



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT: PROLINNOVA SOUTH AFRICA

Prepared by Richard Chuene and Brigid Letty

### INTRODUCTION

The Prolinnova South Africa country platform is currently well functioning within the Limpopo and KwaZulu Natal provinces with efforts to engage other provinces in the near future. The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is currently leading the platform with support from the two universities (Universities of Limpopo and Venda) in the Limpopo province and the Institute of Natural Resources in Kwa Zulu Natal. In the Limpopo province the main PID activities are implemented in Ga-Mphahlele where social and technical innovation identified, these are being supported through the Misereor-funded project *Expanding the promotion of Local Innovations for Food and Nutrition Security (ELIFaNS)*.

The platform has recently recruited the East and Southern Small-Scale Farmers of South Africa a Non-Profit Organisation represented by the coordinator (Mr. Jackson Kadiaka) to be part of the platform interim committee to represent small scale farmers.

In terms of participation in the regional workshops, Prolinnova SA country platform participated in the inception meeting for the ELI-FaNS project, which was held in Accra, Ghana from the 20th-24th February 2023. During 2023, Prolinnova-SA also hosted the Prolinnova International Partners Workshop for the first time.

### ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

- **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- i. **Meetings held in 2023**

PROLINNOVA Limpopo Task Team held 7 meetings in 2023. During the meetings, they managed to identify ELI-FaNS project site at Ga-Mphahlele, introduce the project, identify and profile 11 innovation (2 social and 9 technical) and establish local

multistakeholder platform (LMSP). Innovations were screened and 3 were selected for PID.

**ii. Participation in the ELI-FaNS inception workshop**

Richard Chuene (Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) Brigid Letty and Thabo Makhubedu (Institute of Natural Resource Management) and Ernest Letsoalo (University of Venda) attended ELI-FaNS Inception Workshop on 20–24 February 2023, Accra, Ghana representing Prolinnova South Africa.

**iii. Participation in the ELI-FaNS project**

The ELI-FaNS project has provided a strong stimulus for Prolinnova-SA, allowing for the identification of local innovations at the two learning sites (in Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal) and implementation of PID on selected innovations. This is building capacity amongst different actors, which is contributing to mainstreaming of the PID approach within different organisations.

**iv. Hosting of PROLINNOVA International Partners Workshop (IPW)**

Hosted PROLINNOVA International Partners Workshop (IPW) and Project meeting from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2023. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 all participants of IPW went to Tjiane Village for a field trip. Policy dialogue and institutionalisation were achieved as local leaders, supervisors from Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Universities (Limpopo and Venda) attended.

**v. Hosting Prolinnova Kenya country platform coordinator**

After the IPW workshop, Vincent Mariadho representing PROLINNOVA Kenya undertook a backstopping visit to meet with two innovators and managers of different divisions within Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. At the same time Joe Nchor, ELI-FaNS Project Coordinator, providing backstopping support to the team in KwaZulu-Natal.

**vi. Identification and establishment of PID process outside the ELI-FaNS project**

The team managed to establish a PID in Tzaneen at a village called Balloon. The PID is about “using *Moringa oleifera* leaves as fertilizer on sugar bean”. The experiment is still ongoing. The INR has conducted some demonstrations with farmers in KwaZulu-Natal Province in the uMkhomazi Upper Catchment on the use of used diapers as a soil amendment to address the solid waste problem as well as a way of improving soil fertility and water holding capacity. Through community engagements a number of

farmer innovators were identified that had already started using these ‘nappies’ within their vegetable gardens. This highlights the value of seeking local innovations wherever one is working.

**vii. Participation in webinars**

Ernest Letsoalo contributed a presentation on PID Institutionalization in South Africa. Brigid Letty shared experiences from the Nuffic PID training conducted in Mozambique within one of the webinars.

**viii. Publications**

The following article was published in the *Appropriate Technology* magazine during 2023: Observing local innovation in Swayimane, South Africa, by Mzo Mndali, Thabo Makhubedu & Brigid Letty in *Appropriate Technology* 50 (3): 45–46.

- **CHALLENGES**

ELI-FaNS activities at both learning sites are behind schedule: introduction of the project require more time for local and other stakeholder to comprehend, especially because there are new actors involved who did not have a good understanding of PID or local innovation at the start of the project.

- **PERSPECTIVES**

It is necessary to regularly visit the M&E tool to keep on schedule with activities and to ensure that we are capturing information that will allow us to report against indicators. Outlining Limpopo Multi-stakeholder Partnership (MSP) roles during meetings as part of the process of monitoring actors’ understanding of PROLINNOVA and ELI-FaNS.

- **CONCLUSION**

Prolinnova-South Africa is a work in progress and has high potential of growth to other provinces. The 2023 IPW was an eye opener and capacity building for CPs. The field trip on 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2023 to Tjiane Village during the workshop was vital exposure of farmer innovators, and an opportunity to introduce the concepts of local innovation and PID to Departmental and University management. It is now necessary to build relationships with officials in KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture towards involving their staff in the project activities, and ultimately to mainstream the approaches into their work programmes.

## **ANNEXURE 1: MAIN CONTACT PERSONS.**

Name: Richard Chuene  
Organization: Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Designation: Scientist Production  
Contact No: Tel (work) +27 15 2943602  
Cell +27 71 675 3212/+27 64 880 3703  
E-mail Address: [richardsello88@yahoo.com](mailto:richardsello88@yahoo.com)

Name: Koketso Mphahlele  
Organization: University of Limpopo  
Designation: Lecturer  
Contact No: Tel (work) +27 15 268 2250  
Cell +27 83 420 9077  
E-mail Address: [koki.mphahlele@ul.ac.za](mailto:koki.mphahlele@ul.ac.za)

Name: Ernest Letsoalo  
Organization: University of Venda  
Designation: Lecturer  
Contact No: Tel (work) +27  
Cell +27 84 887 3339  
Email Address: [ernest.letsoalo@univen.ac.za](mailto:ernest.letsoalo@univen.ac.za)

Name: Thabo Makhubedu  
Organization: Institute of Natural Resource  
Designation: Scientist  
Contact No: Tel (work) +27 33 3460 796  
Cell +27 76 422 5186  
Email Address: [tmakhubedu@inr.org.za](mailto:tmakhubedu@inr.org.za)