



Strengthening Community Resilience to Change: Combining Local Innovative Capacities with Scientific Research (CLIC–SR)

Rockefeller Foundation Project No. 2012 CSD 205

Progress report for the period September–December 2012

PROLINNOVA International Secretariat, ETC Foundation, Netherlands

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Executive summary

The CLIC–SR project started on 1 September 2012. ETC Foundation requested and Rockefeller Foundation agreed to a revised reporting schedule such that reporting will be according to calendar years. This is the report for the first four months of the project to the end of 2012.

During this start-up phase, inception and planning workshops were held in all four countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The field studies on local perceptions of external change and on local innovation in response to these changes have been designed and the fieldwork was commenced in Ethiopia and Kenya in late 2012. The teams in Tanzania and Uganda commenced this work only in early 2013.

Because of the new and highly restrictive legislation to control civil society organizations in Ethiopia, the CLIC–SR team members in this country had to use their own funds and time to start the project activities, because they could not access the budget available from Rockefeller Foundation for CLIC–SR in 2012.

Staff training in participatory innovation development (PID) and its link with climate change adaptation was carried out in one of the two districts in Kenya but has not yet been conducted in the other three countries. The project teams in Kenya and Uganda applied for additional funds through the Netherlands Government to hold training-of-trainers in PID in order to increase the number of PID trainers who could support CLIC–SR and the other PROLINNOVA activities. The Kenya training was approved; the Uganda proposal will be re-submitted in early 2013.

The PROLINNOVA International Support Team has set up a dedicated webpage for the CLIC–SR project and a yahoogroup for easy sharing of information among the project partners. Information about the project is also being shared via the general PROLINNOVA listserver, the PROLINNOVA website and other e-lists related to social learning and change in agriculture and natural resource management. Presentations about the core concepts and experiences related to PID and Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs) as tools that give communities direct access to funds for farmer-led experimentation and innovation were prepared for international meetings but are used also in introductory meetings with project partners at country level.

Guidelines for conducting a review of experiences in influencing policy to favor farmer-led participatory research and development have been circulated to the four CPs. The reviews have been commenced in Ethiopia and Kenya. The findings from these studies will inform the planning of policy dialogue in CLIC–SR.

In late 2012, the International Support Team at ETC Foundation liaised with the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and developed plans for collaboration in East and West Africa. In this, the PROLINNOVA work with multi-stakeholder innovation platforms, PID and LISFs is being studied as forms of social learning that change behavior and build relations to enhance community resilience to change. Special emphasis is given to strengthening the role of women in these processes. The field-based work with CCAFS, starting in January 2013, will be closely linked with the CLIC–SR project.

A. Introduction

The CLIC–SR project promotes farmer-led joint innovation that builds on the creativity of local people in ways that seek to enhance the capacities of farmers and their communities to adapt to change, including climate change. The overall vision of the CLIC–SR project and of PROLINNOVA in general is a world where women and men in smallholder families and communities play decisive roles in innovation systems in agriculture and natural resource management (NRM) for sustainable livelihoods.

The project objectives are to:

- Strengthen the resilience to change of smallholders and their communities, especially the women, by enhancing their innovative capacity and thus their livelihood security through participatory innovation development (PID)
- Build the capacity of organizations working in agriculture and NRM so that they can effectively work with and support smallholder communities in their efforts to adapt
- Increase insights and awareness on relevance and effectiveness of PID through sharing and learning
- Mainstream PID as an accepted approach within targeted national and international policies and programs related to agricultural development, NRM and climate change adaptation (CCA).

B. Multi-stakeholder partnerships in four countries in Eastern Africa

The project is being implemented through multi-stakeholder partnerships that involve the following NGOs and governmental organizations in four countries in Eastern Africa:

Ethiopia: The organization coordinating CLIC–SR is Poverty Action Network Ethiopia (PANE), the new host of PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia (PE). PANE is still learning about farmer innovation and PID, and is receiving good support in this from the members of the PE Working Group who have been with the PROLINNOVA network for several years. At national level, the other collaborating organizations are the Institute for Sustainable Development (IDS), Best Practices Association (BPA), Addis Ababa University Department of Geography, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and the private-sector organization Precise Consulting International (PCI), which has replaced the NGO AgriService Ethiopia (ASE). The two organizations chosen by the PE Working Group for local implementation of the CLIC–SR activities are BPA in the Axum area of Tigray Region and Alemberhan Community-Based Development Institution in Enebse Sar Mider in Amhara Region. The local partners at the Axum site have experience with Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs) for farmer-led experimentation and innovation to strengthen local capacities to adapt to change. The community-based organization (CBO) implementing the work in Enebse Sar Mider has experience in PID but needs training and coaching to be able to work with an LISF.

Kenya: The project team in Kenya is being co-coordinated by World Neighbors (WN) and the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), which also jointly coordinate the PROLINNOVA–Kenya (PK) network. PK member organizations that have taken the lead in local implementation of CLIC–SR in the two counties selected for this work are INADES Formation in Machakos and Practical Action in Baringo. WN and KARI provide training, coaching and M&E support, while the Kenyan office of the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) is providing support in documentation. Machakos County has a functioning LISF and can therefore start quickly in facilitating joint experimentation between scientists and local innovators in a PID process. Moreover, its proximity to Nairobi (60 km) offers good opportunities for organizing field visits for policymakers. Baringo County is experiencing numerous significant changes including the invasion of the plant species *Prosopis*. The JOLISAA (Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture) project supported by the European Union is being implemented in this county and has already identified several local innovations. CLIC–SR is building on the JOLISAA project, which ends in mid-2013.

Tanzania: The coordinating NGO is INADES–Formation Tanzania. The other main partners in the project are the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock in the District Councils of the two areas selected for this project: Chamwino and Kondo. The African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS) Network in Tanzania – now called the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research

Organization (STIPRO) – was meant to take the lead in the policy work, but it has not been incorporated into the PROLINNOVA–Tanzania network. The Working Group has suggested that Participatory Ecological Lands Use Management (PELUM)–Tanzania lead the policy component and link up with STIPRO.

Uganda: The coordinating NGO is Environmental Alert (EA) and the main partners are Kulika Uganda, National Agricultural Research Organization Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARO/MUZARDI), National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) and Africa 2000 Network Uganda. In the two districts selected for the project, the main supporting organizations are Environmental Alert in Moyo District and Kulika Uganda in Nakasongola District.

C. Activities accomplished in 2012

Despite some delay on the part of ETC Foundation in finalizing the letters of agreement with the coordinating organizations in each country, two of the Country Platforms (CPs) – in Ethiopia and Kenya – started up some of the project activities without having any signed agreement or funds transferred. The other two CPs waited until they had received the signed letters of agreement in mid-October.

Objective 1: Improving innovative capacity of smallholder communities through PID

Activity 1.1: Project planning meetings and field studies

Each of the CPs held meetings of the partner organizations to plan the initial project activities, the first one being the field studies in the two districts selected as project sites in each country. These studies were designed to document and assess how smallholder communities perceive the main changes affecting their livelihoods, including climate change, and how they try to respond, innovate and adapt to them. The CPs combined these field studies with baseline surveys as a starting point for their monitoring and evaluation (M&E) work. The International Support Team at ETC Foundation and IIRR (Philippines office) circulated guidelines for the field/baseline studies. The CPs adapted the guidelines to suit their conditions and abilities. These were commented on by members of the IST, who also circulated examples of the CPs' tools via the CLIC–SR yahoogroup as a source of mutual learning.

In addition to the field/baseline study reports from each district, the main outputs expected from this activity were three cases per district (six per country) of successful endogenous innovation / adaptation in agriculture and/or NRM. Also the innovation processes behind these adaptations were to be documented to give recognition to the creative capacity of the farmers/communities and encourage their initiatives, as well as to make other stakeholders aware of this potential and to stimulate their involvement in supporting processes of farmer-led joint adaptation development – the subsequent activity to be carried out in 2013.

Ethiopia: The start-up of “official” CLIC–SR activities in Ethiopia was delayed because of problems faced by PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia (PE) in finding a host organization that can accept funds from overseas. The new regulations for civil society organisations (CSOs) in Ethiopia require that no more than 30% of the funds received from outside the country be used for “administration”; this term includes activities such as capacity building, backstopping and M&E – all of which are essential programme activities in CLIC–SR to help strengthen community resilience to change through multi-stakeholder PID. The agreement between ETC Foundation and PANE, the new host of PE, could not be signed by the end of 2012. Before funds can be transferred to the two organizations implementing the CLIC–SR activities at local level – BPA in the Axum area and Alemnberhan Community-Based Development Institution in Enebse Sar Mider – they must first be approved by the PANE General Assembly (GA) as full members of PANE. The next GA will be held in late March 2013. This meant that the CLIC–SR activities were carried out in 2012 on the own costs of the two CSOs concerned and of PANE and other members of the PE Working Group who provided advisory support.

Start-up meetings of stakeholders were held at the two sites. As Enebse Sar Mider in Amhara Region (about 370 km from Addis Ababa) is a new site for the PE network, the PANE Executive Director (Eshetu Bekele), another member of the PE Working Group (Hailu Araya from BPA, who also organized the start-up meeting at the site in Tigray) and the PE advisor from the International Support Team (Ann Waters-Bayer) visited

Enebse in November in order to discuss the project with the local farmers and other stakeholders. These included the Alemberhan Community-Based Development Institution (the local coordinating CBO), the Local Government Administration, the District Office of Agriculture and the Mertule Mariam Agricultural Training College. Innovative farmers, both women and men, showed and explained the experimentation they have been carrying out in pest control in their crops, livestock and homes.

BPA prepared different types of format (question guideline and questionnaire) for gathering baseline information in the Axum area of Tigray Region and exploring local innovative responses to external change, including climate change. The data were collected in December 2012 and are now being analyzed. The field studies have not been commenced in Enebse Sar Mider, as the CBO felt uncertain about starting before a agreement had been signed and funds had been transferred. Nevertheless, some cases of local innovation in response to external change at both sites (Axum and Enebse) were documented in draft form and sent to the PROLINNOVA International Support Team at ETC Foundation for comment.

Kenya: The partner organizations involved in CLIC–SR in Kenya met twice during the reporting period. They originally scheduled a project-launching event for November 2012 but then decided, for strategic reasons, to postpone the launch so as to be able to take advantage of the Week on Agricultural Innovation in Africa (WAIA) events that will be held in late May 2013 in Nairobi. The launch will take place during a cocktail event after the official opening of the international workshop on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (AISA). The WAIA will bring together local and international partners, students, policymakers, government officials, farmers, media and researchers and thus provide the launch with the necessary publicity and achieve greater impact.

World Neighbors and Practical Action developed household questionnaires as well as guidelines for focus-group discussions for the field studies. Using these tools, they collaborated in conducting a field/baseline study in November in one division of Baringo District to identify external changes perceived by the communities and how they are responding to these changes. In the course of this study, local innovations by communities trying to adapt to change were identified. The field study in Machakos was postponed to January 2013 because of a delay in signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between World Neighbors and INADES–Formation, the NGO that is coordinating the CLIC–SR activities at this site. The data from Baringo are being analyzed and the reports from both sites, including the documentation of specific cases of local innovation in the face of change, are expected in early March 2013.

Tanzania: The CLIC–SR inception workshop in Tanzania was attended by ten people: two researchers, two farmer innovators, two government staff members from the targeted districts, one person from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), one from INADES–Formation and a member of the PROLINNOVA International Support Team (Laurens van Veldhuizen). The partner organization PELUM–Tanzania could not attend. The meeting helped the participants understand the logic and focus of the project and provided an opportunity to plan the field/baseline studies in the two districts. The participants discussed possibilities of linking up with three CCA initiatives in Tanzania:

- Climate Change Impact Adaptation and Mitigation project at SUA funded by NORAD
- CCA Unit at SUA supported by Rockefeller Foundation
- Work with Walker Institute (Reading University) focusing on building local-level resilience, e.g. through local capacity building linked to agro-meteorology.

The plan agreed at the inception workshop was that, before the end of 2012, the CLIC–SR project would be introduced in the two districts and the field/baseline studies could be started, but this did not happen. In a recent skype discussion with ETC, INADES gave the assurance that the field-study reports and innovation cases would be available by early March 2013.

Uganda: The planning meeting cum inception workshop was held on 6 November and was attended by 23 people (13 men, 10 women) from Kulika Uganda Head Office and Nakasongola Office, Environmental Alert Moyo Office, DENIVA (Development Network on Indigenous Voluntary Associations), Africa 2000 Network, NARO/MUZARDI, Moyo District Local Government, PROLINNOVA–Uganda Secretariat, PELUM Uganda, Kikandwa Environmental Association, CIDEV, Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE) and the

PROLINNOVA International Support Team (Laurens van Veldhuizen). The main partners in implementation had originally agreed that the field/baseline studies on local innovation in the face of change were to be implemented in 2012 – by Kulika Uganda in Nakasongola District and by Environmental Alert in Moyo District. The MoU between the PROLINNOVA–Uganda Secretariat (Environmental Alert) and Kulika Uganda was developed and shared in order to agree on the content but was not signed by the end of 2012. The tools for conducting the studies were developed and shared, but the fieldwork did not begin until early 2013. The reports on these studies are now expected in early March 2013.

Activity 1.2 Implementation and documentation of farmer-led joint innovation

This activity is scheduled for 2013 in all four countries. Already in mid-November 2012, however, a PID process was started in Machakos District, Kenya, when farmers, extensionists and researchers – including staff from Walker Institute (Reading University) – met and agreed on research questions related to an innovation with millet nurseries, e.g. questions about labor inputs, seed rates and constraints to outscaling.

Activity 1.3 Training community groups to strengthen local adaptive capacity

This activity is scheduled for 2013 in all four countries.

Objective 2: Building the capacity of organizations working in agriculture and NRM

Activity 2.1 Staff training

Ethiopia. No training has been conducted yet; this will happen only after PANE can sign the letter of agreement and request transfer of funds from ETC Foundation.

Kenya. In order to build the capacity of local partner organizations implementing the CLIC–SR project and supporting farmer-led innovation, PK conducted a three-day training on PID in adaption to change, particularly climate change. This was designed to strengthen the capacity of the partner organizations to support communities in their initiatives to adapt and to build resilience to change. The training was held on 16–18 October at the Agricultural Information Center of KARI in Nairobi and involved 17 participants (10 men and 7 women). It covered identification of existing changes perceived by local communities, CCA strategies, national and international climate-change policies, farmer-led adaptation strategies and innovations, the policy framework, the Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction approach and Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment. During the training, the participants developed a data-collection checklist and tools for conducting the above-mentioned field/baseline studies. The training was led by IIRR Kenya, with Anne Wanja as PID trainer. The PROLINNOVA International Support Team had previously trained her in PID. The draft report on the Kenyan training will be finalized in early 2013.

In the reporting period, PK took the initiative of applying for additional funding from NUFFIC (Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education) to be able to hold a National Training of PID Trainers with a trainer from the ETC Foundation (Laurens van Veldhuizen). KARI and ETC Foundation developed the proposal for the training to be offered in two stages: in February and June 2013 with assignments in between. This will complement the above-mentioned PID training by further strengthening the capacity of the partners, increasing the number of people skilled in PID (and PID training) and including scientists from KARI to support PID and to promote ownership and sustainability of the concepts of joint learning and innovation. NUFFIC approved the proposal.

Tanzania. No training related to CLIC–SR has taken place yet in Tanzania.

Uganda. No training related to CLIC–SR has taken place yet in Uganda. However, this CP also developed a proposal to NUFFIC via the Netherlands Embassy so that ETC Foundation can provide tailor-made training in PID so as to enhance the capacity of partner organizations in PID for CCA. The application did not meet the Embassy's deadline and will be resubmitted in 2013.

Objective 3: Increase insights and awareness on relevance and effectiveness of PID

Activity 3.1 Facilitation of PROLINNOVA multi-stakeholder partnerships

The meetings mentioned under Activity 1.1. were the key multi-stakeholder meetings held for planning, learning and assessing work done.

Activity 3.2 Countrywide dissemination of findings and lessons

The local innovations identified thus far have been documented only in draft form and will be printed and distributed in 2013.

PE and PK have set up e-groups for disseminating information about the CLIC–SR and other PROLINNOVA-related activities and are circulating information through these lists. They have also sent information about their work for the International Support Team to post on the PROLINNOVA website (www.prolinnova.net).

The CPs will complete their dissemination strategies in early 2013.

Activity 3.3 International PROLINNOVA Workshop (IPW)

The IPW and the CLIC–SR coordination meeting with two representatives from each of the four CPs will be held in late May 2013 during the Week on Agricultural Innovation in Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. The coordination meeting for sharing, learning and planning by the four CPs is being prepared by the International Support Team and World Neighbors East Africa, co-coordinator of the CLIC–SR team in Kenya.

Activity 3.4 International dissemination of findings and lessons

IIRR set up a separate webpage for CLIC–SR under the theme “Climate Change and Participatory Innovation Development” on the Prolinnova website (<http://www.prolinnova.net/clic>), while ETC set up a separate yahoogroup for all partners in CLIC–SR. In addition to the frequent email contact between the International Support Team and the CPs as well as among the CPs, about 60 messages were exchanged via the CLIC–SR yahoogroup in 2012, mainly about sources of information, training opportunities and workshops related to local innovation, resilience and adaptation to change, and well as project issues relevant for all partners. From September to December 2012, more than twice as many messages were shared via the more general PROLINNOVA yahoogroup, also including information relevant for the CLIC–SR partners (who are also part of the wider group). The International Support Team also circulated numerous e-messages on local innovation and PID through the LINEX–CCA yahoogroup and the Yammergroup on Climate Change and Social Learning (CCSL) and posted key messages on the PROLINNOVA website.

The PROLINNOVA International Secretariat has drafted a strategy for dissemination of findings and lessons; this will be finalized on early 2013.

The International Support Team prepared a PowerPoint presentation on CLIC–SR for the CPs to use in their start-up meetings with stakeholders at national and local level. Also the PowerPoint presentation on LISFs prepared for the second Global Conference on Agricultural Research and Development (<http://www.slideshare.net/gcard/8-c12-29-octwatersbayer>) has served as background information for CLIC–SR partners, who will be supporting communities in managing LISFs for farmer-led experimentation to adapt to change. Likewise, the PROLINNOVA video films have proved to be useful for this purpose (<http://www.prolinnova.net/resources/video/prolinnova4video>).

In August 2012 shortly before the CLIC–SR project officially commenced, a member of the PROLINNOVA International Support Team (Ann Waters-Bayer) and three members of the CLIC–SR team in Kenya (Teresiah Ng’ang’a, Bell Okello and Righa Makonge) took part in the Rockefeller Foundation Learning Forum on “Climate Smart Rural Development for Africa” held in Nairobi, Kenya. Ann also participated in the Partners Convening on the theme “Catalyzing Change and Driving Growth through African Innovation.” Particularly the Learning Forum provided a good opportunity for PROLINNOVA partners to share their experiences with other Rockefeller Foundation grantees.

Objective 4: Mainstream PID in national and international policies and programs

Activity 4.1 Country-based policy dialogue

Previous experience of PROLINNOVA partners in policy dialogue is informing the planning of policy dialogue in CLIC–SR. ETC Foundation is supporting the four CPs to review their past experiences and draw lessons to be able to develop more effective strategies to influence policy in favor of farmer-led participatory research and development approaches that would strengthen local capacities to adapt to change. ETC Foundation provided guidelines for conducting this study. The CPs in Ethiopia and Kenya started already in late 2012 to review their past experiences. A PE Working Group member from Addis Ababa University is leading the review in Ethiopia, while two consultants and two persons from PK partner organizations are involved in the review in Kenya. They are assessing the challenges faced in influencing policy and those faced by the policymakers themselves in implementing policy, and are also identifying the opportunities available at country level to influence and implement policy favoring PID.

Activity 4.2 International policy dialogue

The International Support Team members based at ETC Foundation have been promoting and lobbying at international level for a farmer-led joint innovation and adaptation approach by contributing to e-based discussions as well as to international face-to-face meetings such as the International Livestock Centre for Africa workshop on agricultural research for development held in Ethiopia on 13–14 September; the Tropentag International Conference on Food Security, NRM and Rural Development held in Germany on 19–21 September, focused on the theme “Resilience of Agricultural Systems Against Crisis”; and the second Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) held in Uruguay on 28 October–1 November. Presentations on PID and LISFs were made at all three events.

During the reporting period, the International Support Team liaised with the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and came to an agreement to collaborate in East and West Africa – initially in Kenya and Senegal – as well as at international level in exploring approaches to enhance knowledge-to-action linkages among actors in agricultural innovation systems. This includes work on social learning to build ARD relationships for better responding to climate change, as well strengthening the role of women in these processes. The inception phase was devoted to making an inventory of partners of CCAFS and PROLINNOVA in East and West Africa, developing a social learning strategy, and supporting country-level linkages and action planning in the two regions. The work with CCAFS in Kenya, starting in January 2013, will be closely linked with the CLIC–SR project.

Objective 5: Project coordination and management

Activity 5.1 Management and monitoring of country-level activities

The coordinating partners in each country are managing and monitoring the activities at their level. During the reporting period, they prepared workplans and budget for September–December 2012 as well as for January–December 2013. Two of the four CPs (in Ethiopia and Kenya) started making their baselines studies for M&E in the final weeks of 2012.

Activity 5.2 Overall management and M&E

ETC Foundation drew up cooperation agreements with the four CPs for the periods September–December 2012 and January–December 2013 and arranged transfer of funds to all CPs except PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia, which has not yet signed the letter of agreement. An ETC member of the PROLINNOVA International Support Team, Wim Hiemstra, has been handling this work. Wim is temporarily taking the place of Laurens van Veldhuizen, who had several overseas missions in late 2012.

The International Support Team provided technical and organizational advice to the CPs by email, skype and face-to-face: Laurens van Veldhuizen visited Tanzania and Uganda in November and Ann Waters-Bayer visited Ethiopia and Kenya in November/December. They “piggybacked” these visits onto travel to these

countries on other assignments. The Team also liaised with Walker Institute by skype and emails and disseminated information from Walker Institute to the CPs about training possibilities.

Building on the logframe in the proposal to Rockefeller Foundation, IIRR drafted a framework for M&E and circulated this to the CPs for their comments. Pending issues related to the framework include: deciding on indicators on selected results and agreeing on what gender-disaggregated data will be recorded. IIRR also reviewed the baseline guide used by the “sister” Asian programme LINEX–CCA in order to identify features that would be useful for CLIC–SR. It then provided relevant advice to the CP teams, which designed their own methods and tools for conducting the studies. In line with the M&E framework, IIRR developed and distributed tables for tracking project results. The person from IIRR responsible for coordinating M&E – Marissa Espineli – will be joining the annual CLIC–SR meeting in 2103 to discuss the M&E framework and procedures with representatives from the four CPs, so that revisions can be made on the basis of their experiences and feedback.

D. Lessons and challenges

The CLIC–SR project has started particularly well in Kenya. Activities have also been started in Ethiopia, despite the fact that the restrictive policy environment has made it more difficult for NGOs to operate in that country. Because of the new CSO legislation, PE could not make use of the budget available from Rockefeller Foundation for CLIC–SR in 2012. PE members therefore had to use their own funding resources and time to start up the activities. This shows the strong commitment of these PROLINNOVA partners to the CLIC–SR project. In Uganda, after a promising inception workshop, the fieldwork at the project sites has been slow in starting, but it is now fully underway. Likewise in Tanzania, the inception workshop was a promising beginning, but there is some concern in the International Support Team about the delay in starting field activities in that country.

The CLIC–SR partners were somewhat confused in this start-up phase of the project, as the original proposal that they had developed for Rockefeller Foundation had been focused on strengthening resilience in the face of climate change, whereas the revised and ultimately approved proposal has a wider scope. Some of the initial fieldwork was too focused on local perceptions of only climate change; it had to be followed up to capture perceptions of other changes that more immediately triggered innovative initiatives at local level.

It was also difficult for some partners to carry out the field studies in a way that provides an initial picture of: i) the innovative initiatives in response to change; and ii) the existing linkages of rural communities with other stakeholders who could support them in adapting to change. These studies should provide a baseline for measuring changes in perceptions, initiatives, linkages and relationships that reflect an increased resilience to change. There is a strong tendency for research and development organizations to take the “default” mode of making household economic baseline surveys with questionnaires that generate a mass of data that may not be relevant for the objectives of the project. As most of the backstopping by the International Support Team is from a considerable distance, it was not always possible to nip these tendencies in the bud and to stimulate reflection in the country-level teams about the type of field study most suitable for the task. Written guidelines were provided, but these obviously did not suffice.

In future, we will have to encourage the country-level partners even more strongly than before to make their initial plans for studies, training workshop etc available to the International Support Team prior to starting the actual work, so that the draft concepts and tools can be commented and discussed and better guidance can be given. More frequent skype conferences with the country teams may be necessary.

The initiatives taken by the CPs in Kenya and Uganda to access additional funding for training-of-trainers in PID is an important contribution towards strengthening the capacities of the partners in these countries to implement the CLIC–SR project.