



International Network Report

2021–2022

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Table of contents

List of acronyms and abbreviations.....	iii
1 Introduction.....	1
1 Governance and network functioning.....	1
1.1 Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG)	1
1.2 Northern Focal Point of Prolinnova international network	1
1.3 Regionalisation of the international network	1
1.3.1 Asia Regional Platform	2
1.3.2 Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) Subregional Platform	2
1.3.3 West & Central Africa (WCA) Subregional Platform.....	3
1.4 Partnership with A Growing Culture (AGC)	5
1.4.1 Global Farmer Innovation Fair 2021.....	5
1.5 Prolinnova Partner Workshops	7
1.5.1 2021 Virtual International Partners Workshop (IPW)	7
1.5.2 2022 Africa Partners Workshop (AfPW).....	7
1.6 Website and social media management.....	8
2 Update on the COUNTRY PLATFORMS.....	10
2.1 Prolinnova–BENIN	10
2.2 Prolinnova–BURKINA FASO	10
2.3 Prolinnova–CAMBODIA	11
2.4 Prolinnova–CAMEROON.....	12
2.5 Prolinnova–ETHIOPIA	13
2.6 Prolinnova–GHANA	13
2.7 Prolinnova–KENYA.....	14
2.8 Prolinnova–MALI	14
2.9 Prolinnova–MOZAMBIQUE.....	15
2.10 Prolinnova–NEPAL.....	15
2.11 Prolinnova–PHILIPPINES.....	16
2.12 Prolinnova–SENEGAL.....	16
2.13 Prolinnova–SOUTH AFRICA	16
2.14 Prolinnova–SOUTH INDIA.....	16
2.15 Prolinnova–SUDAN.....	17
2.16 Prolinnova–TANZANIA.....	17
2.17 Prolinnova–TIMOR LESTE	17
2.18 Prolinnova–UGANDA.....	17
2.19 Prolinnova–UNITED KINGDOM (UK).....	18

2.20	Prolinnova–ZIMBABWE	19
3	Multi-CP projects and initiatives completed & ongoing	19
3.1	NaviNut.....	19
3.2	Nuffic Tailor-made Training (TMT) in Sudan and South Sudan	19
3.3	Proli-GEAFaSa	20
3.4	SULCI-FaNS	20
3.5	FaRaNe	21
3.6	Ethnovet project.....	21
3.7	GIZ agroecology project	22
3.8	Nuffic TMT in Benin	22
3.9	Gender Analysis for Local Innovation Development (GALID).....	23
3.10	Agricultural Transformation by Innovation (AgTrain)	24
3.11	Prolinnova-GFAR innovation survey.....	24
4	Inputs into policy dialogue	25
4.1	<i>Appropriate Technology</i> magazine.....	25
4.2	Farmer-led research webinar hosted by U of Guelph, Canada	26
4.3	Kenyan farmer innovator featured in “Mother Earth News”	27
4.4	Prolinnova–Kenya joins CG event on scaling agri-food innovation.....	27
4.5	Prolinnova at AU–EU Innovation Agenda event in Nairobi.....	27
4.6	Prolinnova partners at Tropentag 2022 conference in Prague.....	27
4.7	Collective action on Transformative Learning.....	27
4.8	Collective Action on Farmer-led Research and Innovation.....	27
5	CONCLUSION	28

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACDEP	Association of Church-based Development Projects
ADAF/Gallè	Association for the Development of Production and Training Activities
AE	agroecology
AFCIA	Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator
AfPW	African Partners Workshop
AFSA	Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
AGC	A Growing Culture
ARD	agricultural research and development
CA	Collective Action
CCRP	Collaborative Crop Research Program
CEIA	Centre for Effective Innovation in Agriculture
COSADER	Food Security and Rural Development Association (French acronym)
Covid-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CP	Country Platform
ESA	Eastern & Southern Africa
ethnovet	ethnoveterinary
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FaReNe	Farmer-led Research Networks
FIF	Farmer Innovation Fair
FIPAO	<i>Foire de l'innovation Paysanne d'Afrique de l'Ouest /</i> West African Farmer Innovation Fair
FLIN	Farmer-Led Innovation Network
FLR	farmer-led research
GALID	Gender Analysis for Local Innovation Development
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
IFID	International Farmer Innovation Day
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
INR	Institute of Natural Resources
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IST	International Support Team
KIT	Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands (Dutch acronym)
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
LISF	Local Innovation Support Facility/Fund
MSP	multistakeholder platform
NaviNut	Enhancing women's agency in navigating changing food environments to improve child nutrition in African drylands
NGO	nongovernmental organisation
NRM	natural resource management
NSC	National Steering Committee
Nuffic	Netherlands Organisation for Internationalisation in Education (Dutch acronym)
PID	participatory innovation development
PK	Prolinnova–Kenya
POG	Prolinnova Oversight Group
Prolinnova	Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM
Proli-FaNS	Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security

Proli-GEAFaSa	Promoting local innovation in Water Management by Family Farmers in the Sahel (French acronym)
RIMS	Resource Identification and Management Society
SDAE	District Services of Economic Activities (Portuguese acronym)
SRC	Subregional Coordinator
SULCI-FaNS	Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security
UCAM	Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Marracuene
UK	United Kingdom
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFF	Uganda National Farmers Federation
WCA	West & Central Africa
WRF	World Rural Forum

1 INTRODUCTION

This report on activities of the global Prolinnova network covers the period from January 2021 to December 2022. It is structured as follows: i) a short summary per Country Platform (CP) that describes current status and Prolinnova-related activities undertaken over the period of the report; ii) a summary of network-wide activities including workshops, capacity-strengthening events and multi-CP projects and participation in policy-dialogue events; and iii) an overview of governance and networking matters, which includes the activities of the regional / subregional platforms.

1 GOVERNANCE AND NETWORK FUNCTIONING

This section covers the various governance structures related to Prolinnova and talks to the efforts to achieve regionalisation of the network.

1.1 Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG)

The POG continued to meet quarterly online. A number of changes in POG membership took place over the 2021–22 period. Violet Kirigua from Kenya, Ibrahima Seck from Senegal and TJ James from India joined the POG on 1 June 2021. Violet was elected to the seat for the CPs in Eastern & Southern Africa, Ibrahima became the representative for farmer organisations (FOs) and James took the seat representing CPs in Asia.

Suman Manandhar (Nepal), an independent member of the POG, agreed in the July 2021 POG meeting to co-chair the POG alongside Lisa Williams van Dijk (UK). The previous co-chair was Chris Macoloo (Kenya), who was a very important pillar in the governance of Prolinnova during the process of regionalising the network.

Elizabeth Mpofu from Zimbabwe, a family farmer who practises agroecology, took over the seat for FOs in 2022. Elizabeth is founder and former chairperson of the Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF), based in Harare, and founding member of the African Women Collaborative for Healthy Food Systems.

1.2 Northern Focal Point of Prolinnova international network

The Agrecol Association for AgriCulture & Ecology continued to serve as the Northern Focal Point for the Prolinnova network. Agrecol Association is not a new international secretariat but rather a point of contact for communication with potential donors and other interested partners in the Global North.

In September 2022, the Agrecol Association welcomed Prolinnova–Kenya (PK) to one of their meetings in Germany. Three PK partners travelled to Radebeul near Dresden, Germany, to join an Agrecol weekend workshop. These were Rebecca Dero, farmer innovator from Kisumu County; Vincent Mariadho, PK coordinator based at World Neighbors, Nairobi; and Hussein Wario, Director of CRDD (Centre for Research & Development in Drylands), Marsabit. The workshop focused on Prolinnova, its approach to participatory innovation development (PID) and its experiences in integrating PID into mainstream agricultural research, advisory services and higher education. This gave Agrecol members and guests a chance to learn about the history and development of the network and to become particularly acquainted with the network in Kenya.

1.3 Regionalisation of the international network

Efforts to “southernise” the Prolinnova network from coordination in the Global North (formerly ETC Foundation in the Netherlands) to coordination in the Global South has focused mainly on regionalisation of the network in the South. There is now a regional platform of CPs in Asia and two

subregional platforms of CPs in Africa – one in West & Central Africa (WCA) and the other in Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA).

1.3.1 Asia Regional Platform

In early 2021, Sharad Rai from Nepal took up the position of new Prolinnova–Asia Regional Coordinator. Sharad Rai was not new to Prolinnova, having joined Prolinnova–Nepal in 2005 representing Practical Action, and he was an active member of the National Working Group (NWG). He was directly involved in identifying and documenting farmer innovation and supporting farmer-led joint research in Nepal.

Sharad has actively sought to revive CPs in Asia and to establish a working group with members from each of the active CPs, namely those in Cambodia, Nepal, the Philippines and South India.

1.3.2 Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) Subregional Platform

The main focus at subregional level was facilitating the process of regionalising the network by providing backstopping and capacity-strengthening support to CPs, especially in areas of governance, documentation, policy dialogue, information sharing and resource mobilisation. For example, the Subregional Coordinator (SRC) was involved in preparing and facilitating the African Partners Workshop (AfPW) and the SULCI-FaNS end-of-project partners meeting and made backstopping visits to the CPs in Mozambique, South Africa and Uganda.

The ESA taskforce was set up in the first year of the SULCI-FaNS project but was still not active in 2021. The taskforce leader, Zacharia Malley (Tanzania), retired from his employment and therefore could not execute his role effectively. A Zoom meeting of the taskforce members in March 2021 – attended by people from seven of the eight CPs in ESA – suggested that the taskforce be transformed into a technical advisory group to coordinate and advise on subregional activities. Consultation within the CPs and the International Support Team (IST) in Year 1 revealed a preference for a virtual subregional secretariat. The ESA Charter, which stipulates, among other things, the subregional governance structure and its relationship with other structures within Prolinnova, was endorsed. Meanwhile, the IST felt that future emphasis should be on strengthening joint initiatives and networking between the CPs in each subregion. PID trainees from Prolinnova–Sudan and from South Sudan (seeking to become a CP) made a study visit to Prolinnova–Kenya under the Tailor-made Training (TMT) project funded by Nuffic (Netherlands Organisation for Internationalisation of Education).

Several efforts were made to raise funds for multi-CP initiatives but were not successful. Nevertheless, the CPs in Mozambique, South Africa and Uganda continued to be active by way of submitting annual reports and holding regular meetings despite not having externally funded Prolinnova projects. PK had some success in country-level resource mobilisation and gained funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support a local innovator to develop further and commercialise his innovation. A related activity was the revision of Guidelines #15 on “Procedures for reviewing and submitting concept notes and proposals made in the name of Prolinnova”.

In 2021, the SRC did not physically attend any agricultural research and development (ARD) events but did join 12 Zoom webinars on farmer innovation and agroecology, including a webinar on reducing antimicrobial use organised by Natural Livestock Farming, a pre-COP26 webinar on investing in agricultural innovation in the Global South organised by CoSAI (Commission on Sustainable Agriculture Intensification), the African Agroecological Enterprises Project presentation organised by the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and a Seed Rally organised by AFSA and A Growing Culture (AGC).

The SRC continued to provide backstopping support to the CPs, giving attention also to non-project CPs, namely in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe. By 2022, some physical backstopping trips became possible again after the Covid-19 (Coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic.

In 2022, the SRC took part in several virtual workshops and conferences related to ARD organised by other networks. He was also involved in Prolinnova-organised regional events and workshops such as the AfPW and helped CPs prepare for and participate in these meetings. Various partnership arrangements were sought at subregional, regional and international level. Specific subregional-level networking achievements included:

- A collaboration concept note between Prolinnova and Natural Livestock Farming (NLF) was developed and endorsed by the IST for mutual learning in promoting PID in ethnoveterinary practices.
- Possible collaboration between Prolinnova and Concern Worldwide at the regional/subregional level and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)–Kenya at the country/subregional level was discussed.
- Discussion with AFSA on possible collaboration was initiated.
- A Prolinnova webpage was set up on the EcoAgTube website of Access Agriculture and 15 Prolinnova videos were uploaded, which attracted over 400 views.
- Successfully supporting Prolinnova–Kenya to access the UNDP’s Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) to support an innovator (Joe Ouko) in Kisumu, Kenya, to develop further and commercialise his innovative feed formulation named LOFODA.

1.3.3 West & Central Africa (WCA) Subregional Platform

Subregional activities have continued in the areas of regionalisation, backstopping selected CPs, capacity strengthening, information sharing, joint learning and policy dialogue. The SRC for WCA, Abdel-Karim Ali, resigned in May 2022 for another job but has continued to support Prolinnova work. Until Paul Jimmy from Benin took on this position, the ACDEP and AgriBio Services project coordinators carried out some of his duties.

The WCA platform was active during both 2021 and 2022, primarily through the activities of the CPs. Most activities were implemented in externally funded projects under the Prolinnova umbrella, especially SULCI-FaNS (Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate in Food and Nutrition Security) implemented in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana and Kenya; Proli-GEAFaSa (French acronym for “Promoting local innovation in water management by family farmers in the Sahel”) in Burkina Faso and Senegal; PROFEIS (Promoting farmer experimentation and innovation to improve food security and resource conservation in the Sahel) in Mali; FaReNe (Supporting and strengthening Farmer Research Networks to improve their resilience to climate change) in Burkina Faso and Mali; and the ethnoveterinary project in Ghana.

In 2021, the WCA platform welcomed one new CP – in Benin – where local organisations gathered and decided to set up a national chapter of Prolinnova.

The dynamics in the WCA platform were stronger in 2021 than in 2020, despite some challenges that remained constant (especially those caused by Covid). Overall, the CPs performed well in achieving their objectives, even if some of them are still challenged by local-level constraints (insecurity in Mali and Burkina Faso). The externally funded projects were smoothly implemented with the local multistakeholder platforms (MSPs), which have been very active. Except for some weaknesses in resource mobilisation and policy dialogue, the CPs made major efforts to keep the network active. At the subregional level, similar strong efforts were made to strengthen collaboration between CPs and to create space for networking within and beyond the CPs in the Prolinnova network. Likewise,

attempts were made at subregional level to build partnerships with new institutions so as to strengthen Prolinnova's policy dialogue and advocacy on ARD. This needs to be extended to the CPs, together with building their capacity to mobilise resources.

The main activities of the SRC in WCA in 2021–22 were:

- (1) **Backstopping**, including visits made to the CPs in Cameroon and Ghana. The backstopping in Cameroon was done back-to-back with the Farmer Innovation Fair (FIF) organised for the first time in Cameroon by the CP there. After the backstopping visit to Niger at the end of 2020 and start of 2021, the SRC made recommendations to revive that dormant CP and tried to engage local partners to re-launch it, but they did not show readiness for this;
- (2) **Networking & partnership building**: The SRC took part in two webinars – EPA (Evidence–Policy–Action) Forum and FAO Knowat (Knowing water better: towards fairer and more sustainable access to natural resources) on water tenure – during which contacts were made with potential allies for Prolinnova: IPAR (*Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale*) Senegal and FAO Senegal. The SRC also presented Prolinnova to the Regional Bureau of IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) based in Dakar, with a view to possible collaboration, and held a discussion with United Purpose (an American NGO) in Senegal on possibilities of collaboration. He linked the organisation Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa, based in Burkina Faso, with the CP there and it became a member of the National Steering Committee (NSC).
- (3) **Documentation, dissemination, advocacy & policy dialogue** which included revision, translation, updating and drafting different types of documents for the network. The summary of the Prolinnova Strategy 2021–25 and other important documents (guidelines, templates) were translated into French. Reporting on major Prolinnova events (AfPW, Proli-GEAFaSa Workshop, International Partners Workshop/IPW) was an important part of the activities. The participation in webinars was an opportunity to showcase what Prolinnova is doing and to call to action on the local innovation and PID approach. After the FIF in Cameroon, the SRC and the President of COSADER (Food Security and Rural Development Association, the host organisation of Prolinnova–Cameroon) had the opportunity to voice farmer innovators' concerns on CRTV (Cameroon national television) and advocate for better support from the public authorities. In 2022, the SRC was involved in preparing and organising the FIPAO (*Foire de l'innovation Paysanne d'Afrique de l'Ouest / West African Farmer Innovation Fair*) in Ouagadougou. He took part in the 9th World Water Forum (WWF) on 21–26 March 2022 in Dakar. The WWF is the main international event on water issues, organised every three years since 1997 by the World Water Council in partnership with the host country. The SRC had the opportunity to present the Proli-GEAFaSa project and interacted with other actors with whom contacts were made for future collaborative project opportunities or advocacy actions, such as with the Ecology Programme of the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Senegal.
- (4) **Regionalisation**: This process is still ongoing, with the signing of the subregional charter and the plan to set up subregional bodies. Discussions continued to define the best approach for setting up the virtual Subregional Secretariat and electing the subregional bodies. In the meantime, collaboration between the CPs is becoming stronger, with online sessions organised to share their experience and knowledge on, e.g. Local Innovation Support Facilities and monitoring and evaluation tools. The annual workshops to assess the externally funded projects (SULCI-FaNS, Proli-GEAFaSa) were successfully organised with the respective coordinators. In addition, the IPW was organised in collaboration with the other IST members, the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG) and the different CPs. An attempt was made to revive the subregional taskforce, which should have a role in setting up the subregional platform and in developing a strategy for resource mobilisation, policy dialogue and advocacy.
- (5) **Fundraising** efforts were numerous. The dashboard on funding and grant opportunities was updated, and opportunities were directly shared with eligible CPs. The main challenge was to convince CPs to take up these opportunities and to write and submit proposals. Nevertheless, the SRC was involved in revising/writing concept notes, essentially on CP-level proposals.

During 2022, an exchange visit was made between the network of innovative farmers from Burkina Faso and their counterparts in Senegal in the framework of a meeting entitled "Innovative Water Management Forum". Three highlights of this visit, which involved ten people including two women, were: the visit to joint experiments, the exchange between the Burkina delegation and the two local MSPs from Senegal at the action-learning sites, and a discussion between the networks of innovative farmers in each of the two countries.

Abdel, as former SRC, joined the 2022 AfPW in Nairobi after he had already taken on a position with the African Biodiversity Network. He described the history of regionalisation in Africa, its relevance to the Prolinnova network and the status of the process in terms of what was expected and what has been achieved since its conception, as well as the activities that had been planned.

Some of the challenges associated with regionalisation have been developing and signing the subregional charter and setting up the subregional taskforce, which should support the overall process of knowledge sharing and mutual learning that the SRCs facilitate. Some of the difficulties encountered were related to the lack of commitment of some CPs, language barriers and insufficient understanding of the dynamics of networks.

1.4 Partnership with A Growing Culture (AGC)

The partnership with [A Growing Culture](#) (AGC) continued through this reporting period.

1.4.1 Global Farmer Innovation Fair 2021

This virtual event was held on 10 and 11 February 2021, with support from AGC, to celebrate the local creativity of small-scale farmers. It gave men and women farmers in Africa and Asia a chance to showcase their innovations and to learn about the activities of others in local innovation and farmer-led PID.

The international Prolinnova network developed the format of the FIF to bring together farmer innovators to share their knowledge and new ideas so as to inspire others engaged in ARD. It sought to stimulate partnership to strengthen resilience to change. Through FIFs, broader audiences have the opportunity to understand the significance of farmers' capacity to create solutions in response to new problems and opportunities.

The spotlight in the FIF was on the achievements and experiences of the farmer innovators. Some of them presented their work directly and individually or as group representatives, and some in conversations with other farmers and facilitators and/or in video clips. The two days of the global FIF included several 30-minute sessions involving farmers, each session with a different thematic focus, interspersed with very brief inputs from other ARD actors about issues related to local innovation and PID. Recordings of all of the sessions and inputs are now available in links embedded in the summary brochure. The report on the event, together with YouTube video clips, is available on the Prolinnova website at

https://prolinnova.net/wp-content/files/documents/thematic_pages/globalfarmer_fair/gfif_2021ochure_revised.pdf



Figure 1: Cover of the brochure covering the Global Farmer Innovation Fair

After this virtual FIF, AGC and Prolinnova partnered in a capacity-strengthening initiative. A series of workshops held between July and September 2021 covered topics such as storytelling, interviewing skills, material revision/design and formatting/showcasing. This also supported Prolinnova CPs in preparing for the virtual marketplace that took place on 1 October 2021, in association with the 2021 IPW, which was held online.



Figure 2: Online training session with AGC

1.5 Prolinnova Partner Workshops

1.5.1 2021 Virtual International Partners Workshop (IPW)

The IPW took place virtually on 4–6 October 2021, after a one-day (1 October) online marketplace that gave partners in the CPs a chance to share some experiences in promoting local innovation and PID in their countries. The IPW focused on two main themes – institutionalisation of the PID approach and regionalisation of the Prolinnova network – and also discussed some issues around how digitalisation might support PID. Invited speaker Million Belay, General Coordinator of AFSA, shared some insights into communication across countries in Africa for advocacy. The workshop report is here:

https://prolinnova.net/wp-content/files/documents/ipw/2021/prolinnova_ipw_2021_report.pdf.

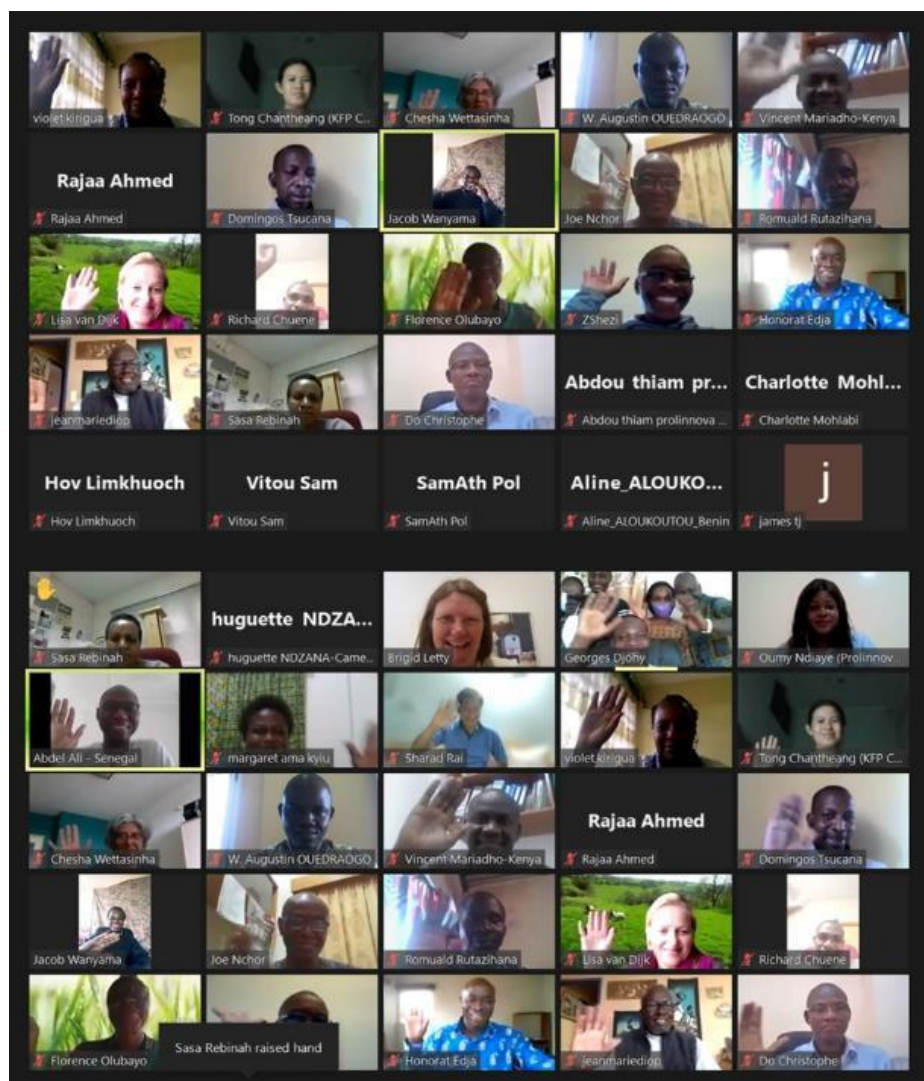


Figure 3: Screenshot from the marketplace held in conjunction with the 2021 Virtual IPW

1.5.2 2022 Africa Partners Workshop (AfPW)

On 10–14 October 2022, the biennial Prolinnova African Partners Workshop (AfPW) was held back-to-back with the final workshops of the Proli-GEAFaSa and SULCI-FaNS projects. PK, coordinated by World Neighbors, hosted the three events. Also representatives from the NaviNut project in Benin were invited to join the AfPW in Kenya; this provided an opportunity for exchange and learning between different projects under the Prolinnova umbrella. The workshop report is available at:

<https://prolinnova.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/SULCI-FaNSProli-GEAFaSa-AfPW-report-2022.pdf>.

1.6 Website and social media management

During 2022, the Prolinnova website was migrated from Drupal to the Wordpress content-management system, because it is easier and less expensive to keep the Wordpress version updated and secure. The new website was set up by Oliver Wöhr, who also handles the website of Agrecol Association for AgriCulture & Ecology, the Northern Focal Point of the international Prolinnova network. The costs of migrating the Prolinnova website to Wordpress were covered by Agrecol. It was no small job, in view of the immense number of documents and news items that have been posted there since the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) set up the website almost 20 years ago. IIRR has continued to contribute to the work of the IST by maintaining the website.

A report on usage of the website is prepared annually by Annie Secretario from IIRR. In 2021, there were a total of 30,872 unique visitors, which increased to 33,019 in 2022. Similarly, the number of visits increased from 85,924 to 88,230 in the same period. The number of unique visitors had increased since the previous reporting period (2019–20), but the total number of visits had decreased. There were substantially more pages read in 2022 (540,827) compared with 2021 (300,559) and 2020 (239,160). This would suggest that the revision of the website and move to Wordpress has made it easier for visitors to navigate.

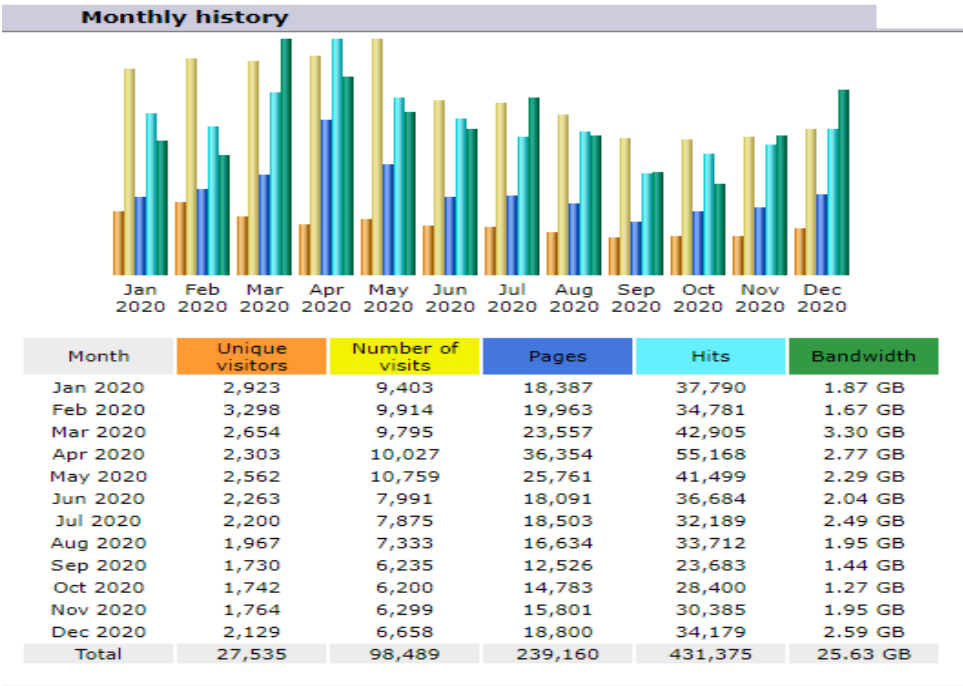


Figure 4: Summary of website traffic in 2020

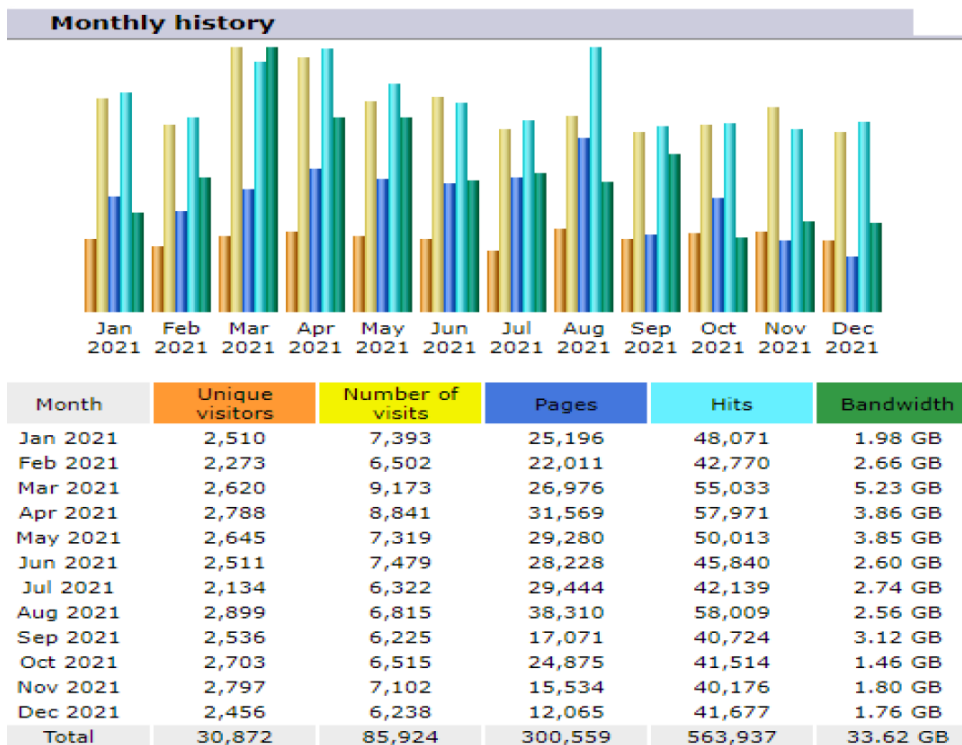


Figure 5: Summary of website traffic in 2021

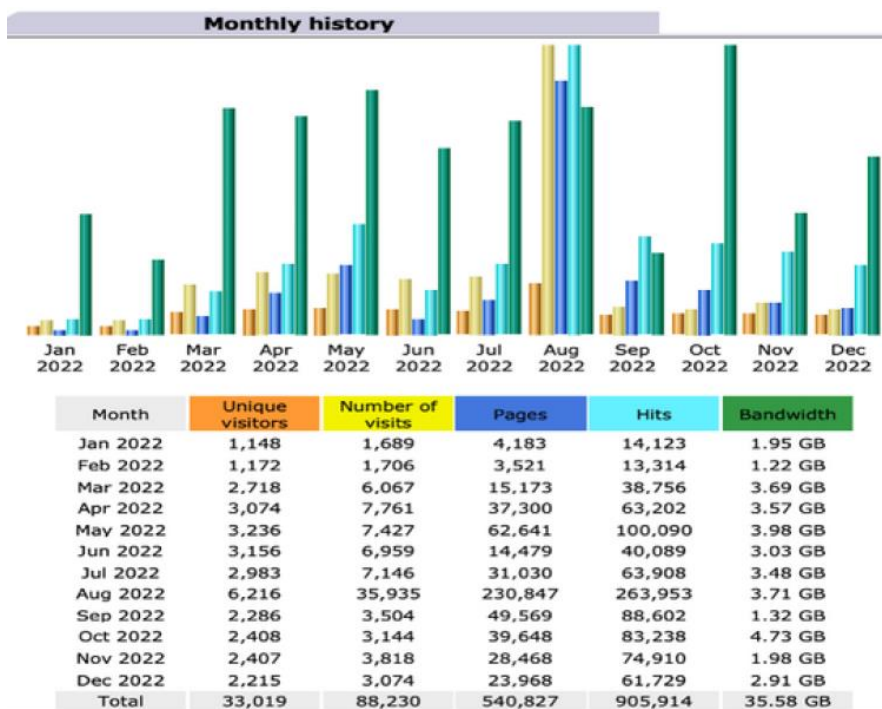


Figure 6: Summary of website traffic in 2022

2 UPDATE ON THE COUNTRY PLATFORMS

A brief summary on the progress made by each CP is provided below.

2.1 Prolinnova–BENIN

The CP in Benin was launched in May 2021 and there were a number of projects that supported CP activities, in particular, the Nuffic-funded TMT project to build the capacity of teachers in agricultural colleges to support social entrepreneurship based on local innovation for food and nutrition security.

Two members of the CP took part in the online training workshop on media communication organised by Prolinnova in partnership with AGC. Also, some members took part in four PID training workshops organised by the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Parakou through the Nuffic-funded TMT project. Two CP members took part in a study visit to the Songhaï Centre in Porto-Novo to identify the contours of entrepreneurship based on local innovation in the fields of plant and animal production, food-processing technology and marketing. This visit aimed to stimulate motivation and capacity for entrepreneurship. Fifteen CP members took part virtually in the 2021 virtual marketplace and then in the discussions during the following three days of the IPW.

Esperance-Vie, a local partner in the CP, organised an FIF to celebrate International Farmer Innovation Day (IFID) in November 2021, supported by the TMT project. This gave an opportunity to showcase farmers' initiatives in food processing to improve food and nutrition security. The CP was also involved in facilitating joint experimentation processes initiated with the University of Parakou. Prolinnova–Benin made remarkable efforts in terms of communication through mobilising mainstream and social media to cover its activities and spread the latest updates on the CP.

In 2022, three workshops took place, two of which were held at the CP's action-learning sites, namely at the Lycée Technique Agricole (LTA) in Ina on 16 March and at the LTA in Kika on 18 March, and the third in Parakou bringing together all the project actors on 24–25 March. Also, representatives of the CP took part in the Prolinnova AfPW held in Nairobi on 9–15 October 2022. Prolinnova–Benin was one of the CPs included in the new ELI-FaNS (Extending the Promotion of Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security to Strengthen Resilience, with a Focus on Women, 2023–25) project.

In terms of governance, Prolinnova–Benin has been found to be well functioning with the statutory meetings of the NSC being held appropriately. Communication between members of the CP is facilitated and supported by a dedicated WhatsApp group. However, some organisations have yet to sign the CP's membership charter.

2.2 Prolinnova–BURKINA FASO

The CP in Burkina Faso has been involved into three projects under the Prolinnova umbrella, namely SULCI-FaNS (2019–22) funded by Misereor and coordinated by Diobass; Proli-GEAFaSa (2019–22) funded by Misereor and coordinated by Réseau MARP, and FaReNe 2 (2019–22) funded by the McKnight Foundation and coordinated by World Neighbors. Through these projects, the CP has conducted a wide range of activities such as: identifying, characterising, validating and documenting local innovations; producing communication materials (catalogues, technical sheets, leaflets, etc.) on local innovation; supporting the organisation of FIFs, exchange visits and experience sharing; preparing broadcasts on CP activities on national radio; and designing a documentary film on the Proli-GEAFaSa project.

Some of the achievements under the three externally funded projects during 2021 were holding the annual workshop of Proli-GEAFaSa project partners in Ouagadougou and attending the mobile film

training organised by McKnight Foundation’s Collaborative Crop Research Program (CCRP). In terms of governance, the NSC in Burkina Faso was renewed in 2021 to meet the requirements of Prolinnova’s Guidelines No. 11 related to diversity in the composition of the NSC.

In 2022, the activities included the implementation of SULCI-FaNS as for identifying, selecting and validating local innovations; producing communication materials (catalogues, technical sheets, leaflets, etc.) on local innovations; preparing broadcasts on CP activities on national radio; and designing a documentary film on the Proli-GEAFaSa project. Also, the CP continued to hold regular consultations at the level of the NSC, Coordination Team and local MSPs. In addition, representatives of the CP took part in meetings or workshops at several levels. These included the organisation and holding of an annual workshop of Proli-GEAFaSa partners on the sidelines of FIPAO in July in Ouagadougou; participation in the Prolinnova AfPW in October in Nairobi, Kenya; and participation in the annual meeting of the McKnight Foundation CCRP Community of Practice in Ouagadougou in December.

A major challenge is the security situation, which has become increasingly uncertain with terrorist groups holding the northern and central parts of the country, including some Prolinnova action-learning sites that have experienced attacks and displacement of the people. This hindered achievement of some of the objectives set in the framework of the CP’s projects.



Figure 7: Advertisement for the West African FIF in July 2022

2.3 Prolinnova–CAMBODIA

The role of host organisation was taken over by Community Developer Organisation (CDO) after it was selected through a consultative process at country and regional level. CDO is committed to work with governmental institutions, researchers, extensionists and farmers in order to build strong relationships between and among them. CDO currently works closely with four institutions representing the provincial-level Departments of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The new NSC was

elected during the first working group meeting of Prolinnova–Cambodia on 17 February 2022. The NSC comprises four members (3 male, 1 female) from the Provincial Department of Agriculture & Fisheries Prey Veng (PDA-Prey Veng), the Kampong Cham National Institution of Agriculture (KCNIA) and the Cambodia Agriculture Cooperative Union (CACU). CDO as host organisation is the secretariat to the NSC.

Prolinnova–Cambodia continues to take an active role in Prolinnova-related activities as required and normally communicates through mail and virtual meetings. After CDO took over as the host organisation following a couple of years' gap, it has been actively involved in working with multiple stakeholders through their own projects and making efforts to integrate PID concepts into the processes.

2.4 Prolinnova–CAMEROON

Prolinnova–Cameroon is made up of four nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), a research institution, a farmer organisation and the Cameroon Chamber of Agriculture. The main achievement in 2021 was the implementation of SULCI-FaNS and the organisation of Cameroon's first FIF, with the financial support of Misereor, Brot fur die Welt, CIRAD/Servinnov, Camfass etc. Local partners also supported the FIF, namely the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment, Yaoundé University and the national bureau of FAO.

As SULCI-FaNS activity, three joint research processes were implemented with two students from the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Derived Products at the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure Polytechnique* (ENSP) of the University of Maroua. An experience-sharing session on the innovations identified and the results of the PID processes was organised at the end of November 2021 at the headquarters of the Cooperative Society of Agropastoral Actors of Cameroon (SOCOOPAACAM) in the Locality of Mefomo. The implementation of the Local Innovation Support Facility (LISF) started with SOCOOPAACAM in that Locality.

In 2022, the CP's activities were mainly related to implementing the SULCI-FaNS project including farmer-led research, capacity strengthening and networking. Farmer-led research activities were concentrated within the Elat-Meyong group and SOCOOPAACAM. Elat-Meyong is a mainly women's association based in Mbalmayo in the Nyong et So'o Department. The joint research process carried out during the year focused on producing hot drinks from non-woody forest products: *Gnetum africana* (okok), *Irvingia gabonensis* (ndo'o/ndok) and *Ricinodendron heudelotii* (njansang or esesang). This PID process was conducted together with the Plant Production Department of the *Ecole Nationale Polytechnique*, University of Maroua. Results-sharing sessions were organised in Mbalmayo and Mefomo. The locally developed Fonge beehive, which was described and promoted since 2016, was consolidated and became the Cameroonian Beekeepers Working Group hive (*ruche du Groupe de Travail des Apiculteurs du Cameroun, GTAC*).

With regard to capacity strengthening, SOCOOPAACAM, a group of mainly cocoa producers, asked to be trained in snail breeding with the aim of improving the food security of its members. The training was provided by innovator Catherine Mengue. Her innovation in the selection of red macabo leaves for snail nutrition was identified during the previous Proli-FaNS project. Twenty-five SOCOOPAACAM producers, including 12 women, took part in the training.

Networking by the platform is continuing, with continued collaboration with university actors such as the University of Maroua and the PCP-ACEFA (Consolidation and Sustainability of Agropastoral Advisory Services) programme. The group of beekeepers in Nkométou, through the Cameroon Beekeepers Working Group, is in the process of introducing sunflower cultivation in several localities

in the country. This work is being carried out in collaboration with a lecturer from the Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Dschang.

Also during 2022, Prolinnova–Cameroon made a successful submission to Misereor for a new project titled “Promoting farmer innovation and participatory approaches in development processes in agricultural value chains and adaptation to change for small-scale producers” (PIPA-DAC as French acronym). The overall aim is to contribute to innovation development by small-scale farmers in the Central Region of Cameroon.

2.5 Prolinnova–ETHIOPIA

The CP in Ethiopia was largely inactive in 2021–22, mainly because of governance and institutional issues, despite efforts by the SRC to support the CP. Nevertheless, some individuals in Ethiopia showed continued interest to try and revive the CP.

2.6 Prolinnova–GHANA

The CP in Ghana is hosted by the Association of Church-based Development Projects (ACDEP). In 2021–22, it continued to implement two projects funded by Misereor: SULCI-FaNS and Promoting Ethnoveterinary Medicine for Sustainable Livestock Husbandry in Northern Ghana (Ethnovet project).

The governance and coordinating bodies of Prolinnova–Ghana – the NSC and the Working Group and the MSPs at the action-learning sites – remained very supportive in country-level networking and joint learning about field-level implementation. Following the further easing of Covid restrictions in late 2020, social and economic activities in the country bounced back in 2021, allowing for implementation of the activities of the two projects.

The CP in Ghana continued to implement the SULCI-FaNS project in two action-learning sites – Walewale and Bongo – while also coordinating the overall project implementation in the three other CPs involved (Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Kenya). In 2021, the CP developed a five-year country strategic plan to guide its affairs and operations for the period 2022–26. The strategic plan will be used to support Prolinnova activities in Ghana and to develop funding proposals to sustain PID activities and CP policy dialogue and networking.

In 2022, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture awarded certificates and material items to 26 outstanding women innovators at the annual National Farmers Day events at district level. Two FIFs held at the action-learning sites in March 2022 brought together innovators to showcase their innovations for community chiefs, opinion leaders, district chief executives and heads of the Department of Agriculture at district and regional level. Two male researchers, a female university lecturer and four officers of the District Department of Agriculture (technical team members) used the PID approach in their work and shared information about this at other public occasions. Two technical team members from university and research applied the PID approach in their PhD research theses using case studies from Prolinnova project activities.

In the framework of the Ethnovet project, the NSC of Prolinnova–Ghana was strengthened with the inclusion of experts in animal health. Some national research scientists in the NSC are guiding the project in the process to secure ethical approval for its research activities. However, the main challenge is related to three staff members from stakeholder institutions that were transferred from Tamale to Accra, thereby limiting their participation in project implementation. The new replacements are taking time to learn and take over their roles in the Ethnovet project.

The visits to ACDEP by Maria Klatte (Africa Desk Officer) in August and Sabine Dorlöchter-Sulser (Rural Development in Africa Desk Officer) in November 2022, related to the SULCI-FaNS and Ethnovet projects, provided good opportunities for mutual learning and deepened the relations

between Misereor and ACDEP/Prolinnova for continued international cooperation in sustainable rural development. In terms of resource mobilisation, the CP through its host organisation ACDEP collaborated with the Prolinnova IST to write and submit a proposal to Misereor, which led to a new three-year project (ELI-FaNS) to be implemented in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa from January 2023 to December 2025.

2.7 Prolinnova–KENYA

During 2021 and 2022, Prolinnova–Kenya (PK) was involved in identifying local innovation and supporting PID under the 3-year SULCI-FaNS project. In 2022, much of the CP’s focus was on completing the documentation and disseminating information about these innovations for wider application and adaptation. Two booklets were produced: one profiling all the local innovations identified under both Proli-FaNS and SULCI-FaNS and the other on outcomes of the PID cases.

PK conducted a 3-day training for innovators involved in Nyando Basin Lofoda Enterprises on the PID approach and promotion of local innovation processes; this was under the Innovation Small Grants Accelerator Project funded by the AFCIA through the UNDP. The CP received virtual backstopping from the SRC on mobilising resources and institutionalising PID. In addition, the CP coordinator provided peer-to-peer backstopping to Prolinnova–Sudan and a group in South Sudan on the PID approach under the Nuffic-funded TMT project facilitated by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT).

The CP considered fundraising to be key to the continuity and sustainability of Prolinnova activities in Kenya. It therefore engaged its UNDP focal person Clint Bartlett for a potential second phase of the UNDP-funded “Innovation Small Grants Aggregator Project” (ISGAP) project in Nyakach.

PK also actively sought to institutionalise the PID approach within Maseno University. These efforts led to inclusion of the PID approach in the university’s newly revised curriculum for the School of Agriculture.

2.8 Prolinnova–MALI

The CP in Mali is composed of the following structures: Agriculture Service of Cinzana Gare, Ségou Region; Association of Professional Farmer Organizations (AOPP); Institute of Rural Economy (IER); and National Directorate of Agriculture (DNA). All were involved in implementing Prolinnova activities in Mali, which were carried out primarily through two projects: “Promoting farmer experimentation and innovation to improve food security and resource conservation in the Sahel” (PROFEIS, now in its fifth phase) and FaReNe. In the PROFEIS project, the CP disseminates local innovations through different channels. Twenty innovations were spread through radio stations in Ségou and Mopti Regions. Training sessions on PID were held for local government representatives so as to influence the local policymakers to take PID into account. As part of this process, 16 agricultural advisors were trained in PID so that they can assist farmers to conduct joint experimentation. Also 20 researchers and 80 agricultural students were trained so as to influence the curriculum and the ARD programmes.

In 2022, several partners were trained on the PID approach, including documentation of local innovation, facilitating research conducted by farmers, etc. They were also exposed to and sensitised on the local innovations already identified and characterised with a view to their scaling. Elected officials trained at the level of local authorities integrated five farmers’ innovations into their Social, Economic and Cultural Development Plans (PDSECs). In the higher education sector, 5% of the teacher-researchers trained have introduced a module entitled “Farmer initiatives” in the teaching of life and earth sciences. The module is taught in the Master’s cycle in Semester 1 in ecology and in the undergraduate cycle in Semester 3 in environmental sciences.

The CP governance functions well, as each structure fully plays its role in implementing the activities of the two projects. The host organisation Association for the Development of Production and Training Activities (*Association pour le Développement des Activités de Production et de Formation*, ADAF/Gallè) compiles the project results and prepares the annual activity report, which is submitted to the other CP members for improvement before sending it to Prolinnova. The project activities are planned and implemented through a multi-actor partnership involving all the CP's member structures. Monthly meetings are held to discuss the PROFEIS and FaReNe projects.

2.9 Prolinnova–MOZAMBIQUE

In Mozambique, after the government reduced Covid-related restrictions, the CP resumed its activities. These included a visit by the SRC for ESA, holding NSC consultative meetings, conducting regular training courses for CP members on various Prolinnova-related themes, and participating in the AfPW in Kenya. The members also continued their respective PID activities.

Prolinnova–Mozambique members *União Nacional de Camponeses/UNAC* (National Union of Peasants) and *União das Cooperativas Agrícolas de Marracuene/UCAM* (Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Marracuene)¹ continued to produce and disseminate a mint-based biopesticide innovation in collaboration with the District Services of Economic Activities (SDAE) of Marracuene among the associations and adjacent communities. In collaboration with SDAE and with students from Eduardo Mondlane University, UCAM promoted other biopesticides including one based on paprika leaves and another based on tobacco and ricin seeds.

The NSC initiated a series of regular training and consultation sessions for its members on various subjects including PID targeting, especially for new and other interested members. Two 45-minute online courses were held, using Zoom's free package. The first focussed on Prolinnova's Strategic Plan 2020–25 and the second on identifying and documenting local innovation. Both courses were given by Romuald Rutazihana, an NSC member. Meanwhile, UCAM – another NSC member – organised training of farmers in innovative post-harvest conservation in Gaza Province. Yet another NSC member, *Centro de Teatro do Oprimido do Maputo/CTO* (Maputo Centre for the Theatre of the Oppressed), provided training from April to September 2022 in the districts of Maxixe, Funhalouro, Vilanculos, Massinga, Inhassoro and Mabote in Inhambane Province on topics related to managing natural resources and peacefully resolving conflicts. The SRC's backstopping visit in 2022 provided an impetus for revitalising the Prolinnova network in Mozambique through a series of meetings with NSC members and some local innovators.

2.10 Prolinnova–NEPAL

Prolinnova–Nepal has been trying to reactivate itself after a new host organisation – Resource Identification and Management Society (RIMS) Nepal – was identified in early 2022 and a new NSC was formed. RIMS later withdrew from the CP, citing its inability to continue as the host organisation.

Even in the absence of the host organisation, Prolinnova–Nepal CP members contributed towards the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) survey on local innovation and organised a Prolinnova–Nepal meeting. The NSC comprises six members from government, research, academia and the secretariat and is still functioning. The Chairperson in particular has shown a keen interest to carry forward the initiative in Nepal.

¹ *União das Cooperativas Agrícolas de Marracuene* (UCAM) is a member of *União Nacional de Camponeses* (UNAC).

2.11 Prolinnova–PHILIPPINES

IIRR has been leading the CP in the Philippines initiative for many years, unlike in Cambodia and Nepal, where new host organisations recently had to be identified and activated. Prolinnova–Philippines has contributed towards promoting Prolinnova concepts through its activities. In the country report uploaded on the Prolinnova website, the CP states that it aims to generate broader partnerships and expand the CP membership as their programmes focus on innovation in developing climate-smart agriculture and nature-based approaches.

2.12 Prolinnova–SENEGAL

Prolinnova–Senegal brings together research/training (Universities of Dakar and Thiés), extension (National Agricultural and Rural Advisory Agency), NGOs (Agrecol–Afrique, AgriBio Services, Centre Mampuya, GREEN Senegal etc) and farmer organisations (Federation of Nongovernmental and Development Organisations of Senegal, Federation of Organic Agriculture, National Network of Organisations to Combat the Lean Season and Debt).

The CP’s achievements in 2021 and 2022 were essentially linked to implementing the Misereor-funded Proli-GEAFaSa project, including organising and taking part in the project partners workshop in Burkina Faso; participating in the Virtual Global Farmer Innovation Fair; celebrating IFID on 29 November in Rose Béthio with more than 100 participants including policymakers, agricultural advisers, farmer organisations and the national press; designing 20 flyers and pull-up posters on local innovations in agricultural water management identified within the framework of the project; and organising a training workshop on joint experimentation for 15 CP members (2 women, 13 men). Two new partnership agreements were signed with CABAN (Baye Niasse Agroecological Centre) in Kaolack and the Thiés Forest Centre.

2.13 Prolinnova–SOUTH AFRICA

Prolinnova–South Africa (SA), which had been largely inactive in recent years, was revitalised during a backstopping visit by the SRC in ESA on 6–9 June 2022. An interim taskforce was set up with four members from the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, one former member of the University of Limpopo who moved to the University of Venda and one member from the Institute of Natural Resources (INR) in KwaZulu (KZN) Province. Richard Sello Chuene was selected as the CP coordinator, because the previous coordinator, Ms Zanele Shezi, left INR in March 2022.

Although there were no externally funded projects under the Prolinnova umbrella in 2021 or 2022 in SA, the CP continued to implement Prolinnova-related activities. In Limpopo Province, the activities included the Re Fentje Agriculture and Projects group making innovative use of the indigenous Moringa tree to produce coffee; they are now involving university lecturers and students in this activity. In KZN Province, CP members supported social innovation in the management and protection of springs. Brigid Letty, a member of the CP, led the GFAR survey on innovation on behalf of the international Prolinnova network. The CP also took part in the AfPW.

Prolinnova–SA was included in the next phase of the Misereor-funded SULCI-FaNS project (now called ELI-FaNS), to start in January 2023.

2.14 Prolinnova–SOUTH INDIA

Prolinnova–South India was formed in February 2020. The network brings together NGOs, academic institutions, students, the private sector and ARD institutions. The founding members of the network are Peermade Development Society (an NGO working in the area of farmer innovation for more than two decades), Creativiti Council (a non-profit company providing support systems for local

innovators), St Thomas Mission Society (an NGO specialised in rural development), Marian College (an academic institution) and Lacon India (a private company for certification of organic products).

The CP formed an NSC to spearhead the activities. Members include the National Head for Climate Adaptive Agriculture, Caritas India, Marian College and the Agricultural Department (Government of Kerala). Peermade Development Society is the host organisation of the network. The CP coordinator is TJ James, founder of Creativiti Council, who has been an individual member of the Prolinnova international network since 2002.

Prolinnova–South India has been fairly consistent in terms of overall performance at CP level and has contributed towards the initiative by integrating Prolinnova approaches into the members' projects and publications, despite facing difficulties in fundraising. In 2022, the CP documented several farmer innovations related to climate-change mitigation and adaptation, including farmer-developed varieties, farming practices and farm implements. The CP members also developed a concept note for promoting farmer innovation related to climate-change mitigation and adaptation and submitted it to various donors. Conceptualising a revenue model for promoting and supporting farmer innovation is another focus area. An online platform for disseminating and marketing farmer innovations and developing a conducive environment for farmer innovation-based start-ups is being considered.

2.15 Prolinnova–SUDAN

Although Prolinnova–Sudan faced challenges because of the ongoing political instability, some members of the CP continued to implement field-level activities, albeit at a low level. The Alzaiem Alazhari University, supported by the IST, continued to implement the Nuffic-funded TMT project. Staff of the Peace Bridge Association, another member of Prolinnova–Sudan working in Darfur Region, started to identify and give recognition to local innovators as part of their project activities. The Sudanese Organization for Agriculture Extension and Rural Development applied for a small grant from the International Network for Appropriate Technology but without success.

The Ministry of Agriculture, the Agriculture Research Centre and three NGOs held an introductory meeting in July 2022 to set up a Prolinnova Local Steering Committee (LSC) in El Obeid. The CP coordinator and one participant in the Nuffic-funded TMT project attended a meeting organised by the University of Khartoum's Dean of Geography and Environmental Studies Faculty to start networking within the faculty around promoting local innovation.

2.16 Prolinnova–TANZANIA

In 2022, the POG – having received no reports – officially declared the CP in Tanzania to be dormant.

2.17 Prolinnova–TIMOR LESTE

In 2022, the CP in Timor Leste was likewise officially declared dormant by the POG.

2.18 Prolinnova–UGANDA

Prolinnova–Uganda was fairly active, with most of the PID activities being carried out by individual member organisations. The CP secretariat's functioning was partly affected by a leadership transition following the resignation of the National Coordinator, Joshua Zake, who was also the Executive Director of Environmental Alert, the host organisation, and was replaced by Lawrence Ssentongo. The SRC's backstopping visit in 2022 enabled the CP to discuss its current and future direction.

One of the CP's partners, the Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFF), conducted a series of regional dialogues with farmers and leaders from farmer associations, groups and cooperatives to identify and document local solutions or "homegrown" approaches taken by farming communities

across Uganda in response to the effects of the Covid pandemic; this was under a 2-year project supported by the Open Society Initiative for East Africa. The dialogues covered 150 farmers (68 female and 82 male) selected from five regions: Central, East, North, West Nile and Western.

Two CP members – the UNFF and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries – facilitated the organisation of the Uganda National Agricultural Show on 4–14 August 2022, during which several prominent Prolinnova–Uganda partners, including the National Agricultural Research Organization and Makerere University, participated and displayed local innovations by farmers, farmer associations, youth and local artisans. Furthermore, five persons from the Uganda CP participated in the GFAR innovation survey.

2.19 Prolinnova–UNITED KINGDOM (UK)

The [Farmer-Led Innovation Network](#) (FLIN) was set up in 2018 to share knowledge and experiences and provide a collective advocacy voice for farmer-led innovation processes. FLIN is made up of 20 organisations, both governmental and nongovernmental: research institutes, levy board, farmer organisations and advisory services. In 2020, it was recognised as the Prolinnova multistakeholder CP in the UK. FLIN brings together initiatives directly representing farmers involved in farmer-led innovation across the country: an estimate of at least 1500 farmers directly involved and over 3000 farmers in initiatives engaging farmers in like-minded types of processes but with a less specific focus on innovation.

In spring 2021, various FLIN members were able to attend conferences and events to share their work and promote the network. Most notable was the Farmer-centric On-Farm Experimentation (OFE) 2021 conference. FLIN members participated in the publication of an OFE paper in the Nature Food journal. Several members of the network were involved in establishing the Centre for Effective Innovation in Agriculture (CEIA) in April 2021. This centre brings together five of the most prestigious agricultural universities in the UK to address the gap between scientific research on innovation and real-life farming experience.

A virtual FLIN meeting was organised in June 2021 and a face-to-face meeting in December 2021 at FarmEd, where 17 FLIN members were present from 14 different organisations. Discussion revolved around upcoming funding programmes to support farmer-centric approaches to ARD as well as the opportunities and challenges of digitalisation for farmer-led innovation. Two new members of the FLIN steering committee were elected during this meeting.

In June 2022, a workshop was held that focused on capacity mapping and innovation support for members. This was in response to public funding for these approaches being developed at the time, e.g. the Projects to Accelerate Adoption (PAA) fund led by Defra (Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) and being piloted (Research Starter competition led by Innovate UK). The members recognised an urgent need to understand the current and near-term capacity for effective innovation support as well as a need to provide further support to funders to ensure they understand ‘what good looks like’ in terms of farmer-led research and innovation and how to effectively monitor and evaluate this type of project. The discussions will help form the basis of Best Practice recommendations to be developed by CEIA working with public funding bodies for use in evaluation and programme design. The full-day meeting was held in Birmingham, and 22 FLIN members were present from 15 different organisations.

FLIN continues to be an active member and supporter of FarmPEP (<https://farmpep.net/>), a Knowledge Exchange Platform being developed, which is connecting across agriculture, enabling everyone to share and learn and is a collaborative community endeavour.

Several FLIN members were present at the [European Farming Systems \(IFSA\)](#) conference held in Evora, Portugal, in April 2022. A paper was presented on “Farmer-Led Innovation Network, an Emerging Community of Practice in the UK” (see proceedings: <http://www.ifs2022.uevora.pt/>). A FLIN workshop was also organised (by Lisa van Dijk, Julie Ingram and Tom MacMillan) called “Farmer-led research and innovation: understanding the processes at the farmer and scientist interface”.

FLIN members continue to have close associations with the On-Farm Experimentation Community (OFE-C: <https://ispag.org/Communities/On-Farm>), and selected members act as intermediaries between the two communities.

2.20 Prolinnova–ZIMBABWE

Prolinnova–Zimbabwe continued to be largely inactive mainly because of governance and institutional issues, despite efforts by the SRC to revive the CP.

3 MULTI-CP PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES COMPLETED & ONGOING

3.1 NaviNut

NaviNut (Enhancing women’s agency in navigating changing food environments to improve child nutrition in African drylands), a 3-year project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, started in September 2020 and runs until September 2023. It takes a transdisciplinary research approach: co-creating knowledge across various scientific disciplines and stakeholders. The German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL) coordinates the work together with the Center for Research and Development in Drylands (CRDD, member of PK); University of Parakou (member of Prolinnova–Benin) and the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin; the Tropical Institute of Community Health and Development (TICH) and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Kenya; and South Westphalia University of Applied Sciences in Germany. The project seeks to: a) understand the complexity and dynamics of women’s decision-making in feeding children under 5 years; b) increase accessibility and desirability of locally available, highly nutritious, traditional food products; and c) enhance women’s learning on child nutrition through co-innovation with other stakeholders. This includes co-developing innovations in small-scale processing and packaging so that women can improve their livelihoods by producing and marketing healthy, safe, tasty and acceptable convenience foods based on traditional food products.

In 2021, PK conducted a training on promoting local innovation and PID for stakeholders of the NaviNut project in Marsabit County, Northern Kenya. Since then, project teams in Benin and Kenya explored mothers’ indigenous knowledge about different local foods and their value for small children. They made an overview of child-feeding practices of different types of mothers and of how they processed local foods for small children. In both countries, a catalogue of the local foods most valued by women in the project areas was compiled, and photos and videos were made of how these foods are prepared. Strengths and capacity gaps to promote good child nutrition were explored. A study was made of visual communication on packaging of existing child-food products that women bought. Eye-tracking experiments revealed what caught women’s attention, leading to recommendations for design of packaging for child-food products to be sold by women processors. An article on the food fair in northern Kenya, focusing on the peer-to-peer learning opportunities, was published in the June 2022 issue of the *Appropriate Technology* magazine.

3.2 Nuffic Tailor-made Training (TMT) in Sudan and South Sudan

This TMT project, funded through Nuffic’s Orange Knowledge Programme, was titled “From despair to hope: promoting women’s and youth innovation for food and nutrition security and community resilience in Sudan and South Sudan”. KIT in the Netherlands was the lead organisation. The project

aimed to train 20 staff members (including 13 women) from Alzaiem Alazhari University and other CP partner organisations in Sudan and from the University of Juba, Upper Nile University and the Ministry of Agriculture in South Sudan in the PID approach. Mekelle University, Ethiopia, was to provide support to regional collaboration among the partners. A number of challenges affected project implementation, including Covid implications and a delay in transfer of funds to Sudan because the country was under sanction for a long period and banking was not fully restored. In November 2021, the civil conflict began in Tigray, Ethiopia, and Mekelle University and Fetien Abay were cut off from communication. In April 2021, Fetien took up communication again from the USA. As the conflict dragged on, it became clear that the activities planned with Mekelle University would have to be discontinued. A virtual 5-day training workshop was held in Juba, South Sudan, in March 2021 and in Khartoum, Sudan, in August 2021. The study visit that was supposed to be to Ethiopia was changed to Kenya and took place in November 2021. It involved 12 participants (9 female, 3 male) from Sudan and South Sudan, and was facilitated by Mawahib Ahmed (Prolinnova–Sudan), Vincent Mariadho and Makonge Righa (PK) and Jacob Wanyama (SRC–ESA). After this, Prolinnova–Kenya (Vincent Mariadho and Makonge Righa) provided peer-to-peer backstopping (both virtual and physical) to Prolinnova–Sudan and the potential CP members in South Sudan on the PID approach. Internet connectivity in both countries is very poor. The Internet in Sudan was shut down after the military coup, making further virtual training impossible.

3.3 Proli-GEAFaSa

The full (translated from French) title of the Proli-GEAFaSa project is “Promoting local innovation in Water Management by Family Farmers in the Sahel”. This 3-year project funded by Misereor and carried out in Burkina Faso and Senegal started officially in January 2020, but the inception workshop was held already in December 2019 in Senegal. The project is coordinated by AgriBio Services in Senegal.

In February 2020, the project organised training in PID, LISFs, MSPs and gender jointly with the francophone members of the SULCI-FaNS project. Fieldwork then started to identify, characterise and document local innovations in collecting, conserving, storing and efficiently allocating water in farming. Local actors were trained in facilitating PID on promising local innovations that can raise the yields and incomes of small-scale farmers, with a view to improving their food security and resilience to climate change. Evidence from this project should help strengthen national and subregional policy dialogue on the contribution of local innovation to better water management on small-scale farms.

3.4 SULCI-FaNS

The Misereor-funded SULCI-FaNS (Scaling-up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security) project ran from October 2019 to November 2022 as a follow-on to Proli-FaNS (Promoting Local Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security). The processes of identifying local innovation and facilitating PID gave more attention to women’s roles in innovation and impacts on women and gender relations in households and communities.

SULCI-FaNS was implemented in Burkina Faso (host organisation Diobass), Cameroon (COSADER); Ghana (ACDEP) and Kenya (World Neighbors). It deepened the identification of local innovation in food and nutrition security; strengthened the promotion of joint experimentation by farmers, formal researchers and agricultural advisors; and made some progress in institutionalising the PID approach. During the Covid pandemic, with restrictions on gatherings and travels, the CPs had started to use Zoom and Whatsapp to work remotely with the action-learning sites but could slowly resume face-to-face activities.

Activities focused on selecting innovations (at least 10 per country); designing, planning and facilitating PID processes; training innovators and other stakeholders; and scaling out previous PID results and innovations with new groups by means of radio debates, policy dialogue, community

sessions and FIFs. A strategic document was developed to strengthen policy dialogue and institutionalisation. Documentation (including videos), cross-learning and networking were important components of the project. Some activities concerned the governance of the CPs, with meetings of the NSCs and technical teams in the respective countries. The CPs implemented LISFs with selected innovators, enabling them to scale up or further develop their innovations using funds and materials disbursed through the LISFs.

As a result, more women and men are innovating and experimenting independently to improve household food supply and quality and their incomes. Some outcomes became visible at household level for many innovators, as they transformed their innovations to increase food security and to sell products. The CPs documented their PID processes, local innovation success stories and LISF experiences in catalogues, profiles and short videos for dissemination and to influence policy to institutionalise PID. Formal ARD actors taking part in the local and national MSPs have become more aware and skilful in facilitating PID with farmers and are beginning to integrate the concepts into their own work. But the process of institutionalisation is still slow; it requires a longer period to show more visible outcomes.

An external evaluation team contracted in Ghana did an end-of-project evaluation in 2022. The process involved a two-pronged approach: i) participatory self-reflective assessment with farmers at the learning sites, each led by a CP-specific facilitator; and ii) a more conventional evaluation process with CP stakeholders and subregional/international partners. The findings fed into the follow-on project proposal that was developed by the IST and ACDEP and submitted to Misereor in July 2022.

3.5 FaRaNe

The Farmer-led Research Networks (FaReNe) project is a joint project of Prolinnova partners in Burkina Faso and Mali, with funding and technical support from McKnight Foundation. It looks at how farmer-led innovation approaches, such as PID, LISFs and farmer networking, can contribute to agroecological intensification. A second 3-year phase (FaReNe II) started in June 2019. In Burkina Faso, the project was coordinated by World Neighbors and involved Réseau MARP Burkina, Diobass Burkina, researchers and farmers in Gnagna, Passoré and Yatenga Provinces. In Mali, it is coordinated by ADAF/Gallè and also involves AOPP (Association of Professional Farmer Organisations), IER (Institute of Rural Economy) and national and regional extension services. The first phase started in Mopti and Ségou Regions, but insecurity in Mopti led to reductions in activities there.

Some CP members joined a mobile film training given by the McKnight Foundation CCRP Community of Practice in June 2021.

3.6 Ethnovet project

ACDEP is leading the Misereor-funded Ethnovet project, titled “Promoting Ethnoveterinary Medicine for Sustainable Animal Husbandry Practices in Northern Ghana”. It started in October 2019 and ran to September 2022. The project aimed to identify and document 20 farmers’ ethnoveterinary innovations and practices used for priority livestock diseases with a view to further development, scientific validation, promotion and integration into the formal livestock healthcare system in northern Ghana. This was in response to animal healthcare constraints facing small-scale livestock farmers, the growing public concerns about the negative effects of chemical drugs and the lack of scientific, political, institutional and technical support to ethnoveterinary practices. The project review report for Year 1 (Oct 2019 to Sept 2020) and the half year for year 2 (Oct 2020 to March 2021) were published on the Prolinnova website on the Ethnovet project page and the Prolinnova–Ghana page. Furthermore, stakeholders comprising botanists and veterinarians from the Centre for

Plant Medicine Research (CPMR) and the University of Development Studies took interest in publishing the ethnobotanicals literature review report.

3.7 GIZ agroecology project

In 2021, Prolinnova was involved in a project titled “Integrating agroecology (AE) approaches into agricultural advisory systems”, led by Groundswell International and implemented in Senegal in partnership with Agrecol Afrique, Agribio Services and an AE for-profit enterprise. The project was funded through the Innovation Challenge of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) “Advisory for AE: how to bridge the gap between science and practice”. The Prolinnova project aimed to work with communities and local governments in four communes in adapting AE innovations and scaling out the sociotechnical process (not just the practices). This initiative was based on harnessing local and external knowledge systems and ways of identifying innovations and learning-by-doing as well as bottom-up planning processes including local resource mobilisation. The global objective was to reinforce local governance structures for rural advisory services at the levels of elected municipal councils and community stakeholders.

The innovations were strategies and methods to address these issues, building on PID principles but also leading to new organisational practices conducive to AE and gender equity. This was to be done mainly through capacity strengthening, particularly at community level in Phase 1, with a focus on women’s empowerment, nutrition and equity issues. The overarching innovation was to transform rural advisory services from being largely “supply-led” to “demand-driven” (i.e. community-led and -managed) – first by mobilising and helping organise the communities and developing their capacities. This included enabling them to negotiate for advisory services from local government to fit community priorities. To enable this, a related innovation was to group communities into clusters, foster strong inter-community learning and training, and strengthen their capacity for collective action for PID and rapid scaling.

Out of over 50 proposals, the Prolinnova consortium was one of six finalists and was awarded an initial small “proof-of-concept” grant for a first phase. It implemented the innovative strategy and process, with the end result that “sentinel communities”, with the help of local government, had identified a range of AE innovations and developed plans for testing and adapting them in 2022. The innovative approach was highlighted at a high-level webinar organised by GIZ on 22 May, based on a review of the progress report, oral testimonies from beneficiaries and two videos prepared by the team. At the end of the Zoom event, the jury gave the names of the three winners: two from India and one from Peru. The submission from Senegal was not included, even though one jury member noted that its innovative strategy was the only one that sought to work closely with and help transform the way of working of existing research and extension staff.

3.8 Nuffic TMT in Benin

Another Prolinnova project funded through the Nuffic TMT programme was titled “Strengthening the capacity of teachers in agricultural training colleges in North Benin to support social entrepreneurship based on local innovation for food and nutrition security”. It involved PID training and coaching of 18 staff members (7 women and 11 men) from two agricultural training colleges in North Benin and the University of Parakou. Several partners in Benin, through Georges Djohy (former SRC-WCA), showed interest in joining the Prolinnova network and this project was seen as a means of establishing a CP in Benin.

This project involved South–South mentoring between CPs in Africa. The first training workshop had been held with online facilitation by Chesha Wettasinha (IST member in KIT) and Djibril Thiam from AgriBio Services (Prolinnova–Senegal) in 2020. The programme was delayed in starting and used the

Internet for training because of Covid-related restrictions. The originally planned study trip to learn from the Prolinnova partners in North Ghana had to be changed to a study trip within Benin.

In 2021, Nuffic’s subregional representative in Benin visited the project, saw the relevance of its approach, appreciated the results and suggested that the approach be shared with other Nuffic-funded projects in Benin to promote inclusion of local innovation in projects oriented to entrepreneurship by youth and women. On 20–21 January 2022, Georges Djohy, project co-trainer, joined a feedback workshop organised by another Nuffic-funded project in Benin to share the PID approach and results with other Nuffic partners. On 16 and 18 February, the project organised two feedback workshops in the two target colleges to give the trainees an opportunity to share with all their teaching colleagues and learners the knowledge and skills acquired through the project. The participants asked many questions and expressed their wish to scale up the initiative.

On 24–25 March 2022, the project held its closing workshop, which brought together all the trainees and other relevant actors with a view to sustaining the project’s achievements through the new CP, Prolinnova–Benin. A representative of the Director of the National Institute of Agricultural Research joined the event and promised his institution’s support to the CP’s initiatives in promoting PID in Benin.

3.9 Gender Analysis for Local Innovation Development (GALID)

The GALID project was an initiative funded by FAO. Chesha Wettasinha and Mona Dhamankar (KIT) developed guidelines for gender analysis in local innovation development, which was tested with a group of ARD practitioners in Kenya. Based on their feedback, Chesha and Mona revised the GALID guidelines. While awaiting FAO’s final approval of the document, the SRCs translated the draft guidelines into French and Portuguese. All three language versions of the draft were shared with the CPs and posted on the Prolinnova website (<https://prolinnova.net/guidelines-gender-analysis-local-innovation-development/>). FAO had not yet published the guidelines by the end of 2022.



Figure 8: Draft guidelines for conducting a gender analysis for local innovation development

3.10 Agricultural Transformation by Innovation (AgTrain)

For several years, Prolinnova was an Associate Partner in the Agricultural Transformation by Innovation (AgTrain) joint doctoral programme supported by the European Commission. In 2021–22, Ann Waters-Bayer from the IST continued as a member of the thesis committee for research by Aboubakar Iyabano on *“The role of farmer organisations in promoting sustainable agriculture: case studies from Burkina Faso”*, together with Wageningen University and Research. The committee advised Aboubakar and monitored his progress. In 2022, Abou successfully defended his doctoral thesis *“Unravelling the positions, roles, and agency of farmers’ organizations in the promotion of agroecology in Burkina Faso”*.

3.11 Prolinnova-GFAR innovation survey

In 2022, GFAR appointed Prolinnova to undertake a survey of network members’ perceptions about innovation, especially local innovation and joint innovation processes. The assignment was led by Brigid Letty from INR in collaboration with Sharad Rai (Innovation Development Partners), who is also the Asia Regional Coordinator for Prolinnova.

Brigid presented the results of the innovation survey on 21 October 2022 at the Office of Innovation in FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. This was an important component of Prolinnova’s policy dialogue at international level. The report can be found on the Prolinnova website at: <https://prolinnova.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Prolinnova-GFAR-FINAL-INNOVATION-SURVEY-REPORT.pdf>.



Figure 9: Report on the findings of the Prolinnova-GFAR survey on innovation

4 INPUTS INTO POLICY DIALOGUE

Policy-dialogue and outreach activities at national and subnational level are reported mainly under the headings of the different CPs. Other activities at regional/international level are briefly described here.

4.1 *Appropriate Technology* magazine

The editors of the *Appropriate Technology* quarterly magazine provide space for inputs from Prolinnova partners. This has proved a very effective way to share experiences beyond the network. Articles included during 2021 and 2022 are listed below.

March 2021: Two articles on women innovators in Kenya and Nepal. Prolinnova partners in the two countries have been working with these women in farmer-led joint research and helping them share their experiences within and beyond their communities.

- [Innovation for household vegetable production in Kenya](#)
- [No more waste – no more flies – and home-grown food ... Tulsi Gyawali’s journey to cleaning up the mess \(Nepal\)](#)

June 2021: Three articles from Prolinnova – one on social innovation for improved food and water security in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; another on setting up an MSP to promote farmer-led research and innovation in Benin; and a third on the election of three new POG members: Ibrahima Seck from Senegal, TJ James from India and Violet Kirigua from Kenya.

- [Social innovations for improved food and water security](#)
- [Building a multi-actor platform to promote local innovation](#)
- [Prolinnova Oversight Group appointments](#)

September 2021: This issue included a 2-page article “[First innovation fair celebrates farmer ingenuity in Cameroon](#)” written by Abdel-Karim Ali Mahamane, SRC for WCA, and Jean-Bosco Etoa, Prolinnova–Cameroon coordinator. It highlighted the awards given during the fair to young people – male and female – for their innovations in food processing.

December 2021: This issue included a short article on the locally formulated dairy goat meal innovation that had been presented by the Kenyan innovator, Joe Ouko, at the Horn of Africa and Sahel Virtual Knowledge Share Fair.

March 2022: Two articles about Prolinnova work in Eastern and West Africa were published:

- [Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate in Food and Nutrition Security\(SULCI-FaNS\) in Kenya](#)
- [Promoting local innovation in water management in family farming in the Sahel \(French acronym Proli-GEAFaSa\) in Senegal](#)

June 2022: Two articles written by people involved in the Prolinnova network and related projects, “Local food fair for joint learning on child nutrition”, about a fair organised together with pastoralist and agropastoralist women by the NaviNut project team in Kenya; and “UNDP approves Prolinnova-Kenya’s funding proposal” about a new project to support local innovators in dairy-goat feeding to further develop and commercialise their innovation (see https://prolinnova.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Local-food-fair-AT_June22.pdf).

September 2022: A [4-page article](#) about the solidarity calabash in Senegal, a local social innovation that has been adapted to stimulate and support site-appropriate innovation in agroecology in an inclusive and sustainable way. The solidarity calabash is a voluntary savings system managed by community members based on the principle of mutual support. Rural women now use this as a tool

to mobilise local capital for group members' activities related to agroecology: farmer-led experimentation, innovation, mutual learning, accessing natural inputs and fair marketing.



Figure 10: Article about a social innovation from Senegal published in *Appropriate Technology*

December 2022: Two articles written by people involved in the Prolinnova network in South Africa:

- [Using Mohlopi tree roots to make caffeine-free coffee in Limpopo Province, South Africa](#)
- [Rural South African women collaborate with engineer for better water](#)

4.2 Farmer-led research webinar hosted by U of Guelph, Canada

On 12 March 2021, students of the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development of the University of Guelph in Ontario Province, Canada, organised a webinar on “Farmer-led research in the resilience of rural communities”. The webinar examined farmer-led research (FLR) from the perspectives of farmers in the Global North and South.

Angie Koch, a farmer researcher with the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO), made a keynote presentation on her experiences in FLR. She stressed how important it is in her research to follow her own curiosity and seek answers to her own questions for her farm. She enjoys learning from other farmer-research methods and results as much as she appreciates the opportunity to share her own. Andrew Mushita, from the Community Technology Development Organisation of Zimbabwe, brought perspectives of FLR with small-scale farmers in Africa, focusing on participatory plant breeding and varietal selection. Chesha Wettasinha from Prolinnova's IST was among the three panellists – including also Gloria Otieno from Bioversity International/CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture) in Uganda and Walter Entz from the University of Manitoba – who shared their experiences in FLR, benefits and challenges, and ways of scaling it up. Chesha emphasised that recognising farmers' own innovation serves as a perfect entry point to FLR that combines the knowledge of farmers with that of other ARD stakeholders. She highlighted the importance of scaling

up the process or approach of FLR and not primarily the products, i.e. the local innovations (which are, by definition, local). She also pointed to the need for decentralised and locally managed funds to support research led by small-scale family farmers not only in Canada but also in the Global South.

4.3 Kenyan farmer innovator featured in “Mother Earth News”

An article by Meredith Leigh in the magazine *Mother Earth News* “Animals on the farm: a holistic approach” (March 2021) describes how farmers around the world are developing innovative ways of integrating livestock into farming operations. One of the main examples was the feed for dairy goats developed by the Kenyan small-scale farmer Joe Ouko.

4.4 Prolinnova–Kenya joins CG event on scaling agri-food innovation

On 23 November 2022, Makonge Righa, World Neighbors (member of PK) Program Officer for Africa, and Vincent Mariadho, PK coordinator, attended the CGIAR Week of Science and Practice of Scaling Agri-Food System Innovation, held on 22–24 November 2022 at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi Campus.

4.5 Prolinnova at AU–EU Innovation Agenda event in Nairobi

Prolinnova’s SRC in ESA, Jacob Wanyama, was invited to present the Prolinnova network and approach at the AU–EU Innovation Agenda Stakeholder Event on 23–24 November 2022 in Nairobi. The event briefed the participants on the joint Innovation Agenda of the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU). Wanyama drew attention to small-scale farmers’ role in innovation and to the importance of strengthening all stakeholders’ capacities to innovate within agricultural systems. At the end of the event was a session for “pitching” innovations: each innovator (mainly youth) gave a very short presentation (pitch) about his/her innovation and invited the participants to their stands, which were set up in a different room. This is an approach that Prolinnova could use, for example, during FIFs.

4.6 Prolinnova partners at Tropentag 2022 conference in Prague

Prolinnova network members from Benin and Kenya involved in the NaviNut and SULCI-FaNS projects took part in the Tropentag 2022 held in Prague, Czech Republic, on 15–18 September 2022. The “Tropentag” (German for “Tropical Day”) is an annual international conference on research in tropical and subtropical agriculture and rural development. Two farmers in the Prolinnova network were panellists in the opening plenary session: Rebecca Dero, farmer innovator from Kenya, and Elisabeth Mpofu, member of the POG in the seat for farmer organisations.

4.7 Collective action on Transformative Learning

In June 2022, Ann Waters-Bayer, as member of the IST, took part in the GFAR-EFARD (European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development) Regional Interaction “Collective Action on Transformative Learning”. Later, Lisa van Dijk and Violet Kirigua took over the role of Prolinnova’s focal points for this CA, which was then given the name “Higher Education Transformation”.

4.8 Collective Action on Farmer-led Research and Innovation

The World Rural Forum (WRF) is a multistakeholder network of farmers’ organisations and federations, rural development associations, NGOs, cooperatives and agricultural research centres with a mission to promote family farming and sustainable rural development. WRF members represent more than 35 million family farmers on five continents. The WRF launched, with the support of the GFAR, a Collective Action (CA) that aims to put research and innovation systems at the service of the inclusive and resilient development of family farmers in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and is part of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–28.

Brigid Letty and Violet Kirigua were invited to attend a workshop that was part of the second phase of this CA, which consists of an inclusive process to define the content of the CA. On behalf of Prolinnova, Brigid managed to join the 2-day meeting on 4–5 October 2022 in Bilbao, Spain, together with participants from various regional farmer organisations (from Latin America, Africa and Asia-Pacific regions), Agrinovia, GFAR and the WRF.

5 CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of the efforts undertaken by members of the different CPs, the IST, the SRCs and the POG to promote and mainstream local innovation processes led by small-scale farmers in collaboration with other ARD stakeholders. We would encourage you to visit the Prolinnova website (www.prolinnova.net) to obtain more information than could be included in this report. Overall, the Prolinnova network and its community of practice in the CPs managed to be very active and productive, in a period that marked the beginning of increased freedom of movement and physical association after almost two years of restrictions because of the Covid pandemic. With the next phases of SULCI-FaNS and Proli-GEA-FaSa starting in 2023, we should have a great opportunity for strengthening regionalisation and enhancing learning between CPs about promoting farmer-led local innovation processes in agroecology.