



**Farmer Access to Innovation Resources (FAIR) Phase III
(Project No. 123014/GH01)**

Annual/End of Project Activity Report 2012

Submitted by ACDEP, Ghana

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1. INTRODUCTION

Subsequent to a successful four-year (2008–2011) piloting of Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs) in northern Ghana, PROLINNOVA–Ghana implemented a one-year transition phase from February to December 2012 to consolidate the experiences and lessons learned into recommended farmer-led LISF models and feasible scenarios towards scaling up and institutionalizing the FAIR–LISF approach in Ghana. This would enhance greater farmer empowerment, food security and sustainable livelihoods for the disadvantaged rural people.

The specific activities planned to achieve the objective of the transition phase were:

- ✓ Document recommended models for operating LISF in Ghana using local stakeholder consultative and participatory processes
- ✓ Document very clear and feasible scenario(s) including strategies, processes and steps for scaling up the FAIR–LISF approach and mainstreaming it into programs of key institutions of agricultural research and development (ARD);
- ✓ Undertake policy dialogue and sensitization to build stakeholders' interest and active participation in up-scaling and mainstreaming of LISF;
- ✓ Facilitate LISF granting activities to support the dialogue and awareness processes; and
- ✓ Prepare policy briefs; participate in information exchange, capacity building and networking at the local and international levels.

The following is the annual and end-of-project report for the 2012 transition phase describing the activities carried out and the outputs and deliverable achieved in the context of the PROLINNOVA–Ghana 2012 work plan. Salient lessons learned and challenges are also captured.

2. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

2.1 Write up recommended LISF models for implementation

Two local resource persons, Franklin Avorny and Zimi Alhassan, who are also members of the PROLINNOVA–Ghana Core Working Group, were assisted by Joe Nchor (the Ghana CP coordinator) to draft the LISF model report in August. Prior review of relevant reports and including the Ghana FAIR paper, partner review workshop reports and the Ghana FAIR Impact Assessment report provided inputs for the report, which used a write-shop and individual-assignment approach. The draft was subsequently peer-reviewed at the local partners review workshop in September and by the PROLINNOVA international coordinator, leading to a final draft document describing the operation of most feasible LISF model for Ghana.

2.2 Write up most feasible scenarios, strategies and processes for upscaling LISF

The same resource persons above drafted the LISF upscaling scenario, which describes how LISF will be embedded in the programs of key ARD stakeholders including the Ministry of Food & Agriculture (MoFA), national farmer-based associations, local NGOs and research institutions. The process of introducing the approach into new districts and communities has also been elaborated in the document. The draft report was also reviewed by local partners, who provided very valuable input and advice on the most feasible and acceptable up-scaling scenario to sustain LISF in Ghana with local funding. *(See to attachment annex for draft report).*

2.3 Facilitate LISF grant activities in selected zones

After training the zonal committees in the best LISF process, Yendi and Bolga, the two best-performing zones in piloting LISFs, were selected and given project funds for LISF granting activities in their zones. Following community sensitization and call for proposals, funds were disbursed to qualified applicants for innovation activities including upscaling of previous innovations and training of farmers by innovators (see table below). Subsequent field monitoring and backstopping of the innovators were carried by the local LISF committees. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) focal point and the CP coordinator also visited the zones in September to assess progress and to assist in updating and managing the data in the LISF Register.

Zone	Proposals received	Proposals approved	Thematic areas of the innovations
Bolga	15	9 (7m, 2f)	Tree mgt, crop mgt, soil & water conservation, soil fertility mgt, social innovations, animal husbandry
Yendi	34	8 (4m, 4f)	
2	47	17 (11m, 6f)	

2.4 Undertake policy dialogue and sensitization on FAIR–LISF approach

The activity was successful carried out with stakeholders and potential partners in November in Tamale (Northern Region), Bolga (Upper East) and Wa (Upper West) with the support of three members of the Core Working Group and the Zonal LISF Committees. The exercise helped to create stakeholders' awareness on FAIR–LISF and solicited their support and participation towards upscaling, mainstreaming and sustaining the approach in Ghana.

Specifically, the team held briefing meetings with the three Regional MoFA directors on the FAIR–LISF approach and achievements, discussed possible areas and activities for collaboration and also explored funding opportunities for setting up local innovation funds and mainstreaming LISFs in MoFA extension system. Similar meetings were held with regional Research & Extension Liaison Committees (RELC) coordinators, the Director of SARI, and

regional directors of the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) in the three regions, as well as GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation) and CARE managers in Tamale. Project publications including posters, calendars, brochures and policy briefs were also distributed at the meetings to enhance awareness and interest of the stakeholders.

In Bolga, a one-day policy-dialogue workshop was held on 15 November 2012 for 19 participants (16 men, 3 women) from local NGOs, the Forestry Department, MoFA, representatives of farmer-based organizations and farmer innovators, and the LISF Committee. Presentations on FAIR and its achievements were made and potential roles of respective stakeholders discussed. The workshop participants also visited two LISF-sponsored innovations on local guinea fowl incubator and liquid organic manure processing for dry-season vegetable gardening in Zaare and Chiana-Nayemnia communities respectively in the Upper East Region.

Although funding support by the institutions for LISF could not be immediately identified or assured, interest and commitment were expressed to collaborate in future. Potential areas of collaboration identified included: inclusion of best innovators at the regional and district levels for National Farmers Days awards by MoFA; local innovation and PID to form a key issue for MoFA's monthly directors meetings and action; MoFA extension work and reports to include issues and outcome on farmers innovations; and local innovation to be part of RELCs' planning meetings at the regional and district levels.

2.5 Prepare country policy briefs

Through the technical assistance of the Core Working Group, a 4-page policy brief was produced focusing on the FAIR–LISF approach and achievements in northern Ghana, and distributed to stakeholders during the dialogue and sensitization activities. The remaining copies will be used for future exhibitions and publicity work on FAIR–LISF. (*Refer to attachment for the PROLINNOVA–Ghana Policy Brief*).

2.6 Networking, information exchange and capacity building at international and local level

i) Zimi Alhassan from MoFA-Bolga and a member of the Bolga LISF Committee represented PROLINNOVA–Ghana in the 2012 International PROLINNOVA Workshop (IPW) held in Mali. A feedback report was shared with ACDEP and PROLINNOVA–FAIR partners on his return. His participation enhanced Ghana understanding and implementation of the 2012 FAIR transition phase and related issues.

ii) ACDEP/PROLINNOVA–Ghana participated in a SCI-SLM (Stimulating Community Initiatives in Sustainable Land Management) Regional Steering Committee workshop held in Tamale in September. The Regional Committee is a platform of SCI-SLM partner country programs from South Africa, Uganda, Morocco and Ghana, as well as the Technical Advisory Team and UNEP, which meet annually to share experiences, evaluate the project performance and set the

priorities for the next year. PROLINNOVA–Ghana co-exhibited and shared its publications to the workshop participants.

iii) PROLINNOVA–Ghana, through its Bolga LISF Committee, assisted Bonn University from Germany to plan and hold an innovation contest under the auspices of MoFA for farmers in the Upper East districts. The process involved meetings with all eight MoFA district officials and use of radio announcements to sensitize and call for proposals; distribution and collection of innovation applications; scoring of innovations by committee members at individual level, collation of scores and selection of best innovators based on total scores; feedback to best three winners; and award of prizes to winners on the Upper East National Farmers’ Day event in November. Coincidentally, the first and third best innovators emerged as John Akugre, the ‘*barakuk*’ innovation onion farmer from Tilli, and Joe Abarike, the local fish-feed farmer from Zuarungu, both of whom are PROLINNOVA FAIR–LISF sponsored innovators. They received farm machinery sponsored by Bonn University.

3. LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

There is high local stakeholder interest in the FAIR–LISF approach, which seeks to put resources for ARD closer to or in the hands of farmers as a means to accelerate local innovation. Institutionalization and adoption of the approach and concept by the stakeholders will change the power balance and effectively empower smallholders and local people in particular to better champion their own development processes and agenda for sustainable poverty reduction, especially in northern Ghana. However, in spite of the fairly successful piloting of the approach by ACDEP and PROLINNOVA–Ghana in parts of northern Ghana, identifying and securing local funds to establish a local innovation fund to sustain the approach remains a challenge and still requires some time to achieve. Hence, complementary donor funding would still be needed to support local participatory innovation development (PID) and local innovation activities in Ghana, at least in the short term.

From 2013, PROLINNOVA–Ghana will expand its operations to cover the three northern regions, collaborating with identified grassroots and national NGOs, including Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) local partners, in addition to MoFA, Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI), University of Development Studies (UDS), Animal Research Institute (ARI) etc. The proposed Ghana LISF model and scenario document will serve as a guide for upscaling the LISF approach, with other PROLINNOVA activities such as farmer-led PID and mainstreaming running alongside and partly funded by LISF resources.

PROPOSED PROLINNOVA–GHANA ACTIVITIES FOR 2013–15

Objectives	Activities
Objective 1: <i>Support and promote PID and local innovation processes in CCA, sustainable agriculture (SA) and natural resource management (NRM) to increase resilience to climate change</i> (Participatory innovation development & dissemination)	1.1 Identify, document and disseminate local innovations in climate change adaptation (CCA)
	1.2 Support PID activities in community-based (CB) CCA
	1.3 Support scaling up of best/proven innovations in CCA, SA and NRM, using LISF approach
	1.4 Strengthen the Northern Ghana Climate Change Working Group (NGCCWG) as a multi-stakeholder platform for learning and advocacy on CB innovative CCA
	1.5 Support up-scaling of LISF approach in new districts in the northern regions to enhance farmer-led PID, local innovation and learning on CB-CCA, SA and NRM
Objective 2: <i>Strengthen stakeholders' capacities in PID and local innovation to enhance social learning</i> (Capacity building)	2.1 Train CBOs and local partners on local innovation and PID approach, concepts and tools for CCA, SA, NRM
	2.2 Support establishment or strengthening of CBOs to promote and sustain LISFs, farmer-led PID and local innovation concept
	2.3 Build CBOs' and local partners' capacities in the LISF approach and processes
	2.4 Conduct stakeholders/farmers exchange and learning visits to proven innovation sites in CCA, SA and NRM, locally and internationally
	2.5 Build capacities to integrate PID/local innovation approach into regular development programmes and approaches of local partners
Objective 3: <i>Integrate LISF, PID and local innovation approach into regular activities of R&D stakeholders</i> (Mainstreaming)	3.1 Facilitate NGCCWG sessions and workshops for policy dialogue, experience-sharing and learning on CB-CCA, SA and NRM activities, experiences and outcomes
	3.2 Facilitate innovation fairs, exhibitions, at national and local levels for innovators and stakeholders
	3.3 Hold innovation contests and provide awards to best innovators at district and regional levels
	3.4 Collaborate with regional Research-Extension Liaison Committees (RELCs) to support farmer-led initiatives through joint planning, field actions and dissemination of outcomes
	3.5 Prepare and share policy briefs and publications on proven innovation outcomes, approaches and experiences
	3.6 Hold national policy dialogue workshops for key R&D stakeholders and policymakers
Objective 4: <i>Efficient management of PROLINNOVA-Ghana activities</i> (Programme management)	4.1 Establish and support the functioning of a National Steering Committee to govern PROLINNOVA–Ghana
	4.2 Hold planning and review meetings at national and local levels
	4.3 Conduct monitoring and evaluation of project activities (at partner and farmer levels) and reporting
	4.4 Participate in and support PROLINNOVA International network events and information exchange

