

**PROLINNOVA–GHANA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021**



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Ghana Country Platform (CP) is hosted by the Association of Church Development Projects (ACDEP). It has been actively implementing two projects funded by Misereor, namely “Scaling up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security (SULCI-FaNS)” and “Promoting Ethnoveterinary Medicine for Sustainable Livestock Husbandry in Northern Ghana (Ethnovet)”.

The governance and coordinating bodies of ProInnova–Ghana, the National Steering Committee (NSC) and the Working Group and the Multistakeholder platforms (MSPs) at the action-learning sites remained very supportive of CP governance, country-level networking and field-level implementation support and learning. A new member was brought in to further strengthen the NSC: George-Owusu Essegbey, retired, formerly with CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research) Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI). This has increased the institutional representation and strengthened the diverse professional expertise, representation and network to improve CP governance.

On the economic and social front, following the further easing of Covid-19 restrictions in the latter part of the year in 2020, social and economic activities bounced back in 2021, which also allowed for implementation of the activities of the two projects.

## 2.0 ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

### 2.1 Key activities implemented and results achieved under the SULCI-FaNS project

The *Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security (SULCI-FaNS)* project is being implemented over three years (October 2019–November 2022) by ProInnova Country Platforms (CPs) in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana and Kenya to scale up and consolidate the farmer-led research and innovation approach and results achieved by the previous Proli-FaNS project. SULCI-FaNS also supports ProInnova activities in the West & Central Africa (WCA) and Eastern & Southern Africa subregions towards regionalisation of the ProInnova network in Africa. Ghana is implementing this project in two action-learning sites – Walewale and Bongo.

***Identification, documentation and sharing of innovations:*** Dissemination of the 30 local innovations (18 by women and 12 by men) identified and documented in Year 1 of the project continued in Year 2 at all learning and sharing events and fora as well as via radio in the learning sites. Also, six (5F/1M) out of eight prioritised local innovations have been improved through PID or joint farmer-led research. These are in food processing, livestock feed supplementation and control of termites in maize fields using shea waste. Three PID process reports have been documented on the food-processing cases according to the ProInnova PID documentation guidelines, whilst documentation of the remaining three cases on livestock feed supplementation and termite control are on-going.

***Capacity strengthening of innovators through training:*** Thirty-three (9M/24F) innovators and selected members of their groups participated in entrepreneurship training to boost their

knowledge and skills for setting up businesses based on their innovations. This training took place in March 2021.

**Implementation and management of Local Innovation Support Facility (LISF):** Twenty-one innovators (14f/7m) and one mixed group comprising 12 people (7F/5M) were supported under the LISF through provision of inputs, tools and materials to support their joint experimentation, scale their innovations and train other farmers on their innovations between June and November 2021. Beneficiaries, especially the women, have transformed their innovative products into commercial businesses and are earning more income (\$3.40) to meet family needs.

**Networking at local level:** Fourteen (M8/F 6) local NGO staff at the two action-learning sites and some MSP members engaged with stakeholders in the District Assemblies on the PID approach. Identified and documented innovations in the current SULCI-FaNS and the previous Proli-FaNS project were also shared at these engagements. This enabled stakeholders to appreciate the usefulness of local innovations and the benefits that can be gained from adapting and using them.

**Capacity strengthening:** The SRC for WCA Abdel-Karim Ali Mahamane visited the CP in July 2021 and gave advice on governance and coordination as well as activities on PID with farmers at the action-learning sites. He also used the visit to discuss and advise on progress of implementation of the Ethnovet project with the project manager. This led to improved coordination of CP activities.

**Five-year strategic plan developed for Prolinnova–Ghana:** The CP, through its NSC, initiated action to develop a five-year country strategic plan for Prolinnova–Ghana to guide its affairs and operations for the period 2022–2026. This process commenced in April 2021 and ended in December 2021. The strategic plan will be used to support Prolinnova activities in Ghana and for proposal development for funds to sustain PID activities and CP policy dialogue and networking.

**Project internal evaluation:** An outcome assessment was conducted in September 2021 to assess progress of implementation. From this self-evaluation, it was evident that the project is making some impact at the local level, as the innovators and their communities are very passionate and enthusiastic in trying out new things following the awareness creation, community sharing, training and joint-experimentation activities facilitated by the project, which is increasing innovative behaviour among innovators and their communities.

## **2.2 Key activities implemented and results achieved under the Ethnovet project**

*“Promoting ethno-veterinary medicine for sustainable livestock husbandry in Northern Ghana”* is a three-year project (October 2019 to September 2022) with funding from Misereor. It is being implemented by ACDEP in partnership with four key stakeholder institutions in Bongo District and Bawku Municipality in the Upper East Region, West Mamprusi Municipality in North

East Region and Tolon District in Northern Region. The institutions include the Animal Research Institute of the CSIR, the Veterinary Services Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Pong-Tamale Central Veterinary Laboratory and the Animal Science Department of the University of Development Studies (UDS). The Swiss Public and Tropical Health Institute (Swiss TPH) is the international technical backstopper. The project is documenting Ethnoveterinary innovations and practices used for priority livestock diseases and promoting, further developing and scientifically validating these innovations and practices for their integration within formal veterinary medicine for livestock healthcare by smallholder farmers in northern Ghana.

**Literature review on ethnobotanicals:** In January 2021, a report on a literature review on 11 ethnobotanicals and seven selected ethnoveterinary medicine (EVM) innovations was completed. It detailed comprehensive information on the ethnobotanicals (therapeutic/ medicinal and phytochemical properties of the medicinal plants) for scientific investigation and according to their plant parts. It provided the theoretical context for guiding the research processes to confirm and further validate the farmer innovations for the animal diseases they prevent and treat and will also serve as a benchmark for assessing research findings.

**Conducted clinical test and on-farm trials:** Protocols had been developed in a participatory manner to experiment with farmer innovations for preventing and treating Newcastle disease (NCD), African swine fever, anthrax and guinea keet mortality. On-farm trials on NCD and guinea keet mortality are currently on-going and are at various levels of progress.

**Train EVM practitioners:** By June 2021, 81 farmer practitioners, 16 agricultural extension agents, five animal health volunteers and four forestry technical staff in all four administrative districts across the three project regions in Northern Ghana were trained on sustainable exploitation, conservation and propagation of medicinal plants. At the end, the trainees planted a total of 5000 seedlings, leveraging on the Government of Ghana's "greening the nation" policy.

**Functioning of district- and project-level platforms:** Within the reporting period, the established district-level network members in all project districts continue to actively participate in implementing activities, discussing general animal health and husbandry issues for the way forward on their respective district platforms. The project-level network, composed of personnel of the project's principal stakeholder organisations as well as the Center for Plant Medicine Research and Taimako Medicinal Plant Research Centre, take up issues from the district platforms, discuss and provide direction for project management.

### 3.0 DIFFICULTIES/CHALLENGES

- ✚ Though the incidence of Covid-19 and the preventive measures had started easing in 2021, the related loss of time as a result of slowed implementation of project activities

still has consequential impact in delaying the achievement of project objectives. Much more efforts are being made to catch up.

- ✚ Within the year 2021, there were changes in staff representatives of some stakeholder organisations as a result of promotions and transfer. New staff members replaced them and needed time to learn and catch up with the project operations; this slowed down their contributions.
- ✚ Integration of the concepts and approach of PID at the institutional/organisational level largely remains challenging. Although a lot has been achieved in mainstreaming PID at the level of individual stakeholders involved in the projects being implemented, more needs to be done to achieve wider success.

#### **4.0 SELF-ASSESSMENT OF NETWORK FUNCTIONING**

The CP through the SULCI-FaNS and Ethnovet project activities continues to create awareness and also generates a lot of interest among innovators, their groups and communities to continue to innovate to solve household food and nutrition needs and to improve upon their livelihood activities by adapting and experimenting with PID outcomes. This has led community members to come up with their own innovations, taking inspiration from what innovators under the projects are doing.

The NSC and the Working Group as well as the local MSPs all continue to actively engage and perform their role of providing oversight, technical and strategic advice on project implementation and direction.

The CP also continues to interact with other CPs within the sub-region and beyond through sharing and joint learning and experience-sharing activities. The CP continues to cooperate with the SRC for WCA and the International Support Team on coordination and issues of technical assistance.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

The CP has been fairly active in the year under review and engaging with farmers and communities through the activities of the two projects. This has led to some considerable impact at community level evident from the project self-evaluation that the SULCI-FaNS project undertook during the year under review, where innovators and community members were able to demonstrate the direct benefit and impact of the project intervention on their lives and livelihoods. The CP will continue to leverage on the activities of these two projects to continue to strengthen networking and sharing on the PID approach at the local, national and regional level to continue to whip up interest to scale up the PID approach.