



West and Central Africa PROLINNOVA Platform (WeCAPP)

Plateforme PROLINNOVA d’Afrique de l’Ouest et du Centre (PPAOC)

**Annual Technical Report of the Sub-Regional Coordinator
(August 2017 – July 2018)**

August 2018

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Introduction

The project “Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security” (Proli-FaNS) has just completed its second year of implementation. During this past year, the PROLINNOVA Platform for West and Central Africa (WCA) played its part in achieving the overall objectives of the project. In this annual report, I recall the main tasks and responsibilities of the Sub-Regional Coordinator (SRC), his achievements, the lessons learned, as well as the challenges and perspectives for the third year.

2. Duties and responsibilities of SRC

In order to stimulate mutual learning among all the country platforms (CPs) of the WCA subregion, including those not involved in Proli-FaNS, the SRC supports project activities in the subregion and also undertakes other activities in the context of reactivating inactive CPs, building the capacity of all CPs, and supporting the creation of new CPs. The tasks and responsibilities of the SRC are summarized in ten key points:

In the short term, the SRC has the role of:

1. Building the subregional platform, particularly for the purpose of strengthening policy dialogue activities at subregional and regional levels;
2. Creating synergies and stimulating mutual learning by facilitating sharing and cross-analysis among the CPs in the subregion, including those not involved in the Proli-FaNS project;
3. Compiling information and reporting at subregional level on progress of the Proli-FaNS project and other CP activities in the subregion;
4. Coordinating and facilitating documentation and publication at subregional level and regional level;
5. Coordinating and developing content for multi-CP meetings/workshops/events and disseminating reports at subregional and regional level.

In the medium and long term, the SRC is responsible for:

1. Mapping CPs’ status regularly as a basis for enhancing performance, ensuring a vibrant membership and good governance, and facilitating capacity strengthening of the CP coordinators and NSCs

2. Providing technical backstopping to the CPs in collaboration with the CP coordinators, Proli-FaNS Project Coordinator, National Steering Committees (NSCs) and the PROLINNOVA International Support Team (IST);
3. Providing a hub for capacity building at subregional and regional level;
4. Formulating and implementing subregional strategies to mobilise resources;
5. Facilitating networking and cross-learning with PROLINNOVA regional platforms in Asia and Latin America as well with similar platforms.

This report of the second year of Proli-FaNS covers the period from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018. It summarizes the achievements of about 104 working days (3.5 months), two days of work per week.

3. Achievements of SRC

The achievements of the WCA SRC in the year 2 of Proli-FaNS are divided into five main points, retained by the coordination of Proli-FaNS for the reporting of SRCs: policy dialogue and networking, documentation, monitoring and evaluation, south-south backstopping and fundraising.

3.1. Policy dialogue and Networking

Policy dialogue and networking have been an important part of my work this year. The activities carried out under this framework are mainly aimed at increasing the possibilities of influencing decision-making for a better taking into account of the farmer creativity and the institutionalization of the PID at the subregional level.

I participated in five national, regional and international meetings and training sessions where the principles, values and achievements of PROLINNOVA were shared with a wide range of stakeholders. They are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Participation in various trainings and meetings

| No. | Institutions/Organizations | Topics | Dates | Places |
|-----|--|--|------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) | Communication and policy dialogue through social media | 5–8 October 2017 | Rome, Italy |

| | | | | |
|----|--|---|---------------------|----------------|
| 2. | 44th Session of the World Committee for Food Security (CFS44/FAO) & Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) | Social reporting | 9–13 October 2017 | Rome, Italy |
| 3. | PROFEIS Mali | Local Innovation and Participatory Innovation Development (PID) | 26–29 November 2017 | Ségou, Mali |
| 4. | National Institute of Agricultural Research in Benin (INRAB) | Participatory Research and Development in Benin | 12–14 January 2018 | Bohicon, Benin |
| 5. | PROLINNOVA | Regional Workshop of African Partners & Meeting of the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) | 22–25 May 2018 | Nairobi, Kenya |

I published six blogs that either value the PID activities and results of some CPs, or promote the overall values of PROLINNOVA. They focus on farmer innovation, gender and women’s creativity and sustainable livelihoods. All published blogs are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Blogs published as part of PROLINNOVA’s activities

| No. | Titles | Editors | Access links |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 1. | Local innovation as source of adaptation and resilience to climate change | Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI)/Plantwise blogposts for Climate Smart Agriculture Week 2017 | https://blog.plantwise.org/2017/11/21/15208/#more-15208 |
| 2. | Less violation, more innovation | World Committee for Food Security (CFS/FAO) | http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/blog/blog-articles/article/vn/c/1044756/ |
| 3. | The tradeoffs of indigenous and community land right promotion | Forum Mondial de la Recherche Agricole (GFAR) | https://blog.gfar.net/2017/10/12/indigenous-land-promotion/ |
| 4. | Good partnership for good stewardship in | World Committee for Food Security | http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/blog/blog-articles/article/en/c/1043525/ |

| | | | |
|----|---|--|---|
| | the agricultural sector | (CFS/FAO) | |
| 5. | Pastoralist women and food security: resourcefulness on the margins? | World Committee for Food Security (CFS/FAO) | http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/blog/blog-articles/article/en/c/1046464/ |
| 6. | Being farmer, becoming agripreneur: Imitation is the highest flattery | Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) | https://blog.gfar.net/2017/10/30/being-farmer-becoming-agripreneur-imitation-is-the-highest-flattery/ |

Apart from participating in national, regional and international events and publishing blogs that disseminate achievements and promote the values of PROLINNOVA, I shared various documents on the PROLINNOVA website and on social media. I created a WhatsApp forum and Twitter and Facebook pages for sharing information and opportunities in the WCA subregion. The sharing of blogs on the websites of international organizations such as FAO and GFAR and the publication of some in the weekly review of the FAO Pastoral Knowledge Hub (especially in its issue of October 26, 2017), contributed to increasing the visibility of PROLINNOVA's actions and to improving its international reputation.

I met and discussed during the year, and in various contexts, with various technical and financial partners, among which I could mention: the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Rural Forum (WRF), the West Africa Network of Producers and Farmer Organizations (ROPPA), Oxfam International, Compassion in World Farming, Swedbio, ActionAid, Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative (SIANI), International Land Coalition (ILC). My discussions with these actors focused on opportunities for collaboration, networking and funding. Exchanges will be intensified with them during the last year of Proli-FaNS to achieve if possible memoranda of cooperation and funding for PROLINNOVA multi-CP proposals in WCA.

I took advantage of my various trips to interact or get in touch with various people and organizations (universities, agricultural research centers, advisory services, farmer organizations, NGOs and independent consultants) who are for the most part sensitive to farmer-led innovation approach. I aroused their collaboration with PROLINNOVA, as well as the interest of some to be part of existing or emerging CPs for the promotion of local innovation and PID. This was particularly the case with people and organizations coming

from Benin and Togo where CPs do not yet exist, or from Niger and Nigeria where CPs are dormant.

I regularly provided advice and technical support (through emails, phone calls and field visits) to the CPs of the subregion as part of the implementation of their various projects (Proli-FaNS, FaReNe and PROFEIS), with a view to obtaining good results that can facilitate dissemination, upscaling and policy dialogue.

I recently engaged in networking with various networks and organizations in Benin and also to evolve in the process of setting up a CP in this country. Thus, AgriProFocus Benin, Access Agriculture, and the Beninese Network for Sustainable Management of Genetic Resources JINUKUN, which is the focal point of the Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage (COPAGEN) have been approached for a better collaboration with PROLINNOVA. Other local organizations that are sensitive to the promotion of local innovation, such as CEBEDES NGO, CASAD NGO, EVER-GREEN NGO and SOJAGNON Association have been mobilized to collaborate on initiatives that will support the setting up of the PROLINNOVA platform in Benin.

3.2. Documentation

The translation into French and the printing of PROLINNOVA documents for francophone CPs constituted the focus of the activities carried out in the field of documentation.

In this context, I designed, translated and shared with the French-speaking partners about 30 different documents. These documents include 15 PROLINNOVA guidelines, 13 of which were put in the form of an easy-to-use booklet, two policy briefs, a working paper (also put in the form of a booklet), seasonal action plans, a charter of the subregional platform, a self-assessment report of the regionalization process in WCA and two annual activity reports of the CPs etc.

I co-developed with other partners, including ESAPP, IST, WCA taskforce, ACDEP or other partners about 20 documents or products, which I translated and/or shared with the French-speaking partners. These include a SRC evaluation template, two annual reporting templates, three concept notes, subregional meeting agendas, guidelines for the selection of PROLINNOVA CP host organizations, guidelines for the documentation of PID processes, guidelines for preparing and presenting CP achievements, a video disseminating the PID results of the Ghana platform, three powerpoint presentations of FaReNe project for wide dissemination

through the SPHAERA platform of McKnight Foundation, a proposal for the mobilization of additional funds for the Nairobi African partners' workshop, a framework for checking the level of compliance with the commitments and minimum requirements by the CPs etc.

I facilitated the access to the information by the systematic writing of my emails both in French and in English, the translation of the emails of the other Anglophone partners in French and the reminders to the CPs on various deadlines. This is the case for many emails and phone calls to discuss reporting difficulties, to clarify various events and to share funding opportunities and so on. The backstopping visits to Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Mali served as a springboard for sharing with the partners tips for successful documentation and dissemination of farmer innovation and PID processes. Through emails, phone calls and field visits, I gave support to the Proli-FaNS coordinators to improve their governance, better document local innovation and PID processes and prepare their various reports. In this context, I proceeded, for example, to the proofreading of a financial and administrative management document, a conference abstract and a student dissertation sent by the CP of Cameroon, which I also supported for a better formulation of its research questions and better development of experimental protocols for the success of PIDs.

A subregional innovation documentation project is being prepared, but while waiting to mobilize relevant innovations for inclusion in the subregional catalogue, I continue to support the Proli-FaNS coordinators in the different countries to better document their innovations and PIDs, and submit their progress reports. The documentation will be further strengthened during the year 3 of Proli-FaNS when most of the CPs involved in the project will have much more results to share from their different PIDs. These achievements will be valued and widely disseminated through the writing and publication of blogs and small magazine articles. Ideas for the publication and co-publication of PID results by the partners themselves at the subregional level have been discussed, as well as the publication of blogs and articles which could help to improve the policy dialogue in the WCA subregion.

All the documents elaborated or co-elaborated, translated into French and/or shared with the CPs in the WCA subregion and other actors contributed during the year to improving access to information and responsiveness of the partners within the PROLINNOVA network. The email and telephone exchanges – with the aim of encouraging them, and also to inquire about the difficulties and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Proli-FaNS project – motivate the CPs to meet the deadlines and to follow the monitoring and evaluation, documentation, reporting and presentation templates proposed by ACDEP. I recently shared

with the francophone partners an article published by a friend of PROLINNOVA about the co-authorship in participatory research. This aims to inform them about the norms, principles and ethics related to co-publication and recognition in the framework of valuing the results of the PID in progress in the different countries.

3.3. Monitoring and evaluation

The exchanges were reinforced during the year between the CP coordinators and myself, on the functioning of the CPs and the successes and difficulties in the implementation of their activities. Monitoring and evaluation at the subregional level is done mainly through regular exchanges with CP coordinators and Proli-FaNS coordinators, in cases where these two functions are not performed by the same person. Exchanges often take place by email, skype, phone and via social media (some information were shared on the WhatsApp forum created for the subregional network).

I provided technical support to the CPs for the improvement of monitoring and evaluation in the implementation of their projects. This was the case with Burkina Faso and Cameroon CPs where I held discussion sessions after my field visits in these countries, to share with partners remarks and advice for the success of their activities. In Cameroon, I held a session with the monitoring and evaluation focal point to help her better understand the content of the monitoring and evaluation template proposed by ACDEP and to strengthen her capacity to use it to fulfill well her mission within the local Proli-FaNS team. I regularly encourage all the CPs to comply with the monitoring and evaluation template developed by ACDEP as part of the implementation of the Proli-FaNS project.

All these efforts have contributed to improving the level of compliance with the monitoring-evaluation and reporting templates made available by the Proli-FaNS coordination team within ACDEP. Discussions with the country Proli-FaNS coordinators reveal that considerable efforts are being made for successful PIDs in the last year of the project.

3.4. South-South backstopping

Technical support during this second year of Proli-FaNS focuses on visits to some CPs. After my contact and backstopping visits in Burkina Faso (16–20 July 2017), Togo (24–25 July 2017) and Senegal (26–29 July 2017) last year, I made during this second year of Proli-FaNS visits to Mali (26–29 November 2017) and Cameroon (05–09 December 2017). The back-to-

office reports were developed and shared with partners and published on PROLINNOVA website.

I had email and telephone exchanges with the Proli-FaNS CPs to provide solutions to specific problems. I also had skype calls with various partners (including Djibril Thiam, Do Christophe Ouattara, Djibril Diarra, Bourama Diakite, Jean-Marie Diop, Ann Waters-Bayer, Gabriela Quiroga...) for better integration into the PROLINNOVA network and the resolution of some difficulties encountered.

I shared the PROLINNOVA guidelines' booklet with the focal point of the Niger dormant platform (Saidou Magagi), in order to provide him with the necessary information for the relaunch of this CP. I also exchanged with the focal points in Benin (Anne Floquet) and Togo (Sena Adessou) for their preparation to set up a PROLINNOVA platform in their respective countries. Through visits to Cotonou, email exchanges and telephone calls, I managed to get in touch with several other people and organizations that are motivated to set up a platform in Benin. After the failure of my attempts to get in touch with the leaders of CASAD ONG who carried the initiative of the creation of a CP in Benin, I ended up getting in touch with CEBEDES NGO which wants to be the new focal point of PROLINNOVA in Benin.

I had phone calls and exchanged messages with Anne Floquet who is the coordinator of CEBEDES NGO. I also visited CEBEDES NGO at its headquarters in Cotonou on October 16, 2017. The discussions were conclusive and I was involved through CEBEDES NGO in a training initiated by the National Institute of Agricultural Research in Benin (INRAB) on participatory research and development in Benin. A list of actors to be involved in the implementation of the next multi-stakeholder platform has been established and a draft national innovation catalogue project was briefly discussed, to serve as a basis for launching the PROLINNOVA platform activities in Benin. I recently spoke with several other actors from various sectors who are motivated to be part of a multi-stakeholder platform promoting local innovation and PID in Benin (Table 3). Although stopped for a while, because of the unavailability of actors, the exchanges have recently resumed with INADES-Formation Togo which is still in a phase of mobilization of actors of different sectors, in order to give to their structure a multi-stakeholder platform configuration.

Table 3. List of PROLINNOVA partners in Benin

| N° | Firstnames and names | Organizations | Phone contacts | Emails |
|----|----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------|
|----|----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------|

| | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1. | Aliou SAIDOU | University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC) | +229 9002 2359 +229 9749 4480 | saidoualiou@gmail.com aliou.saidou@fsa.uac.bj |
| 2. | Anne FLOQUET | Benin Center for the Environment and Economic and Social Development (CEBEDES NGO) | +229 9505 6885 +229 6626 7779 | anneb.floquet@gmail.com |
| 3. | Doha Yétongnon AWOHOUEJJI | EVER GREEN ONG | +229 9585 4230 | awohouedji@gmail.com |
| 4. | Edmond TOTIN | National University of Agriculture (UNA) | +229 9747 5607 | edmond.totin@gmail.com |
| 5. | Florent OKRY | Access Agriculture Benin & National University of Agriculture (UNA) | +254 202108300 +229 9410 9582 | okryflorent@gmail.com florent@accessagriculture.org |
| 6. | Florian Finagnon FADONOUGB O | Laboratory of Analysis of Social Dynamics and Development Studies (LADYD), University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC) | +229 9556 6320 +229 6638 6424 | roifad84@yahoo.fr |
| 7. | Gérard ZOUNDJI | University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC) | +229 9772 7273 | gezoundji@yahoo.fr |
| 8. | Hermann TOSSOU | Center of Initiatives for Sustainable Development (CIDD NGO) | +229 9486 3086 +229 9786 3086 | hermanns.tossou@aol.fr tshrmann@gmail.com |
| 9. | Marcel DJIHOUN | AgriProFocus Benin | +229 9533 8303 +229 9760 3330 | mdjihoun@snnworld.org |
| 10. | Odountan Ambaliou OLOUNLADE | Action Center for Food Security and Sustainable Development (CASAD NGO) | +22997797456 +22996110037 +22969803282 | a.olounlade@casad-benin.org casad@casad-benin.org olounlade@gmail.com |

| | | | | |
|----|----------------|--|--|--|
| 11 | Patrice SEWADE | SOJAGNON Association Benin | +229 9594 1100 +229 9772 3700 | patsewade@yahoo.fr |
| 12 | René SEGBENOU | JINUKUN Benin, COPAGEN | +229 9540 2021 +229 2133 7950 | jinukun.copagen@yahoo.fr |
| 13 | Roch MONGBO | Laboratory of Analysis of Social Dynamics and Development Studies (LADYD), University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC) | +229 9596 6446 +229 9737 4797 +229 2130 4139 | rochl_mongbo@yahoo.fr rmongbo@intnet.bj |
| 14 | Tatiana KOURA | University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC) | +229 9717 1859 | thalia052002@gmail.com |

3.5. Fundraising

Activities at this heading have been somewhat limited during this year. Although I had a strong will, I have not been able to develop and submit multi-CP proposals for funding. However, I have been involved or contributed to various fundraising initiatives.

I was selected based on my application and was funded by GFAR to participate in a training on the use of social media for communication and policy dialogue (advocacy and lobbying), as well as to the 44th session of the World Committee on Food Security in Rome, Italy (see Table 1 above).

I contributed to the translation and sharing with partners in the WCA sub-region of a concept note initiated by the IST on crowdfunding.

I co-authored with Amanuel Assefa and Ann Waters-Bayer a concept note that resulted in additional funding from Misereor/KZE to facilitate the participation of some PROLINNOVA partners in the Nairobi Partners Workshop (see Table 1 above for more details on this event).

I helped the Cameroon platform in the preparation of a concept note, which was not finally submitted for various constraints faced by the CP coordinator who no longer showed interest in the submission before the deadline.

I identified in collaboration with the various CPs, during my contact and backstopping visits in the different countries, some priority topics on which I plan to develop proposals during the

last year of Proli-FaNS. I took advantage of my trip to Rome to discuss with representatives of various donors who could support us in case we submit concept notes that fit their fields of intervention. This is the case, for example, of Compassion in World Farming (UK), ActionAid (USA) and Swedbio (Sweden). The proposals to be drafted in the future could be oriented towards seizing these opportunities. Other proposals developed by the Kenyan and ESAPP partners were suggested by the POG and IST to be adapted to the WCA subregion to facilitate fundraising. I will work towards adapting these proposals to our subregion.

The idea of a second edition of the West Africa Farmer Innovation Fair (FIPAO) is widely shared in the subregion and I plan to develop a concept note and then a proposal, with a view to launching the mobilization of resources and actors. However, it does not seem relevant to me to organize FIPAO II before 2020, since the Proli-FaNS closing workshop, probably coupled with the International Partners Workshop (IPW), will be held in 2019, and will mobilize the same actors. I see that FIPAO II could be more successful if it is organized in a year where there is no major PROLINNOVA event that will mobilize the efforts of the same partners in the subregion.

I was recently involved in a fundraising initiative with Zacharia Malley of PROLINNOVA Tanzania. It was a concept note in response to the global alliance's call for ideas for the future of food: *"Call for Ideas – 2050: Visions for Global Food Systems Transformation"*. Unfortunately, this concept note on future food systems was not selected for funding. We plan to improve it so that it can be used later to apply for other calls for proposals for which it could be more relevant.

I had emails and skype discussions with Secours Catholique – Caritas France (through Mrs. Chloé Bonnemains, International Project Manager, Africa & Indian Ocean Desk, International Advocacy and Action Directorate) which wants to implement a networking project on agroecology in the Sahel. It is a multi-country field project entitled *"Improving food security and resilience of vulnerable populations in the Sahelian zone through the promotion of agroecology"*, with a provisional budget of 530,000 Euros. The WCA PROLINNOVA platform has been asked to be a partner of the project through its Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal CPs that are from the target countries of the project. These CPs could benefit from financial support through training of actors, implementation of local joint experimentation initiatives and policy dialogue in agroecology.

I suggested to Caritas France that the PROLINNOVA coordinations as well as the local multi-stakeholder platforms in these countries that already have a lot of experience on these different aspects are involved in the implementation of the project. I stressed, inter alia, that the development of training curricula, the delivery of training to actors from various backgrounds, the implementation of joint experiments (involving extension officers, formal research experts and decentralized community agents etc.), the organization of exchange visits and policy dialogue (advocacy and lobbying through farmer innovation fairs, farmer documentation and dissemination of findings) are all areas where the PROLINNOVA partners in the Sahel could make substantial contributions in the implementation of this project. I put the Sahelian partners in copy of all email exchanges and I shared with them a summary of my skype discussion with Mrs. Chloé Bonnemains, so that they get in touch with Caritas teams in their respective countries to participate in the implementation of this project which they can leverage to promote local innovation, PID and PROLINNOVA values.

4. Key lessons learned

My activities during the second year of Proli-FaNS, in connection with my duties and responsibilities, made it possible to identify the main lessons summarized in Table 4. Overall, communication and interactions are improved at the subregional level, through the combination of several information and communication media: phone calls, emails and social media. The language issue, especially for francophone partners, is now resolved; and partners regularly advise on various aspects and documents related to the subregional platform and the international network (IST/POG).

The translation of documents and emails from PROLINNOVA partners into French provides greater support for access to information. Contact and backstopping visits in various countries facilitated integration and strengthened trust relationships with the WCA taskforce and CP members. The availability and the willingness to work together have been strengthened between the partners for the development of the subregional network.

Table 4. Key lessons from the second year activities

| N° | Duties of SRC | Results achieved | Observations |
|----|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Building the subregional platform | The platform is gradually taking | The adoption and signing of the charter will complete the |

| | | shape. | process. |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2. | Creating synergies and stimulating mutual learning | The CPs make commendable efforts to achieve project objectives; but the synergy of action and mutual learning must be further strengthened. | Mutual learning has been possible only in the context of projects where this has been formally programmed and budgeted (<i>eg. exchange visit between FaReNe Mali and FaReNe Burkina</i>). |
| 3. | Compiling information and reporting at subregional level on progress of the Proli-FaNS project and other CP activities in the subregion | Information and reports are made available to the CPs through several communication media. | The media often used are: emails, phone calls, PROLINNOVA website, social networks, subregional missions and field visits. |
| 4. | Coordinating and facilitating documentation and publication at subregional and regional level | Documentation and publication have been facilitated. | The subregional annual reports for 2016 and 2017 have been prepared and disseminated; and blogs have been published on the results of PIDs (<i>eg. CABI Plantwise Blog</i>) |
| 5. | Coordinating and developing content for multi-CP events | No subregional event has yet been organized in WCA, but the CPs in WCA have contributed strongly to the holding and success of the Nairobi African Partners Workshop. | FIPAO II has been planned, but the relevance and feasibility still have to be discussed with the partners. |
| 6. | Mapping CPs' status regularly as a basis for enhancing performance, ensuring a vibrant membership and good governance, and facilitating capacity strengthening of the CP coordinators and NSCs | Contributions were made as part of updating the active CPs to the principles and values of PROLINNOVA; but the capacities of the coordinators of CPs and NSCs need to be strengthened. | The revision of the structure and functioning of the CPs has been made; the coordination and governance bodies have been updated, and the level of compliance with the minimum commitments and requirements has been assessed. |
| 7. | Providing technical backstopping to the CPs | Technical support was provided to CPs on M&E, experimental protocol design, PID implementation, documentation and reporting. | Visits (field visits and room meetings with partners) and phone calls contributed to this. |
| 8. | Providing a hub for capacity building at subregional and | The subregional coordination is | The capacity of SRC himself has also been strengthened on |

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|-----|--|---|--|
| | regional level | gradually becoming a relevant hub for building the capacity of PROLINNOVA's partners in the subregion. | the values and principles of PROLINNOVA, local innovation and PID, participatory action research and policy dialogue. |
| 9. | Formulating and implementing subregional strategies to mobilise resources | Concept notes and multi-CP proposals have not been developed in the subregion, but contributions have been made to concept notes developed by other partners. | Fundraising will be a priority during the third year of Proli-FaNS; and concept notes and proposals will be developed and submitted. |
| 10. | Facilitating networking and cross-learning with PROLINNOVA regional platforms in Asia and Latin America as well with similar platforms | Networking and mutual learning need to be strengthened, but communication and interactions between CPs have improved. | Email and WhatsApp exchanges with ESAPP are positive, but more interactions are needed on various aspects during the third year of Proli-FaNS. |

5. Challenges and way forward

I had some difficulties during this year in time management. It seemed a bit insufficient to carry out translations, to guarantee access to information, to write proposals, to provide technical support, to promote policy dialogue and to respond to all requests from IST, POG and ACDEP for two days of work per week. I work sometimes the whole week, without managing to complete the activities lying on my desk. This made it difficult for me to prioritize the tasks facing the requests coming from the coordination of Proli-FaNS and the highest bodies of PROLINNOVA and to advance in my own seasonal action plans. I was sometimes forced to prioritize certain activities to the detriment of others. ► *In this context, I plan to create very soon an email box specifically for PROLINNOVA and to respond to emails only on specific days.*

My main interlocutor within the Mali platform (Djibril Diarra) left his position and was replaced by Bourama Diakité. This change of interlocutor disrupted exchanges and interactions with the Mali platform. For a few moments, I experienced difficulties in obtaining the reaction and the consent of the actors in Mali to advance on various subregional issues. ► *To improve this situation, I planned regular Skype exchanges with Bourama Diakité, in order to get him used to his new position within the subregional platform. I also*

took advantage of the Nairobi workshop to interact with him, in order to strengthen our collaboration.

I was very much confronted with the low motivation of the focal points of the emerging CPs who did not take initiatives to mobilize other actors, in order to launch their multi-stakeholder platforms. Some of them would like me to bear these initiatives at the country level, which does not seem to be compatible with my SRC functions. If I engage in this way in Benin, for example, I could be criticized for having surrounded myself with friends to make PROLINNOVA my personal business. That is the reason why my role for the moment has been limited to the motivation of the actors, so that they take themselves initiatives towards setting up their CPs. In Benin, there were actors who would like to create a PROLINNOVA platform, but all their efforts seem to be part of a MONGO (My Own NGO) dynamic; since some of them have nothing to show about their activities and their implications in promoting local innovations. Some of them are not even present in Benin and operate only through information and communication technologies. I would like to mention the example of the leader of an NGO that is in China for his doctoral thesis and yet operates daily through the website of his structure where he regularly uploads nice field photos to serve as a showcase. All my attempts to visit such a structure and see concretely its field activities have been unsuccessful. Elsewhere, as is the case in Togo, I was confronted with questions on the size of the funding that could come from PROLINNOVA, which seems to be also an important source of motivation for the partners. I understood that there is no spontaneous mobilization of people who carry the vision to combine their efforts to promote local innovations in their countries. Rather, there is a form of motivation that depends on the ability to use a certain type of “PROLINNOVA platform” to mobilize resources. ► *Faced with this trend, I continue to sensitize, encourage and support the focal points in Benin and Togo, as well as other actors from those countries whom I met on various occasions, for effective self-mobilization and self-organization of local actors in setting up their CPs.*

My actions towards the dormant platforms in Niger and Nigeria were limited during this year, since I had given priority to the active CPs in general and those involved in Proli-FaNS in particular, as well as the emerging ones. However, I shared various information with the focal point in Niger through emails and documents (example of the booklet compiling the first thirteen PROLINNOVA guidelines). I also recently sent him a reminder email, asking him to share with me the difficulties and challenges he faces in relaunching the Niger platform. All this aims to better identify the aspects on which he may need support, in order to better

support him for the resumption of activities in this CP. ► *To quickly revive the platforms in Niger and Nigeria, I plan to make more effort in year 3 to grasp the difficulties of the focal points in order to provide adequate answers.*

The priority during the third year of Proli-FaNS will be given to the development and submission of concept notes and proposals, the documentation and dissemination of local innovation and PID processes and the organization of subregional events for policy dialogue and networking. However, access to information and translation of documents are not neglected; they will be further strengthened and the participation of WCA partners in the overall efforts to promote local innovation within the PROLINNOVA network will be further improved. ► *To ensure greater success in the third year, I plan to write and submit for funding two multi-CP proposals, to publish two blogs and two magazine articles (such as AGRIDAPE or Farming Matters, etc.). The relevance of organizing FIPAO II in 2019 or 2020 will be further discussed with partners in the subregion in order to decide on the appropriate date.*

It is also important to strengthen networking in the third year at a global level. In other words, all the active, dormant or emerging platforms in the WCA subregion must not only be synergized with action, but must also engage in dynamic collaborations and partnerships with other PROLINNOVA platforms in Africa and in the world. ► *For this reason, I plan to strengthen my collaboration with the Eastern and Southern Africa PROLINNOVA Platform (ESAPP), through a visit to Ethiopia, and with other regional and international organizations, institutions and networks that are sensitive to the promotion of local innovation and PID.*

Acknowledgments

Despite the few constraints listed above, it should be noted that I did not encounter major challenges during the year. I particularly benefited from the availability of partners that I called repeatedly upon, especially for reading and amending several documents, including documents to be used for successful project implementation, M&E, reporting, documentation and presentation. Despite this strong demand, they have made great efforts to respond to requests at the right time for smooth communication in our subregion. I would like to extend to them my sincere congratulations on the day-to-day sacrifices for actively participating in the building of our subregional network. Our interactions in the third year will be very much

focused on fundraising, networking and policy dialogue, and I am already counting on their availability and their genuine collaboration.

I also benefited from the support of many people in carrying out the various activities listed in this report, and I would like to express my gratitude to them. My thanks go first to Misereor/KZE which funded the Proli-FaNS project, and therefore all the PROLINNOVA actions for West and Central Africa. I would like to thank the IST (Ann Waters-Bayer and Chesha Wettasinha), the POG (Chris Macoloo and Pratap Shrestha), ACDEP (including Joseph Nchor, coordinator of Proli-FaNS and all his team members), the WCA taskforce members, the CP coordinators in the subregion, the Proli-FaNS country coordinators and all other partners who helped me with their advice and experiences (Jean-Marie Diop, Amanuel Assefa, Gabriela Quiroga...). Finally, I am grateful to all those whom I have not been able to mention here and who helped me day-by-day to integrate more into the PROLINNOVA family and to build the WCA subregional network.

