



PROLINNOVA–GHANA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Country Platform (CP) had been active in the past year. The National Steering Committee (NSC), technical support team and local multistakeholder platforms (MSPs) at action-learning sites remained very functional in supporting Prolinnova projects and activities in Ghana. ACDEP, host organization of Prolinnova Ghana has successfully coordinated the multi-CP ELI-FaNS (*Expanding the Promotion of Local Innovation for Food Security and Healthy Nutrition*) Project which ended on 31 December 2025. In Ghana the Prolinnova field activities were implemented Walewale, North-East Gonja and Bongo action-learning sites, in partnership with local NGOs and key institutional stakeholders.

2.0 ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

2.1 Key activities implemented and results achieved under ELI-FANS PROJECT

Farmer-led research and Innovation

Identification and promotion of new innovations

ACDEP and the learning site local NGO partners trained and assisted staff of the Bongo District Department of Agriculture (DoA) to identify and document 20 new innovations for promotion in order to mainstream LI/PID approach in the extension system of DoA. A similar exercise conducted in the North- East Gonja site in partnership with the DoA led to identification of 30 innovations which are being disseminated to farmers. As a result, more farmers are paying more attention to their own ideas and innovations as sustainable solutions to their farming and livelihood problems.

Sharing and learning from local innovation and PID outcomes

i) Sharing PID outcomes: The CP organized events in Walewale and NE Gonja learning sites for sharing and learning on the results of a PID on improved composting by a woman, and a second PID on grain storage with a botanical by a man, respectively. The event enabled sharing, participatory evaluation and joint learning from the PID processes and results involving farmers, formal researchers, extensionists and other local stakeholders. The farmers felt more involved with the PID process and expressed interest to adopt the two improved innovations to boost their yields and food security.

ii) Farmer Innovation fair: The event held in Walewale learning site in September 2025, enabled 30 innovators to prepare and showcase their innovations in a community exhibition to other farmers in the District, and stakeholders such as the District Assembly, Regional Director of Agriculture, District Director of Agriculture, Local NGOs, and the media (radio and TV). All the stakeholder institutions gained an appreciation of the role and importance of farmers' innovations and pledged increased commitment to give greater support towards developing and promoting farmers' innovations and local innovation approach to boost local agricultural development and food security in the District.

Capacity strengthening:

Training of women groups in innovative VSLA model.

Two (2) VSLA women groups in Walewale site were trained to improve their VSLA operations for efficiency and profitability in context of PID approach. The training included: how to open and operate a mobile money account with Telecommunication operators, operating a group savings account with local banks, legal registration of the VSLAs with the Department of Cooperatives, and financial management training and record keeping.

Support for legal registration of VSLA groups

Eight (8) VSLA groups were assisted to legally register their entities with the West Mamprusi Municipal Assembly to be able to access relevant support services. The process culminated with the issuance of certificates to the groups by the West Mamprusi Municipal Assembly. To strengthen the capacity of the VSLA groups to operate and access financial facilities in the region, the 8 groups were helped by Bangmarigu Community Bank Limited in opening and operating savings accounts.

Capacity support for PID institutionalization:

The CP held engagements and capacity building with 3 local NGOs, 3 District Departments of Agriculture, 2 research institutes and University, towards institutionalizing the approach including training of the staff on LI/PID, joint development and implementation of specific institutionalization strategies and activities, involvement of staff members in PID processes, creating awareness of LI /PID and participation in farmer innovators sharing sessions. Our key focus is to expand our national level networking to be able to attain more success in getting institutions to adopt PID.

Networking and policy dialogue at all levels

- Supported 27 innovators to exhibit their innovations at the 2025 annual National Farmers' Day celebration in December at the North East Gonja and Walewale learning sites (Districts).
- Held an NSC meeting in December 2025 that reviewed progress of project and Prolinnova activities and provided relevant advice to strengthen the national platform, networking and policy dialogue at local and national levels. A day before the meeting, the committee undertook a field visit to Walewale to appreciate farmers PID/LI activities and results through a mini innovation fair and interactions. They were highly impressed about the impact of the project on livelihoods of women and men innovators and other farmers.
- Participated in IPW 2025 in Kerala, India with 3 officers where we shared Ghana's achievements on project and Prolinnova activities, mounted an exhibition of publications and a poster on our LI and PID activities and achievements, and contributed to discussions and learning on key topics.
- Facilitated the conduct of final project evaluation by a consultant from University of Parakou in Benin. The final report which showed positive achievement by project countries and recommendations for future improvement and projects, have been submitted to Misereor.

Fundraising:

Prolinnova-Ghana partnered with the University for Development Studies and a local NGO in Ghana, as well as with Prolinnova Kenya to implement DITSL-led project in northern Ghana and Kenya, which would focus on territorial markets for agroecological innovations. Though successful with the concept note approval, we could not proceed with the full proposal phase as the project was cancelled due to funding challenges facing the German Federal Government.

2.2 Challenges and lessons on Prolinnova work

Inadequate funding to support the growing interest in innovation and farmer-led research remains a constraint for which we are continuously exploring appropriate funding opportunities at national and international levels to address. We are advocating to develop and mainstream the LISF approach to be able to mobilize funds from local sources to complement activities.

3.0 SELF-ASSESSMENT OF NETWORK FUNCTIONING

- The National Steering Committee (NSC) is performing effectively in its mandate, including providing governance for the country platform, advising and supporting policy dialogue, and facilitating networking and resource mobilization for the country programme. The committee has been further strengthened with inclusion of a new representative from the University for Development Studies.
- Members of the Technical Support Team (TST) are also actively involved in supporting the implementation of project activities.
- The three local Multistakeholder platforms comprising of key stakeholders have also continued operating at the learning sites in supporting project and network activities and learning
- ACDEP, the CP host, has remained strongly committed to achieving Prolinnova objectives at the country and strategic objectives of the global Prolinnova network.
- Relationships with other CPs, the Subregional Coordinator, the International Support Team and the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG) have continue to grow stronger and enhancing mutually learning.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The CP has largely achieved its planned programme for 2025 with respect to project activities with significant progress made on Prolinnova objectives in the year. Prolinnova activities and the ELI-FaNS project has had a positive impact by building capacities and empowering farmers and women to achieve sustainable food security. There is a strong case for scaling the intervention to additional communities, with the expectation that we will secure new funding from Misereor and other funders to sustain and consolidate the results and impact made so far.