

Prolinnova Uganda Country Platform (CP) Annual report 2023

1. Introduction

Major new developments and achievements, new organisations joining or partners leaving the CP

The country platform was fairly active with most of the activities in line with promoting local innovations and farmer –led joint research and development. These activities were carried out by individual members of the platform. There was little activity at secretariat level partly because the secretariat has gone through restructuring and transition of leadership at Environmental Alert. The new platform coordinator was appointed in the names of Mrs. Nekesa Jacinta. who is also the current Executive Director at Environmental Alert where the secretariat was maintained. A technical focal person has also been appointed in the names of Ms. Rachel Kasaija for quick followup of platform activities.

Important contacts for Prinnova Uganda are as follows

	Name	Position	Contacts
1	Daudi Ssentongo	Chairperson Steering Committee	ssentongo@gmail.com +256776419546
2	Jacinta Nekesa	Platform Coordinator	Jacinta.nekesa@envalert.org +256772462340
3	Rachel Kasaija	Technical Focal Person	kasaijarac@gmail.com +256703670152

The members of the platform include:

- 1) Environmental Alert – NGO
- 2) Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE)- NGO & Platform steering committee Chair
- 3) Ministry of Agriculture Animal Inudstry and Fisheries (MAAIF) – Government
- 4) National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) – Government
- 5) Makerere University – Public Institution
- 6) PELUM Uganda- NGO
- 7) Kulika Uganda- NGO
- 8) Africa 2000 Network Uganda- NGO
- 9) Advocacy coalition for sustainble Agriculture – ACSA Uganda

2. Achievements, challenges and perspectives

Key activities implemented, with description of achievements and specifying date/period of implementation and stakeholder involvement (male/female). Some areas/fields of activity that could be considered are:

Due to lack of funded projects at the secretariat, most activities that promote the prolinnova approach were implemented individually by members of the platform. The Major plattform for interrraction of CP members included the following;

- 1) Two Farmer Innovations Shows by Prolinnova Members i.e. UNFFE, MAAIF, NARO. Over 200 Farmer Exhibitors in Eastern Uganda for 10 days in August 2023 for the National Agricultural show and 100 Farmer exhibitors in the West Nile region Agricultural show which run in November 2023.
- 2) National Agriculture Education Show/ Science fair June 2023 held by UNFFE and MAAIF- Agriculture innovations by young innovators and students in schools. 120 schools show cased and 60,000 learners attended. The objective of the National Agriculture Education show is to inspire young people especially in schools to innovate and develop solutions in the light of the climate change challenges, diminishing agricultural land for production and increasing youth bulge verses available opportunities
- 3) The agro ecology week 16 – 20 October 2023 led by Pllum Uganda- This had three main activities in the same week i.e. National Agro ecology Actors symposium, 2nd Agro ecological markets systems Expo & Indigenous traditional and seed fair. The activity brought together over 30 local actors in sustainable agriculture and over 100 participating local innovators.
- 4) The farmer learning and Innovation cycle project implemented by UNFFE and MAAIF supported the identification, profiling, documentation of 30 farmer led innovations and scaling up of 10 best farmer innovations. The project started in November 2023 and is running up to October 2024.

3. Assessment of network functioning

Using the list below, facilitate your CP in assessing itself by using the scale 0–5 where 0 is for no activity/ achievement/progress and 5 is for excellent achievement/progress; after rating, include reasons for your CP’s assessment and suggestions for improving network functioning:

1. Extent of reaching goals and objectives of CP - 2
2. Governance at CP level- 3
3. Functioning of CP secretariat - 2
4. Communication between and among partners within your CP- 3
5. Relationship with other CPs, (Sub)Regional Coordinator, International Support Team (IST) and Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG) -3
6. Achievements in terms of capacity strengthening -1
7. Achievements in terms of mobilising resources at CP and subregional level- 2

Reasons for the rating

While in the previous 4-5 years the platform was fairly active in resource mobilization and implementation of activities, it has not performed well especially in the recent years. This is partly attributed to the end of existing projects that were largely sustaining the activities of the platform and also the transition of some prominent members of the platforms.

There have also been gaps in communication and coordination among platform members largely due to little effort by the secretariat and steering committee. However, the good news is most platform members are still very interested in participating and advancing the Prolinnova approach and are currently responding fairly well when called upon.

Going forward, it is agreed and recommended that efforts should be undertaken led by the new secretariat to convene all the interested members to rejuvenate members’ interest in the approach and activities of the platform through:

1. Strengthening communication at secretariat level and among members
2. Engaging stakeholders to develop a fresh shared understanding of the prolinnova approach

3. Fast track a collaborative process of developing a new inclusive strategic plan for the CP with proper view of sustainability of the platform and resource mobilization strategies.
4. Increase member collaboration on activities that promote the Prolinnova approach outside the funded projects of the CP

The above action points form the direction the CP is following in 2024.

4. Conclusion

Summary of key elements in 2023, including the following:

a) Comparison of what was planned and what was done

There were few activities planned and implemented at the secretariat level. Despite that, milestones were made by platform members whereby numerous activities were planned and implemented, which entailed the collaboration of members such as agriculture shows, expos and projects promoting local innovations and NRM strategies, among others.

b) Your CP's impact(s) in promoting local innovation and PID among the partner organisations, farmer groups and/or the broader society in your country/region.

The activities of the CP and its members still remain very relevant in promoting local innovations and PID among the communities we serve. With increased collaboration and coordination among CP members there is so much potential for transforming our communities using the Prolinnova approach.