.

Ann pointed out that, to support the networking and advocacy strategies, the CPs should try to keep their webpages updated with information about the composition of their CP (coordination, core group, NSC, platform members) group and about their recent activities. Many CP webpages are very much out of date, which does not give a good impression to potential partners who want to check them out on the Web – nor does it give a good impression to potential donors.

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2020

SESSION 8: FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

The day started with a recap of the previous two days, facilitated by Jacob Wanyama. He presented a PPT of the main topics of the last two days and asked the participants to recap what they remembered from those sessions. He then invited Chesha to facilitate the fundraising session. This started with a 10-minute presentation by Chesha, followed by an assignment to three groups in breakout rooms for 30 minutes. They were asked to develop innovative ideas for fundraising and report back to the plenary. The details of group assessment are given in Chesha’s presentation. The session was focused on the following issues:

- How to connect with donors and raise interest in Prolinnova’s approach?
- How to make the network less dependent on traditional donor funding?

Fundraising, presented by Chesha

Overview of ongoing externally funded multi-CP projects

Chesha gave an overview of the status of fundraising within the network. In the past year, the network has received external funding from four main donors: Misereor, Germany; Nuffic, Netherlands; McKnight Foundation, USA; and BMEL (Federal Ministry of Food & Agriculture), Germany. The funds were for implementing 13 projects spread across nine CPs: in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal and Sudan. Table 4 shows the number of externally funded projects per CP, while Table 5 shows the donors and the amount of external funding given per CP.



Table 4: CPs that have received external funding for projects in 2020

CPs	No. of projects
Burkina Faso	3
Ghana	2
Kenya	2
Senegal	1
Mali	1
Mozambique	1
Sudan	1
Cameroon	1
Ethiopia	1
Total	13

Table 5: Donors and amount of external funding by project and CP

Donor	Project title	Period	Contract value (€)	CPs
McKnight Foundation	FaReNe II	2019–21	180,000	Burkina Faso, Mali
Misereor	SULCI-FaNS	2019–22	839,000	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, IST
Nuffic	Practical application of PID	2019–20	74,150	Mozambique, IST
Misereor	Proli-GEAFaSa	2020–22	450,000	Burkina Faso, Senegal, IST
Nuffic	Promoting women & youth innovation	2020–22	381,355	Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, IST
Misereor	Ethnoveterinary medicine (EVM)	2019–22	500,000	Ghana
BMEL	NaviNut	2020–23	1,090,000	Benin, Kenya, IST, DITSL
Nuffic	Training ATVET (Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training) teachers in LI/PID	2020–22		Benin, Senegal, IST (to form CP in Benin)
TOTAL			3,514,505	9 CPs and IST involved

Four multi-CP proposals were prepared in the past year; two are still in the pipeline:

- 1) Horizon 2020 (EU) – BioSol4Rural (SA as lead for Prolinnova, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda) with University of Hohenheim, Germany, as lead organisation in the consortium.
- 2) Global Challenges Research Fund (UK) – Kenya, Senegal, UK, IST – not approved.
- 3) K Vann Rasmussen Foundation (USA) – Kenya, Uganda, IST (AGC) – not approved.
- 4) DLPF (USA) – Kenya, Uganda.

At country level, a number of CPs submitted country-specific proposals in the past year. The main ones are:

- 1) Kenya – 4 proposals (Cities Alliance; Mohammed Bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity; Partnership for Green Growth / P4GG; Roddenbury) .
- 2) Cameroon – 1 proposal (DLPF).
- 3) Uganda – 1 proposal (Horizon 2020).
- 4) Ghana – 2 proposals (Misereor, ECOWAS – but the latter not under the Prolinnova umbrella).

Observations on fundraising

Chesha made the following observations on level of funding efforts within the network in the past year:

- There are some initiatives to raise funds for activities but only by a limited number of CPs.
- There is lack of interest by some CPs to respond to funding opportunities circulated by the IST.
- There is a tendency to depend on international donors.
- There are few creative initiatives to fund Prolinnova work through different channels, also in-country.
- Sometimes unrealistically high costs are quoted when budgets are made for multi-CP proposals.
- There is no spontaneous CP–CP collaboration for acquisition of funds.

In terms of trends in donor funding, she made the following observations:

- Covid-19 is putting pressure on “donor” countries; there is more need to fund their domestic issues.
- Constantly changing priorities of donors, also connected to SDGs (climate mitigation; green/circular economy, gender transformation etc).
- Traditional bi- and multilateral donors are giving less and to “preferred” countries (e.g. the Sahel region is popular because of the issue of migration to Europe).
- Private “big” philanthropic organisation (mainly US-based) are playing a more prominent role (often no open calls – only by invite).
- Small philanthropic organisations are giving less, as they depend on citizens’ donations.

- Private sector is playing a larger role, not only for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), but also for impact investment (Public–Private Partnerships, etc).
- Increase in middlemen entities (between big donors and non-profits), often financial institutions.
- Rich individuals give to “pet” projects (only by invite).
- Social enterprises as funders.
- Crowdfunding.
- Millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) are becoming active in philanthropy (e.g. GiveWell).
- Fundraising is becoming more competitive and difficult.

Feedback from plenary

Comments from the participants after Chesha’s presentation included:

- Donors often establish local country-level presence, but many of them focus on relief/emergency and general development issues.
- We should see how to adapt to this variation in the priorities of donors. Innovation can also be relevant in the context of emergencies.
- The world is now focusing on alternative energy, smart and organic agriculture in relation to adaptation and integration, and these have a direct relation to innovation.
- Millennial philanthropists work mostly outside the box. There is need to be more creative and think of the possibilities, to be as creative as the farmer innovators.
- Not only because the external funding is shrinking, internal funding from within the countries is also important to hold local governments accountable.
- We have to find a way to adapt to donor priorities. The size of the initiative doesn’t matter.

Breakout groups

Three breakout groups were set up:

- 1) Participants from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal (francophone CPs).
- 2) Participants from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.
- 3) Participants from Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

The groups were given the following assignment for 30 minutes:

- 1) Develop one innovative idea to raise funds for a Prolinnova activity that does not depend on international donors (group will further develop this idea and seek the funding in the coming year).
- 2) Decide who in the group will coordinate the proposed project.
- 3) Prepare 1 PPT slide with your idea and decide who in the group will present in the plenary.

Peter Gubbels wondered why the group assignment focused on funding only from local and not from international sources, given that most of the funding is usually from external donors. Chesha explained that this was intended to step up the CPs’ efforts to look at potential internal possibilities and own sources among partners. Many times, funding from external donors is given with a expectation of post-project sustainability, e.g. the funding for LISFs was supposed to be taken over by the local/public funding, but this did not happen.

It was noted that local offices of external donors do not count as local sources in the group assignment, although participants thought they should be considered, at least those still in operation. Chokwe felt that, since the work we are doing is complementary to government initiatives, we should seek to make our own governments accountable. It was also noted by Abdel that many of the international donors are dedicated to local issues. The point of this exercise was to think about creative ways of mobilising local funding.

Group presentations

The following are the presentations of each of the groups.

Group 1: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal (francophone CPs)

The group talked about acquiring funds for activities related to local innovation and climate change. The project idea is to seek funding from the Green World Fund to promote local innovation in NRM in the Sahel region. The group chose this type of funding because it is public and is available for all the countries with CPs taking part in this group (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal). They decided that PROFEIS in Mali should coordinate the fund-acquisition effort.

Group 2: Kenya, Ghana, Sudan and Uganda

- CPs identify project very close to the community that can interest/inspire local governments to fund, especially on enhancing food and nutrition security.
- CPs to think about what kind of funds are available in their respective countries and tailor their initiatives towards the prevailing themes, e.g. climate innovation funds in the country such as in the case in Kenya, national research funds, or the agricultural bank (in Sudan).
- Bring the innovators together and have the CPs play the consultancy roles and for capacity building, e.g. BUSAC (Business Sector Advocacy Challenge) funds in Ghana to support small enterprises or small-scale farmers to develop their initiatives.

Group 3: Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe

- The CPs may search and access sources for project funding. The sources or calls for proposals can be found via website, Internet, local newspapers, workshops etc. within the scope of participatory development and local innovation initiatives.
- Individual members of the Prolinnova network at country level can share sources for funding initiatives to promote local innovation processes, to be worked out as CP project proposals on behalf also of other members of the CP.
- The SRC could facilitate cross-border networking among the CPs in the subregion and provide support in pursuing funding opportunities.
- Ngoni underlined the importance of seeking local funding in the country (in their case, Zimbabwe). It is possible to approach the government through appropriate ministries for specific kinds of innovation. There are also Community Trust Funds. The Prolinnova partners need to look for alternatives to the conventional overseas donors. In Zimbabwe, they are also looking at the corporate sector and their social responsibility.
- In seeking funding, much more should be highlighted about Prolinnova's promotion of agroecology through farmer-led research, and donors should be sought that support agroecological approaches. FAO is trying to scale out agroecology and, to do this, they need to look at local innovation initiatives. Djibril pointed out that agroecology is based on local creativity. Prolinnova needs to engage in wider alliances to transform agricultural and food systems.

Feedback from plenary on the group presentations

On the presentation by Group 1:

- How will funds will be administered, since they are supposed to be shared among the CPs? Charlotte explained that each country will apply to the fund, since all of them have the Green Sahel Fund in their Ministry of Environment. It was agreed that each CP would have to tailor the proposal depending on each country's needs.
- Chesha pointed out that one person is needed to spur on this effort to ensure that the fire doesn't fizzle out. The SRC was identified as the best-placed person to play the role of reminding the CPs.

On the presentation by Group 2:

- Mawahib added that we could also target CSR funds from local companies and corporatons. For example, in Sudan, Prolinnova–Sudan already have such group in its NSC.

- On the question of coordination, Peter Gubbels said that – unlike the first group – this group felt that the situation is context specific and there was no strong likelihood of a coherent project that could cover all the countries involved.

On the presentation by Group 3:

- Did the group have one idea they wanted to work on? The response was that the differences in context in the different countries may not allow focusing on one idea.
- We should not get into the trap of trying to get funds for local innovations, but rather to convince the public organisations to get involved in supporting the business of local innovation.
- Martha asked if we could explore the possibility that African regional bodies such as FARA get involved. For example, FARA has previously been involved in the business of local innovation. It was suggested that this issue be discussed further with the SRCs.

SESSION 9: PROLINNOVA STRATEGIC PLAN 2021–25

Prolinnova's new strategy, presented by Joshua Zake

Background

- This is the revised 5-year strategic plan (2021–25) for the Prolinnova network, the last version as at 24 March 2020.
- It was revised to respond to the key emerging issues (challenges & opportunities) in the operating landscape and also provide strategic direction for Prolinnova in the next five years.
- The Prolinnova strategic plan provides the overarching framework for development and implementation of the various Prolinnova CPs' work to respond to the respective country and subregional context while contributing towards the vision and mission of Prolinnova.
- It provides guidance for institutional organisation, leadership and governance within the CPs and at subregional and international level for effective functioning with respect to communication, coordination, networking and implementation towards Prolinnova's aspirations in the next five years.



Conditions influencing the strategy

- The current Prolinnova strategic plan will expire by the end of 2020.
- Many Northern donors increasingly favour market- and business-centred approaches, with decreasing attention to issues of equity and inclusion in development.
- Formal research organisations receiving public funds are coming under greater pressure to produce results that have a positive impact in development. They have increasingly recognised that ARD approaches with an innovation systems perspective, in which innovation that comes from various sources (beyond formal research) and involves multistakeholder interaction has a wider and more lasting positive impact.
- Donor agencies – governmental, private and philanthropic – prefer to allocate funds directly to organisations in the South. Existing funding opportunities include:
 - The United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNFFF 2019–28), overseen by FAO and IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and promoted through the World Rural Forum (WRF) on behalf of civil society.
 - Greater use of information & communication technology (ICT) for development.
 - African Union–EU collaboration in ARD (“co-creation of knowledge”).
 - Growing interest in farmer-led multistakeholder approaches to ARD in Europe.

Methods and approach used in developing the strategic plan

- Rapid assessment of performance with respect to aspirations outlined in the current Prolinnova strategic plan (2016–20) was done during the IPW in 2019. This helped in identifying achievements, emerging issues and underlying gaps with respect to performance across the CPs.

- A drafting team was set up under the coordination of Joshua Zake, comprising also Karbo Naaminong, Chanthang Tong, Chesha Wettasinha and Ann Waters-Bayer. The team integrated the suggestions from the IPW 2019 and developed the revised strategy.
- This was submitted to and discussed by the POG for further comments and inputs, which were integrated to generate the current version of the Prolinnova strategy 2021–25.

Strategic direction

Vision

A world in which women and men farmers play decisive roles in ecological agriculture and NRM innovation processes for sustainable livelihoods.

Mission

To stimulate a culture of mutual learning and synergy among diverse stakeholder groups to actively support and promote local innovation processes in ecological agriculture and NRM.

Goal

To contribute to equitable and inclusive development of resilient and sustainable farming communities.

Objectives

- 1) To develop new methods and approaches to enhance local capacities to innovate in ecological agriculture and NRM and provide evidence of their effectiveness.
- 2) To strengthen capacities of ARD actors to support local innovation and farmer-led joint experimentation.
- 3) To scale up and mainstream participatory approaches to ecological agricultural innovation in ways that enhance local innovative capacities.
- 4) To strengthen MSPs in promoting local innovation and farmer-led participatory research.
- 5) To influence national and subnational policy processes that favour development and promotion of identified local innovation by small-scale farmers, including but not limited to market-oriented innovations by actors along ecological agricultural and natural-resource value chains.
- 6) To communicate PID evidence and knowledge products locally and internationally.

Main concepts

- *“Small-scale farmers”* (or simply *“farmers”*) refers to resource-poor crop-based and mixed crop-livestock farmers, pastoralists, fishers and forest users, and includes artisans and small-scale processors operating at local level, involved in food processing, storage and marketing.
- *Local innovation* (without "s") is the process by which people develop new and better ways of doing things in their locality – using own resources and on own initiative. Local innovation often occurs in the face of new challenges or opportunities and involves informal experimentation by the resource users.
- *Local innovations* (with "s") are the outcomes or products of this innovation process, having been developed by individuals or groups or communities and being understood and owned by local people.
- *Participatory Innovation Development (PID)* is an approach to ARD based on farmers’ motivations and ideas about how to face a local challenge or capture an opportunity to improve livelihoods. It involves partnership between farmers, development agents and, wherever possible, scientists. It includes not only “hard” technologies but also “soft” socio-institutional and cultural innovations such as changes in gender roles (e.g. women taking on ploughing responsibilities). At the heart of PID is farmer-led participatory research or joint experimentation, in which farmers together with other stakeholders investigate possible ways to improve the livelihoods of local people.
- *“Partnership”* refers to the process whereby the actors jointly plan and implement activities in order to achieve a shared goal or objective. To be able to collaborate, they mobilise and share resources and agree on how these will be managed.
- *Multistakeholder Partnerships (MSPs)* comprise three or more types of actors who have an interest (stake) in improving local livelihoods through innovation in agriculture and NRM. They include the

primary stakeholders – women and men farmers – as well as researchers, agricultural advisors, educators, policymakers, private entrepreneurs and consumers.

- MSPs often operate as a “*platform*” (also called MSP): a mechanism for periodic sharing and negotiation among partners that enables dialogue to take place and agreements to be reached about action to be taken, as well as self-assessment of the successes and challenges. MSPs can be at different levels (local to international) throughout the network and for different purposes.

Core values

- Social equity and respect
- Commitment
- Transparency and accountability
- Sustainability
- Partnership.

Prolinnova network outcomes after five years:

- Farmer innovators are supported by all relevant stakeholders (including social entrepreneurs and agri-food businesses) in PID activities.
- A growing proportion of young people (under 35 years of age) are involved in PID activities related to agriculture and agri-food enterprises.
- More women innovators are recognised and become actively involved in ecological agriculture to increase food and nutrition security of communities.
- Farmer-led joint research processes lead to establishment of social enterprises that ensure social solidarity and benefit sharing within the communities and thereby increase community resilience.
- LISFs are more widely used to support farmer innovators’ activities.
- Policies are changed to include PID and other farmer-led approaches to research and innovation and to ensure sustainability of LISFs.
- Diverse partners share resources, responsibilities and recognition in effective MSPs operating at various levels: subnational, national, regional and global.
- Educational institutions promote participatory approaches and use PID-related materials in their work.
- Capacity of CPs and (sub)regional platforms is built in openness, inclusiveness, fundraising, networking, applying PID methodologies and influencing policy in ARD.
- Local innovation/PID approaches are integrated into agricultural research and rural advisory services at different levels from district/county to international.
- Information about local innovation and PID is shared with a wider audience, including consumers, through focused communication strategies using modern (e.g. social, mass) media and conventional communication methods.

Thematic foci:

- Ecological agriculture
- Ecological NRM
- Innovative methodologies
- Resilience, combatting land degradation and dealing with climate change
- Nutrition and health
- Urban/peri-urban agriculture
- Gender issues in innovation processes
- Youth Innovation in agri-food systems
- Small-scale farmer involvement in local value chains.

Organisation structure and roles

The Prolinnova network's strategic plan enlists various leadership and governance structures, clearly stipulating their respective roles. The main structures (see Figure 1) are:

- Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG)
- Regional and Subregional Platforms
- Friends of Prolinnova
- National Steering Committee (NSC)
- Country Platform Secretariat
- Country Platform Coordinator
- Core Team.

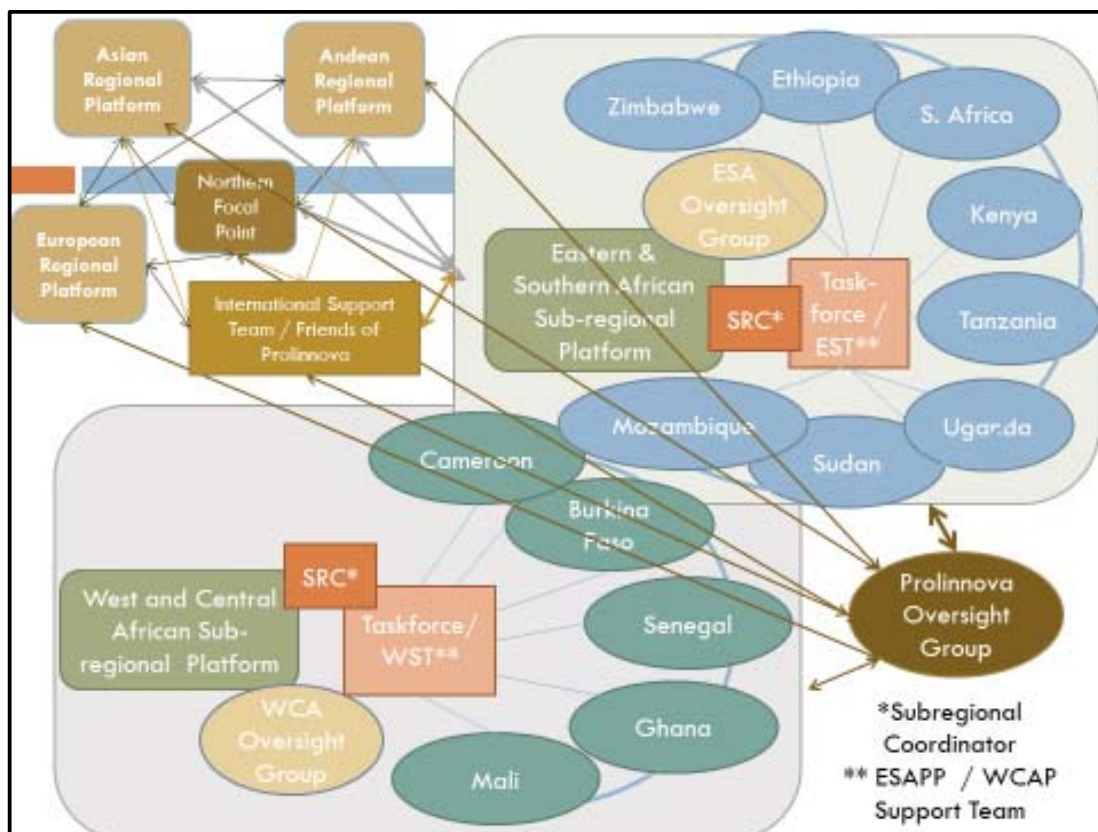


Figure 1: Structure of the Prolinnova network from an African perspective (developed by SRCs in Africa)

Feedback from the plenary

- The outcome on policies is key to the sustainability of all the network's efforts but seems to be the most elusive. A carefully thought out strategy would, however, make it achievable.
- The issue of the multistakeholder platform was seen as very important, and each country should work on establishing active platforms with defined membership.
- To what extent does the strategic plan want to emphasise agroecology? There is a struggle going on in Africa between two pathways i.e. agroecology vs the AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa) approach (green revolution, commercial farming etc). Prolinnova has in the past avoided getting involved in these struggles. The second approach gets a lot of funding but does not lend itself to what Prolinnova is all about. It would be good to see a strong emphasis on agroecology in the strategic plan. FAO is trying to scale up agricultural extension in ten countries in West Africa. Prolinnova has an upper hand in showing how this can be done. Prolinnova needs to get itself into this space, and it is very well placed to do so. There is a lot of researched evidence that shows how much agricultural extension is founded in farmer innovation.

- In Senegal, there is the same struggle between extension for large-scale vs small-scale farming. We need to depend on agricultural extension for farmers based on productivity and creativity.
- In all countries, there should be a small team that works with the CP members to make sure things happen.

SESSION 10: REGIONAL ACTION PLANNING

This involved assessing the previous action plan (achievements, challenges, outcomes, not achieved) to determine level of achievement, followed by developing a new action plan for the coming year. Brigid facilitated the session, while Djibril and Vincent worked through the action plans with the participants. The complete table with the old and new action plans is provided in Annex 2.

Comments of participants on the action plan

- There is need to find out how exactly the networking is to be improved at the subregional level. The SRCs should take up the ideas and decide how to incorporate them and reach out to other actors with similar interests. A deadline needs to be set for this issue.
- We need to have a regional taskforce. We have to think about the Subregional Oversight Group, to think about the milestones so that, by next year, we will know whether or not to have such a group. We need to define some options, what are the reasons for having or for not having it
- A subregional support team is more important than a Subregional Oversight Group.
- It was agreed between Djibril and Chesha to evaluate the SRCs in December 2020.
- It was clarified that SRCs have a contract with ACDEP. Djibril can share the evaluation criteria, and others, including the other IST members, can make their contributions. ACDEP and AgriBio Services have the spelt-out criteria and have a responsibility to act.

SESSION 11: OPEN-SPACE IDEAS

Ann had gathered suggestions for Open-Space topics during the workshop. Because of lack of time for the Open-Space discussions, she asked the participants to write into the Chat the numbers of the topics they would like to discuss in separate Zoom calls (referring to the numbers in the box below).

Ann will compile the responses and send a list of topics to the participants in English, French and Portuguese, attaching a table with names of the participants who expressed interest in the different topics. She noted that, for the topic on linkage with universities, she would also include participants who had expressed interest on Tuesday in integrating PID into university curricula. The participants were asked to take a look at the table and check whether they were allocated the correct interests.

In case they would like to add their names to one or more other topics, they should let her know and she would include them in the table accordingly. The IST will then review the table and start planning the series of Zoom discussions, each to be facilitated by the person who suggested the topic (the topic “owner”). The participants were asked to respond by 2 November 2020. Table 6 shows the topics and the names of people who expressed interest in discussing these topics.

Table 6: Workshop participants’ interest in the Open-Space topics

No.	Topic	Topic “owner”	Interested participants
1	Reviving and expanding CP membership	Lisa van Dijk	Theo Mudzindiko Malex Alebikiya Romuald Rutazihana Patricia Fafa
2	Strategies for collective reporting within CPs and wider network	Jolly Kayiita	Martha Opondo Augustin Ouedraogo Djibril Thiam Oumy Ndiaye
3	Enhancing networking & collaboration between European & non-European CPs	Lisa van Dijk	Adama Gnanou Jacob Wanyama Charlotte Chantale

No.	Topic	Topic “owner”	Interested participants
4	Strengthening CP capacities to communicate with attractive media	Loren Cardeli	Martha Opondo Joe Nchor Malex Alebikiya Djibril Thiam Margaret Kyi Vincent Mariadho Oumy Ndiaye Charlotte Chantale
5	Learning from PK (and other CPs) to identify and approach potential donors	Abdel Ali	Sumaia Elsayed Augustin Ouedraogo
6	Linking better with universities and research institutes	Abdel Ali	Martha Opondo Patricia Fafa Sumaia Elsayed Florence Olubayo Romuald Rutazihana Joshua Zake Vincent Mariadho Charlotte Chantale Lisa Williams van Dijk
7	M&E of our work in policy influencing & institutionalisation	Wanyama	Joe Nchor Dominic Avea Amina Mouna Malex Alebikiya Adama Gnanou Djibril Thiam Margaret Kyi Vincent Mariadho
8	Improving communication between CPs & SRCs, including taskforces	Wanyama	Sumaia Elsayed Adama Gnanou

SESSION 12: CLOSING SESSION

General comments from Chesha

Chesha observed that the participants had done quite a bit of work and accomplished the tasks of the workshop quite successfully. There is a lot to celebrate and to congratulate ourselves about. The participants are engaged in a very important moment that recognises the innovative capacity of small-scale farmers for sustainable development, and mainstreaming of this approach into public-sector research for sustainable development. All this is because of the belief that this approach is more sustainable in improving food security, which eventually contributes to better incomes and political security.

She pointed to the need for good PID documentation to bring out the experiences in order to influence policy so as to ensure that this approach becomes standard practice. “...from the strategic plan, it is clear that we have made a lot of progress which we need to celebrate in terms of mainstreaming and bringing ProInnova work into various levels and policy...”. Chesha affirmed that, as a group, we have built a strong and credible international network and we are beginning to build an African network. This is a good achievement, but the work is just starting in terms of fighting hunger and inequality and changing the funding priorities in agriculture.

However, the network has challenges with some CPs going backwards, then forwards, but others diminishing. This presents a challenge in keeping the network alive. “There is need to keep in mind in these contexts, the contribution to improving food security”. One question is: “How do we measure the output of our work?” She recalled that, at the end of Proli-FaNS Project, the key question was about how to demonstrate our output to Misereor. But now there is even more need to find ways of bringing this out clearly. Now as we begin with a new strategic plan, we reaffirm the importance of our work, which challenges us to work harder.

This AfPW is strategic, as it brings to a close our work accordingly to the 2015–20 strategic plan. The meeting has afforded us the opportunity to share experiences and take stock and identify areas that we need to bring into operation in order to achieve our mission and vision. As we leave the AfPW, we should give particular attention to the following:

- Reinforce CPs in terms of governance and visibility of operations
- More aggressive fundraising
- Strengthen the South–South cooperation and networking
- Reinforce regularisation of our operations
- Upgrade our IT capacity, as what we are doing now with the AfPW seems to be the new normal.

In conclusion, Chesha pointed out that, as we leave the workshop, we should feel encouraged, committed and strengthened. When we reflect on the animals we associated ourselves with during our introductions, we see that they encompass all the values that we need for the task ahead. In order to operationalise the strategic plan, we should organise a feedback in our CPs which will provide an opportunity to come up with an operational plan, and which we can use to engage other people.

Closing remarks from Malex Alebikiya

Malex stated that ACDEP would like to congratulate all CP teams for the work done, even though we are swimming against the tide, and especially the CP coordinators who have kept the Prolinnova flag flying in spite of limited budgets. He congratulated the SRCs for their seamless integration into the work of their predecessors. He congratulated Brigid for being able to accommodate the challenges experienced when Amanuel resigned as SRC in Eastern & Southern Africa and thanked her for her services as the interim SRC. He gave special thanks to Chesha and Ann and to all who facilitated the workshop and to the translators Cisse and Bachir for their services and good work.

Last word from Chesha

On behalf of the IST, Chesha gave best wishes to all and offered a toast to long life for all peasant farmers, men and women, working hard to ensure food security and stable families.

3. ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of participants

N°	CP	Name	Sex	Partner organisation
1	-	Abdel-Karim Ali Mahamane	M	Prolinnova WCA SRC / IST member
2	-	Alioune Cisse	M	Translator
3	-	Ann Waters-Bayer	F	IST member
4		Bachir Kane	M	Interpreter
5	-	Brigid Letty	F	IST member
6	-	Chesha Wettasinha	F	IST member
7	-	Jacob Wanyama	M	Prolinnova ESA SRC / IST member
8	-	Jean-Marie Laïty Diop	M	Friend of Prolinnova
9	-	Joe Ouko	M	POG member
10	-	Lisa Williams van Dijk	F	POG member
11	-	Mouhamadou Bachir Kane	M	Interpreter
12	Burkina Faso	Do Christophe Ouattara	M	<i>Voisins Mondiaux</i> (World Neighbors)
13	Burkina Faso	Siaka Bangali	M	Diobass
14	Burkina Faso	Augustin Ouedraogo	M	<i>Réseau MARP</i>
15	Burkina Faso	Adama Gnanou	M	<i>Réseau MARP</i>
16	Cameroon	Serge Ayangma Ndemey	M	GIC-APINK, innovator beekeeper, NSC member
17	Cameroon	Amina Bwebeyupu Epse Mouna	F	AIDER (<i>Association des Ingénieurs du Développement Rural</i>), i/c SULCI-FaNS M&E
18	Cameroon	Charlotte Chantale Ngo Bonga	F	COSADER (<i>Collectif des ONG pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et le Développement Rural</i>), administrative and financial officer for SULCI-FaNS
19	Cameroon	Jean Bosco Etoa	M	COSADER, CP coordinator
20	Ghana	Dominic Aniah Avea		Navrongo-Bolgatanga Catholic Diocesan Organisation (NABOCADO)
21	Ghana	Patricia Fafa Formadi	F	University for Development Studies (UDS)
22	Ghana	Joseph Nchor	M	ACDEP
23	Ghana	Margaret Ama Kyiu	F	ACDEP
24	Ghana	Malex Alebikiya	M	ACDEP
25	Ghana	Peter Gubbels	M	Groundswell International
26	Kenya	Vincent Mariadho	M	World Neighbors
27	Kenya	Florence Olubayo	F	University of Nairobi
28	Kenya	Martha Opondo	F	KALRO
29	Mali	Bourama Diakité	M	ADAF/Gallè
30	Mozambique	Gilda Fafetine	F	ADCR Gaza
31	Mozambique	Domingos Tsucana	M	Kulima Maputo
32	Mozambique	Mevis Chongo	F	CTO Maputo
33	Mozambique	Romuald Rutazihana	M	Private, Chimoio
34	Senegal	Djibril Thiam	M	AgriBio Services
35	Senegal	Oumy Ndiaye	F	AgriBio Services i/c Proli-GEAFaSa project
36	Senegal	Samba Mbaye	M	RENOLSE
37	Senegal	Seynabou Sall	F	<i>Centre de Formation Sahel Vert</i>
38	South Africa	Zanele Shezi	F	Institute of Natural Resources
39	Sudan	Mawahib Eltayeb Ahmed	F	NCR Institute of Engineering Research and Material Technology
40	Sudan	Sumia Mohammed Elsayed	F	School of Family Science, AlAfad University of Women
41	Sudan	Rofaida Elzubair	F	Practical Action
42	Uganda	Deborah Kasule	F	Uganda National Council for Science & Technology
43	Uganda	Joshua Sserufusa-Zake	M	Prolinnova-Uganda Secretariat, Environmental Alert
44	Uganda	Kayiita Jolly	M	Environmental Alert
45	Uganda	Daudi Ssentongo	M	Uganda National Farmers Federation
46	Uganda	Magdalene Amujal Ogwanng	F	Kulika Uganda
47	Zimbabwe	Theophilus Mudzindiko	M	PELUM-Zimbabwe
48	Zimbabwe	Sandra Bhatasara	F	University of Zimbabwe and Rhodes University
49	Zimbabwe	Ngoni Chikowe	M	ZIMSOFF (Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers' Forum)
50	Zimbabwe	Lillian Machivenyika	F	CADS (Cluster Agricultural Development Services)

Annex 2: Old and new action plans

PROLINNOVA
Review of International Partners Workshop, Senegal, 13–17 May 2019
Action plan for 2020

Table 7: Regionalisation process – key actions points

No.	Activity / output	Who	By when	Achieved or not	Next action	By whom	When
1.	Advancing resource mobilisation						
	a) Finalise preparation of follow-up proposal for Prolif-FaNS project; thus, clarifying the roles & responsibilities of the SRCs with consideration of staff time compensation based on what is acceptable to donor	ACDEP	3 June 2019	Done			
	b) Recruitment of the Eastern and Southern Africa Platform SRCs	POG	If SULCI-FaNS successful	Done			
	c) Follow up on the FaReNe proposal submitted	Burkina: WN; Mali: ADAF-Gallè	End May 2019	Done – successful			
	d) Persuading structured partnership & learning between Prolinnova and Farmer-Led Innovation Network based in UK	Ann	Underway	Done			
	e) Finalise the Prolif-WaFaSa proposal	Georges	2 June 2019	Done – successful			
	f) Ethnovet proposal	ACDEP	15 June	Done – successful			

No.	Activity / output	Who	By when	Achieved or not	Next action	By whom	When
2.	Preparations and hosting of the regional meetings						
	a) Cameroon willing to host Africa regional meeting for 2020	Etoa, 2 SRCs / taskforces	Date of meeting: May 2020	Not possible due to Covid	Postponed	Etoa and Alain from Cameroon, 2 SRCs	No date set
	b) Philippines willing to host the Asian meeting 2020	Maggie, Emily	Date of meeting: May 2020	Not possible due to Covid	Postponed	Maggie, Emily	No date set
	c) Follow up whether Peru and Bolivia want to hold a regional meeting and who would host it	Ann	End June 2019	Attempted, but difficult to get any action	Up to them to organise themselves at national and regional level – but proving difficult	Bernard Triomphe will try to follow up	No date set
3.	Preparations and hosting of International Partners Workshop (IPW) 2021						
	a) Tanzania: to discuss in NSC and estimate costs if interested	From Tz NSC to POG	End July 2020	Postponed discussions due to Covid	Find interested CP – Tz may not be able/willing to do so	Wanyama to ask them	2021
	b) Other CPs interested can apply				South India interested to host IPW	Chesha	2021
4.	Review of the Prolinnova Strategic Plan (SP) 2021–25						
	a) Follow-up actions for review of the SP by the selected task team	Joshua, Karbo, Emily, Chantheang, Lionel	First draft by end Feb 2020	Done			
	b) Review of revised version	Chesha, Ann	April 2020	Done			
	c) Finalisation of the strategic plan				Collect comments and integrate into document	SRCs and Joshua	End 2020
5.	Activate subregional task-forces to implement their roles						
	a) Finalise subregional platform charter with a clear	SRCs	End June 2019	Underway	WCAP: Incorporate the organisational structure; then	SRCs	End Jan 2021

No.	Activity / output	Who	By when	Achieved or not	Next action	By whom	When
	<i>organisation chart</i>				<i>upload on the website ESA: Incorporate comments from this week and organisational structure to get final draft for circulation; then upload on the website</i>		
	<i>b) Finalise the guidelines for selecting host organisation for (sub)regional platform by giving technical inputs</i>	<i>Brigid</i>	<i>End June 2019</i>	<i>Decided against it – no need for physical secretariat</i>			
	<i>c) Advance networking/ coordination with subregional platform taskforce, POG and IST through the taskforce chairpersons</i>	<i>Chairpersons of taskforces (interim while BL is SRC, Zacharia as chair of ESA taskforce)</i>	<i>Continuous</i>	<i>Not achieved effectively</i>			
	<i>d) Advance networking at subregional level</i>				<i>Develop good ideas for supporting subregional networking (twinning of CPs?) – between the CPs within region and between the subregions and with other actors</i>	<i>SRCs</i>	<i>Finalise some ideas / actions by end Jan 2021 (concept paper?)</i>
	<i>e) Support coordination of fundraising initiatives to consolidate position of SRCs</i>	<i>SRCs/taskforces</i>	<i>Continuous</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Continue looking for opportunities</i>	<i>SRCs to work with CP coordinators</i>	<i>Continue</i>

	f) Establish subregional oversight group – develop ToRs and composition			Not done	Possibly delay the establishment of SR-OGs because even the POG is not functioning well with regard to regional representation		
	- Prepare guideline for subregional oversight group	SRCs/taskforces	End July 2019	Not achieved	What about having subregional support teams in place?		
	- Identify members, nominate, elect, operationalise	SRCs/taskforces	End Feb 2020	Not achieved	<u>Action:</u> Arrange Zoom calls with taskforces to take this forward	SRCs	End Nov 2020
	g) Supervise and review performance of SRCs	Taskforces, ACDEP	July 2020 If SULCI-FaNS successful, then make decision	Not done	Still to be done Need to finalise probation format. Suggestion that evaluation be done collectively once draft available – if the taskforce is active enough.	Djibril (AgriBio Service) Malex (ACDEP)	End Nov 2020
	h) Submit subregional reports on CPs and their own activities to ACDEP	SRCs	August 2019	Done			
6.	Prepare 2019 IPW report						
	a) Reporters to send inputs to Assane	Reporters		Done			
	b) Circulate draft report (for Prolif-FaNS and IPW)	Assane / Agrecol Afrique	End June 2019	Done			
6.	Prepare 2020 Africa workshop report						
	Prepare report				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notetakers send notes to SRCs • Groupwork presenters to send inputs • Provisional report submitted to CPs for feedback • SRCs prepare report 	Note takers Presenters SRCs SRCs	Fri 30 Oct Fri 30 Oct Mid Nov 2020 End Nov 2020
	Share report				Circulate and upload on website	SRCs and Annie (IIRR)	Mid Dec 2020

7	<i>Other actions from workshop</i>						
	<i>Follow up on fundraising activities from the groupwork</i>					<i>CPS</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
	<i>Arrange Zoom meetings (webinars) on selected Open-Space topics</i>				<i>Topics identified:</i> 1. <i>Generating membership</i> 2. <i>Collective reporting</i> 3. <i>European–non-European CP exchange</i> 4. <i>Attractive media</i> 5. <i>Learning from PK about fundraising</i> 6. <i>Linking with universities & research</i> 7. <i>M&E of policy and institutionalisation</i> 8. <i>Improving communication between CPs and SRCs</i>	<i>Facilitators:</i> <i>Lisa</i> <i>Jolly</i> <i>Lisa/Wanyama</i> <i>Loren</i> <i>Abdel</i> <i>Abdel</i> <i>Wanyama</i> <i>Wanyama</i> <i>Coordination:</i> <i>Ann</i>	<i>To be arranged by each topic “owner” with participants</i>