

Prolinnova participation in the grassroots technological innovation for agroecology network

The network on grassroots innovations for agroecology supported by the 11th Hour Project held an online meeting on 11 December 2023. Makonge Righa and Ann Waters-Bayer represented the international Prolinnova network in the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide updates on the status of the network and also discuss its operationalisation through the various working groups that had been formed to steer the establishment of the network.

Samuel Oslund from the 11th Hour Project and Caroline Ledant from Schola Campesina gave a brief on the assembly by stating the outcomes of the international convening on grassroots technological innovations held in October 2023 in Italy. They expressed their desire to see the network functional and that other people/organisations, apart from the 11th Hour Project and Schola Campesina who were the conveners of the Italy meeting, take on leadership roles and steer the network. The meeting was also informed that the draft report for the convening in Italy would be shared with the participants for input before finalisation (the report has since been shared and we are expecting the final report soon).

Righa gave a brief of what Prolinnova is undertaking, focusing on Kenya. He stated that Prolinnova is continuously identifying local innovations and working with farmers/innovators through facilitating farmer-led and joint experimentation to improve local innovations. He informed the meeting of Prolinnova's goal to mainstream the Participatory Innovation Development (PID) approach in formal Agricultural Research and Development. To achieve this, Prolinnova is working closely with various organisations including higher learning institutions (universities) and the County Governments. Lastly, he informed the meeting of the International Farmers Innovation Fair and Conference (IFIF&C) to be held in April 2024 in Nairobi.

The participants broke into the three working groups – Charter/Governance, Communication, and Next Assembly/Event Planning – that had been formed at the convening in Italy. Righa participated in the Charter/Governance group. Because of inadequate time and technical challenges to adequately participate and discuss comprehensibly during the December meeting, it was agreed that each group would have separate meetings to discuss and report back. The meetings of the Charter/Governance and the Next Assembly working groups are planned for 29 January 2024.

**Report by
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