

WORKSHOP REPORT

Prolinnova International Partners Workshop

10-14 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India



11 December 2025

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DAY 1, 10 NOVEMBER

Setting up the market place and innovation fair

Ahead of the formal opening, the different country platform (CP) teams as well as the farmer innovators set up their exhibits. There was a total of 15 farmer innovators who showcased their innovations and 13 CPs who presented materials such as posters, brochures, leaflets, photos for sharing their experiences.

Official opening of the International Partners Workshop (IPW), mini farmer innovation fair and information market.

The event started with the singing of an opening prayer by a student of Marian College. Thereafter, TJ James, coordinator of Prolinnova- South India, welcomed all the invited guests, the Prolinnova participants, farmer innovators, Peermade Development Society (PDS) staff and others in attendance. He handed over to Fr Boby Alex Mannampackal, President of PDS, who gave a brief history of PDS as a socially-oriented organisation set up with the purpose of uplifting the lives of the poor and marginal farmers of the area. Mr Anil Kumar, Chairman of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board, delivered the inaugural address, emphasising the need to protect agrobiodiversity and soil health through agroecological farming. Mr Ram Krishna Shrestha, Joint Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development in Nepal spoke about the challenges of the Himalayan ecosystems and the need for more sustainable, agroecological forms of farming that recognise the innovations and the contributions of farmers. Fr Hubby Mathew provided a short history of PDS' support to farmer innovators and Fr Sabu John, Executive Director, gave an overview of PDS' current operations and the impacts it has achieved in terms of community empowerment and livelihood improvement of the communities it serves. Mr Anish, Deputy Registrar of the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, and Ms Birgit Habermann, co-chair of Prolinnova's Oversight Group also addressed the gathering.

The speakers recognised the value of farmer innovation and the need to consider innovations at all stages of the value chain. It was clear that PDS has a long history of supporting local innovation and recognising many innovations and also has a museum dedicated to farmer innovations. Collaboration with the scientific community is seen as part of the process of recognising the value of local innovations, including varieties as well as processing equipment. The value of agroecological processes – especially those that are farmer innovations - such as conservation agricultural practices and pesticides made from natural ingredients are recognised as being very important for ensuring agricultural sustainability and enabling communities to respond to climate change impacts.



Figure 1: Ram Shreshta, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development in Nepal, sharing some words with participants during the opening session (photo:Brigid Letty)

Lighting of the lamp by the invitees led to the opening of the mini farmer innovation fair and the information market, where CPs exhibited materials and posters demonstrating their activities, and several farmer innovators from Kerala exhibited equipment, tools, value added products and improved varieties of various crops including nutmeg, pepper and bananas.



Figure 2: New varieties of vegetables and a cassava uprooter exhibited by farmer innovators with students from Marian College assisting with translation (Photo: Brigid Letty)



Figure 3: Farmer innovator, Mr Eldho PP, receiving a certificate of participation from Birgit Habermann of the POG.

The opening session was concluded with the awarding of certificates to the farmer innovators and lunch.

Introductions and programme overview

Sharad and Paul facilitated a round of introductions where participants provided their name and organisation, country and one word that described how they felt about the workshop (i.e. excited, inspired, hopeful, happy to learn, curious, learn, innovation, grateful, gain experience, honoured, unlearn, hungry, optimistic, lucky, “cooperation not competition”, “keep smiling”, pleased, cross-learning, calm, and more). Alana Mooi mentioned that is keen to establish a CP in Mexico and is also involved with storytelling.



Figure 4: Emma from DRC introducing herself to the participants, with translation by Paul.

Chesha explained the logistics and also explained that we would have some people joining online. She also explained that there will be an open space session and therefore any 'light bulb moments' that require discussion can be posted there. Annexure 1 includes the programme of the IPW.

Introduction to Peermade Development Society

Siby Joseph provided an overview of PDS, which was started in 1980. PDS' mission is to ensure fullness of life to all the communities it works with. PDS supports farmer producer organisations, community-based organisations (CBOs), ensures people's participation; supports women's empowerment, micro-enterprise development (mushroom cultivation etc), and tribal development; provides consultancy services in a variety of subjects such as waste management, organic agriculture, farmer producer organisations, natural resource management, organic tea processing, biotechnology (tissue culture), watershed development (water & soil conservation), food security (commercialisation of farmers' varieties), Ayurvedic medicine and wellness, rural technology promotion (documenting innovations, a museum of documented innovations, IP protection, standardisation), start-up incubation, technology training and dissemination, education (College), publications (magazine called "Let the farmer speak"). Its facilities include a soil-testing laboratory, a plant nursery, a tissue culture facility and a spice exporting factory.

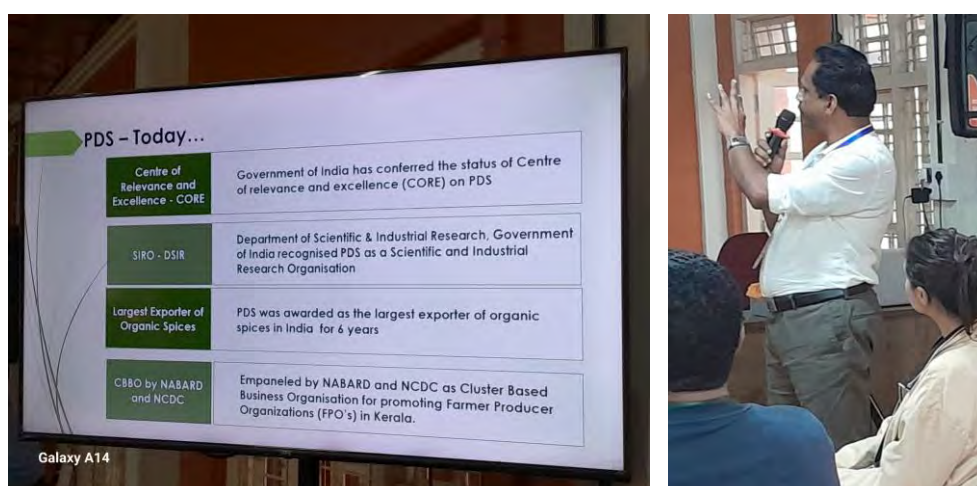


Figure 4: Siby Joseoh of PDS providing an overview of PDS (Photo: Brigid Letty)

CP Presentations: Asia

Sharad provided an overview of the region before handing over to the different CPs to make their inputs.

See three presentations (attached as annexes)

CP Presentations: Eastern and Southern Africa

See five presentations (attached as annexes)

CP Presentations: Western and Central Africa

See three presentations (attached as annexes)

NOTE THAT PRESENTATIONS ARE ALL COMBINED IN ANNEXURE 3 IN ORDER OF SESSIONS.

DAY 2, 11 NOVEMBER

The day began with completion of the CP presentations that had started on Day 1. Jacob Wanyama and Paul Jimmy facilitated the morning's proceedings.

Completion of CP and SRC presentations

Ghana, Mali, Senegal, WCA SRC

See Powerpoints from the four presenters (attached as annexes)



Figure 5: Presenters from Ghana (Joe Nchor), Diakite (Mali), Djibril Thiam (Senegal) and Paul Jimmy (Subregional Coordinator for West and Central Africa)

Presentation from the POG

The presentation from the POG was made by Birgit Habermann, co-chair of the POG. She started by asking whether the participants have an understanding of the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG). She highlighted the need for a more external group that is not involved in the day-to-day work of Prolinnova and can bring in unbiased perspectives. She stated that the POG is an advisory board rather than a controlling body – but able to assist with mediation, conflict management, providing direction etc. She then invited the POG members present to introduce themselves. Basanta Rana Bhat explained his role as Asia representative and that he had been involved in Prolinnova Nepal right from the start of its establishment. Birgit is in the POG as an independent member and got to know Prolinnova through her interactions with Ann Waters-Bayer, whose work inspires her. There are processes in place to allow for rotation of positions. Chesha explained that she as an IST member does the work of the POG secretariat, which she previously shared with Ann. Ernest Letsoalo explained his involvement as representing Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) in the POG. His involvement started right from the time when he was a student and was doing an internship with a centre at the university and was sent to participate in the first Prolinnova event and became more interested and started encouraging students to participate. Later he started supervising students and directed them in the direction of how to promote local innovation(s). He had also attended PID training and started introducing that as a module in the university. Franklin Avorno was made a member in 2023 representing Western and Central Africa, having been encouraged by Joe Nchor. He added that the POG also ensures accountability to our donors, fairness, and serves as a guide to ensure network members are aligned with the principles of Prolinnova. Jony Jos is the farmer organisation representative on the POG. He has largely been a spectator because there have not been any Prolinnova-related funded projects in South India. He has

worked with government as well as PDS and is also involved with an organic certification body, which represents 256 farmer groups. With this experience he was recommended to the POG. Mutizwa Mukute explained that he is a co-chair of the POG and that he has interactions with the network for a long period, which included two evaluations of Prolinnova projects. Birgit highlighted that it's a mixed group of people who have different lengths of involvement with Prolinnova. Chesha then introduced the two POG members who were not present – Peter Gubbels, who has been associated with Prolinnova for a long time, previously as the WCA representative and now as an independent member, and Peter Taylor, a recent member who is the current Director of Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at University of Sussex, UK. Chesha explained the process for calling for nominations for POG members for the different seats, and the election process when multiple nominations are received for a given seat.

Mutizwa provided an update on POG activities, starting by referring to regionalisation activities that are ongoing. He highlighted that the POG has been supporting CPs that experience problems – sometimes directly with the CPs and sometimes by developing guidelines as a proactive way of addressing the challenges. Lastly, the POG supports in strategic planning and has been part of the team developing the strategic direction document that will be discussed this week, which involved stakeholders from CPs, regional platforms, farmer innovators and friends of Prolinnova.

Birgit provided some additional reflections based on the various CP presentations – strong and weaker points in our work that we are perhaps not aware of:

- The ability to work and connect across regions.
- South-south engagement without always requiring European organisations to access funding.
- Cost-efficiency – good value for money in comparison to others in the sector such as the CG centres.
- Addressing commercialisation – have made a good start, have established business opportunities – there may be some need for certification of products.
- Focus on youth – this requires more attention given that there are high rates of unemployment, however the way we are communicating is not aimed at youth, and we need to revise communication methods.
- Not good at selling what we do even though the winning experiences are clear in the presentations – needs to be better packaged.

Birgit shared a story about a young woman dairy farmer in Kenya whom she spoke to recently. When asked where she got all her knowledge from, she pulled out her mobile phone and said that she 'googles'. This highlights the different sources of information that people draw on, especially young people.

Wanyama closed the session, highlighting that even the nature of the POG's feedback was a participatory one. He also reiterated the feedback from Birgit regarding ways to strengthen the network.

Prolinnova strategy for 2026-203 – discussion on strategic directions

Mutizwa used a descriptive to update the participants on the collaborative process that was undertaken and the draft strategic directions for Prolinnova for the period 2026-2030 derived from this process.

See Powerpoint (attached as annexure)

Following the presentation, the participants were allocated to 6 groups so that each could discuss one of the six strategic directions. They group assignment was to review the activities under the strategic direction assigned to the group and to suggest what activities (i) should be revised and how, (ii) should be added, and (iii) should be removed. Based on the discussions in the groups, they were asked whether the wording needs to be changed, and if, yes, how? The groups were moderated by a member of the Foresight/Strategy Development Team that had been facilitating the process in the past year.

Group 1 Mutizwa (SD 4)	Group 2 – Brigid (SD 2)	Group 3 – Djibril (SD 3)	Group 4 – James (SD 5)	Group 5 - Vincent (SD 1)	Group 6 – Chesha (SD 6)
Joe Richard Claudio Wanyama Rehan	Franklin Refilo Prem Vitou Farhan	Sigue Paul Diakite Emma Leonard Augustin	Ram Shrestha Jony Shaibu David E Ananya	Basanta Tezera Birgit Dorn Ashwin	Sharad Maggie Ernest Samuel Natasha Alana

The following six strategic directions (SDs) were discussed in the groups:

1. Continue promoting LI and PID approach to support transition to agroecology
2. Promoting and sustaining Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs) as a means of supporting farmer-led joint research
3. Building and strengthening farmer innovator networks
4. Systematic tracking and documenting PID outcomes/ impacts for increasing Prolinnova's visibility
5. Expanding Prolinnova's influence in ARD policy
6. Ensuring further growth and sustainability of Prolinnova as a community of practice

After lunch the groups shared the feedback from the discussions.

Wanyama shared the Group 1 presentation (SD 4: Systematic tracking and documenting PID outcomes/ impacts for increasing Prolinnova's visibility), Brigid presented on Group 2 (SD 2: LISFs).

The process was stalled for a few hours for a visit to the PDS facilities, but continued on the participants return to the venue.

Sigue presented on behalf of Group 3 (SD 3: Farmer innovator networks), Ananya shared the findings of Group 5 (SD 5: Policy) and Ashwin presented on behalf of Group 5 (SD 1: LI and PID) and Maggie conclude with a presentation on behalf of Group 6 (SD 6: Growth and sustainability).

See Powerpoints of presentation and feedback

Theme 1 was revised to “continue promoting LI and PID approach to shape agroecology”, so that we are not wanting to make AE our identity, but rather have our approaches integrated into the agroecology movement. It was suggested that we confirm in the strategy document what we mean by terms related to ‘shaping agroecology’; this may need another webinar to further discuss the matter.

In terms of South-South exchanges, it was highlighted that due to the diversities that exist within a particular CP, there would be value in considering which areas should be included in

such cross-visits. It was also highlighted that there might be a need to refine our guidelines for partnering with stakeholders, especially the private sector.

An onboarding process for new stakeholders would be helpful to address the challenge of our jargon. Also, the use of the skills within the network – which would benefit from the updating of the directory as a resource base.

Tour of PDS facilities

The first stop was the organic spice factory, which sources spices from approximately 2500 small-scale farmers and have multiple accreditation that allows them to export throughout the world – from the USA to Japan and from the EU to Australia. Then the group visited the museum that contains photographs and stories of different local innovations, as well as some equipment prototypes.

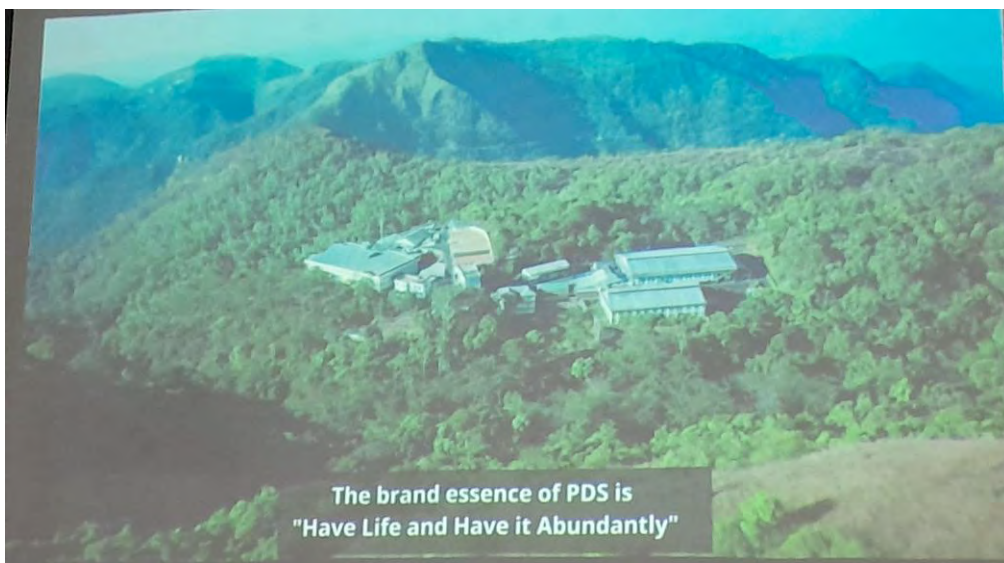


Figure 6: Photograph of the spice factory from the presentation given by PDS



Figure 7: Photographic evidence of farmer innovations and traditional knowledge (photos: Brigid Letty)



Figure 8: Different ways of sharing innovations at the PDS museum (photos: Brigid Letty)

Preparation for the field trip

Chesha explained that there would be four groups for the field trip the next day, Wednesday, and that they would have to prepare their presentations on their return to allow feedback in the late afternoon. The groups were given handout with guiding questions for interviewing the farmer innovators.

The participants were required to prepare a short presentation using any creative form on:

- a) What they learned about the innovator they met based on the guiding questions
- b) How Prolinnova should/ could continue to support farmer innovators in the next strategic period

DAY 3, 12 NOVEMBER

Field trip

Participants were divided into four groups and travelled by bus to different sites to meet with farmer innovators involved with different enterprises developed based on their local innovations. On their return, the groups prepared feedback from the trip.

Feedback from the field trip

Maggie facilitated the feedback session.

See Powerpoints from the 4 groups

Group 4: Mr Jose Kuchchudy Nutmeg variety and nursery

This group used a panel discussion to share information from their visit. This visit focused on nutmeg and especially on nursery production. There was some discussion about intellectual property (IP) and the process of selection and the increased levels of production he is now able to achieve with selling seedlings. The family is particularly innovative and has explored different farming systems. He has 450 nutmeg trees currently. In 2020 the variety was registered formally as a plant variety in the Indian Plant Variety Register. Regarding climate impacts, which he said have reduced his yields, he is trying to find ways of dealing with climate change. In terms of most inspiring things, the group members said:

- The way the innovator is maintaining the quality – using nets and other trees to provide shade for the nutmeg seedlings

- The impact that innovation has made for the family and the labour he hires, plus supply of high-quality seedlings that allows the community to aggregate and sell collectively.
- The quality of life – he emphasised that they will try to get to 20,000 seedlings but don't intend to keep growing.
- The approach of the farmer innovator to agroforestry and the organic production methods.
- The very long dedication to improving the variety, and pride of the farmer for his farm.
- When he asked the farmer about the permanent workers, but in this case there are times when no harvests and happening – and the farmer said he saves his profits to be able to pay salaries during the lean periods. He's also looking at diversifying to have other income sources.
- It was highlighted that many of the innovator's equipment (and materials used) might not be appropriate for Mozambique and some other countries because they are too costly.

Another innovation was that the farmer was planting a line of trees ahead of the nutmeg trees so that they would have shade.

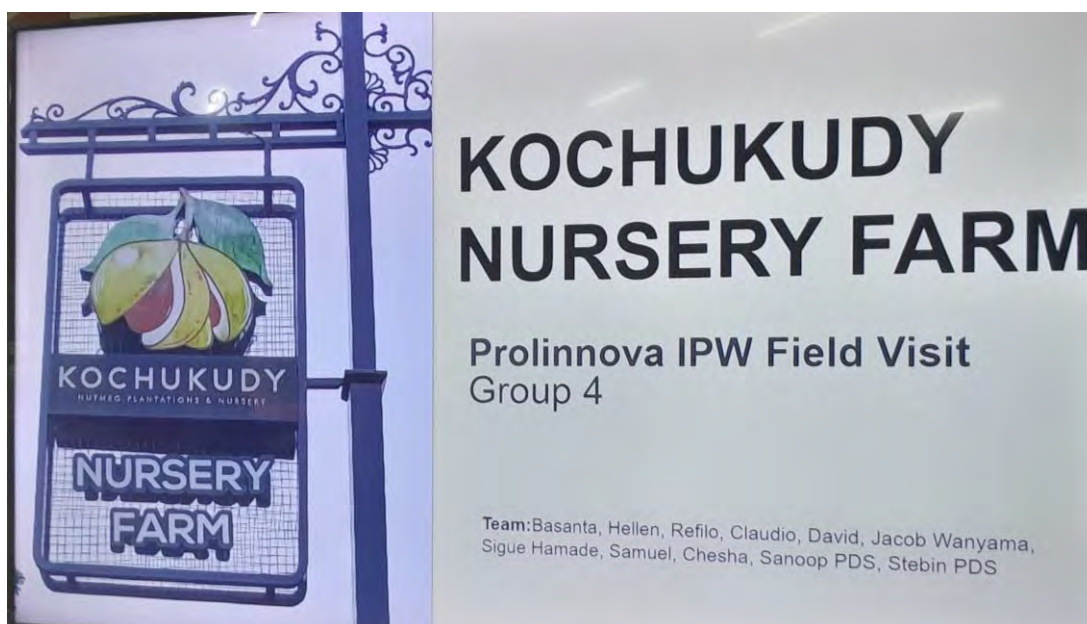


Figure 9: Group Four provided feedback on their visit to a nutmeg producer.

Group 3: Mr Joshy's multi-purpose thresher machine

This farmer uses a mixture of materials to make biofertiliser, and uses his machine to break them down. He developed it during Covid but has continued to modify the blades over time to allow it to process tough materials. He gives a one-year warranty on his machine. His brother is a mechanical engineer, who was helpful in developing the machine.

Besides awards, he also applied for support from the Kerala Agricultural University and is currently servicing a bank loan that he took to upgrade his business. He did receive publicity through various events. He has modified the machine to allow livestock owners to use it to make feed. He has sold about 550 machines and prices range from 1 Horse Power (HP) 65,000 rupees (715 USD) - 3 HP 1,300,000 rupees (14,300 USD). He is currently awaiting the results from applying for a patent. Unfortunately, he has not had the demand for the machine that he expected. It was also noted that this is not only one innovation, but is a process involving multiple innovations in tweaking the machine. Mohamed, as an engineer, could see some elements that could potentially be improved in future models.



Figure 10: Group 3 presenting about the threshing machine (photos: Brigid Letty)

Group 2: Mr Kunjuni (Pepper variety) and Mr George Mathew (pepper grafting)

This group visited to farmers experimenting with pepper. The first farmer has been experimenting with growing bush and vine varieties on a rootstock from a related plant species, using grafting. The second farmer had experimented with combining different pepper varieties using a different form of grafting that allows the characteristics of both species to be combined. The farmers had different views on protecting the varieties that they have developed. They were also both selling plant material as well as their pepper crop.

The feedback was provided collectively by the group participants, responding to a variety of questions.



Figure 11: Feedback from group two focused on grafting in pepper plants.

Group 1: Mr. Thomas (pepper variety innovator) and Farmer Producer Organisation

The innovation was in response to the lack of diversity within pepper varieties in Kerala and the farmer undertook to develop new varieties with higher yields. The farmer had won many awards for his bush type pepper variety that makes it far less laborious to harvest. They had received various sources of support that made their work better known. The farming system included integration of fish, and they also were growing the pepper on plastic poles, which needed attaching the vines. They are also selling grafted varieties to local farmers. A strength noted was that the innovation had started with a parent who had handed over the process down in the family. It was also highlighted that the department of agriculture gives recognition and awards and yet still promotes its own varieties.

The second case visited was a producer company that washes and grades produce. Many of the machines used by them are farmer innovations. It is a social enterprise that allows the farmers to have bargaining power with higher value crops such as cardamon.

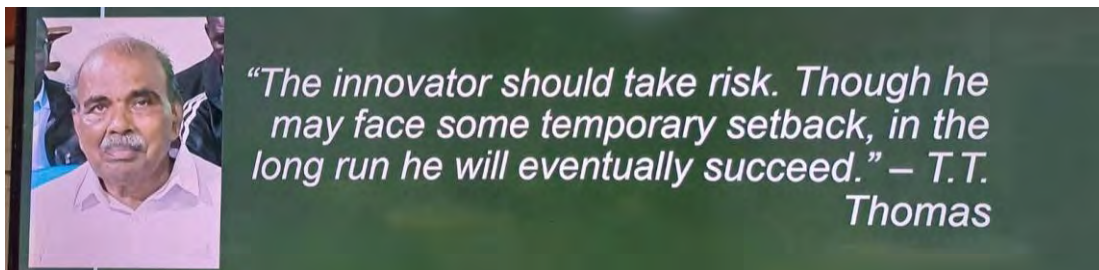


Figure 12: Feedback from Group 1 that visited a pepper farmer and a farmer producer organisation

Presentation from Ram Shrestha

Ram Shrestha as the joint secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development in Nepal had to return that evening, duty calling, and provided some of his ideas before leaving.

He stated that we are at a juncture within the Prolinnova network, and requested the IST to review the approach and achievements that have been made in the last decades. “We need to move forwards, and therefore need to look backwards”, he said. Some thoughts he shared were:

- The approach should be beyond technology and rather focus on building a system of LI and PID – which will require more training to integrate PID within the development frameworks and have more engagement with policy makers – making use of lobby groups that are around.
- It should go beyond this network of farmers and include conservation and collective action (such as buying), to solve farmers’ other value chain related problems.
- Traditional knowledge and customary practices also need to be accommodated within the framework of LI and PID.

While some aspects such as commercialisation and IP will be discussed this week, he called for attention to soil health – the need to encourage farmers to experiment with soil-related innovations, as well as the human/wildlife conflict, marketing issues and digital innovation. He also said that the work done by farmer innovators on climate-smart practices – need to be consolidated and disseminated to others.



Figure 13: Ram Shreshta (NSC Chair, Nepal) sharing his views with the participants ahead of his departure (photo: Brigid Letty)

DAY 4, 13 NOVEMBER

Chesha explained the programme for the day.

Session: Intellectual property rights and the knowledge commons

See Powerpoint (attached as annexure)



Figure 14: Presentation by Dorn Cox and Samuel Oslund (photo: Brigid Letty)

Dorn Cox and Samuel Oslund gave a presentation titled ‘Commons Enabling Infrastructure’ to start the session. They were trying to reframe the idea of innovation as a shared endeavour over multiple generations rather than being organised around protection. Hence the focus on legal, technical, social and financial tools to manage ‘knowledge commons’.



Figure 15: Dorn and Samuel, with translation support from Paul, sharing views on IP

Dorn spoke about FarmHack and the need to look globally for equipment and tools to build a local food system. Others structures exist such as OpenTEAM, demonstrating a movement from NGO to a community governance organisation. FarmHack is an open repository for local innovations, and sees itself as a community for farm innovation. They started to identify other relevant structures/networks that would allow them to share globally. In 2022, they brought together about 12 organisations from around the world to establish the Grassroots Innovation Assembly for Agroecology (GIAA). GIAA members met in January 2025 in Ahmedabad, India, where they established a charter and a governance structure, informed by the decades of work from Honeybee Network, Prolinnova and other similar initiatives.

The historical pattern of theft of local innovation without giving recognition to innovators, raised concerns about more theft by opening up information through their approach. Different options they have used include open-source licenses, trade secrets, defensive publications, copyrights, and prizes and grants – to incentivise innovation and provide some protection.

The concept of a ‘knowledge commons’ refers to information that is collectively owned and managed by a community of users. ‘Enabling infrastructure’ includes the administrative backbone to support an agricultural knowledge commons. The commons is the people and the way they are self-organised.

The idea of creating a charter emerged, to proclaim that there is a knowledge commons that states that everyone has access to the knowledge to improve livelihoods, but contribution of knowledge is voluntary and characterised by attribution.

They then facilitated a game called ‘From local spark to shared commons’.

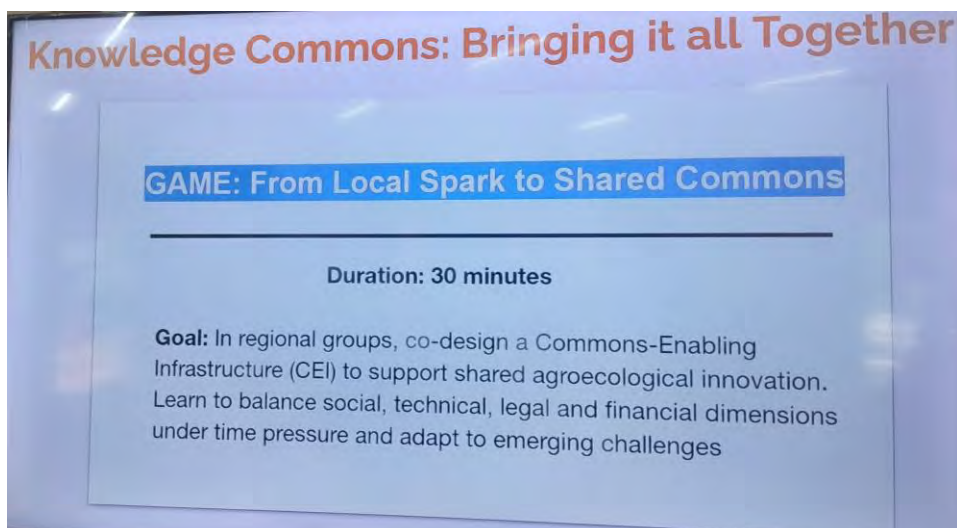


Figure 16: Aim of the game used to explore the concept of knowledge commons (photo: Brigid Letty)

Round 1:

It was explained by the facilitators that:

- The innovator agrees to share for mutual benefit.
- The documentarian pledges to document correctly and with full attribution.
- The community trustee pledges to hold the interests of the innovator and the community and negotiate on their behalf for the benefit of the community.



Figure 17: Groups discussing their agreements for sharing their innovations.

The first step was to select an innovator and allocate roles to group members, and then to allocate different types of agreements (and conditions for the agreement).

When we shared feedback from the groups, there was a challenge to get the groups to focus on the benefit sharing agreements, and they kept returning to the focus on the nature of the innovation itself, describing them in terms of the legal, social, technical and financial aspects, rather than considering the sharing agreements in terms of these aspects.

The exercise showed the complexity of the situation in terms of the requirements of different innovators and communities regarding the need to protect their innovations. The facilitators gave feedback on insights from the process, but also asked groups to move innovations if they felt that they could be shared at a global level.

Session: Commercialisation of products of the LI/PID process

See 2 Powerpoint presentations

Sharad and Wanyama facilitated this session. Sharad highlighted the need to clarify the term 'commercialisation'. He had a powerpoint presentation that started by highlighting that the current strategy for Prolinnova already refers to commercialisation of innovations, as well as market-oriented innovations. He suggests that Prolinnova's focus is on 'local markets'. He suggests that farmers are impacted negatively if we don't address market-related challenges.

The framework selected to discuss commercialisation was the 13 principles of agroecology as articulated by IPES with the relevant ones being fairness, social values and diets, economic diversification and connectivity.

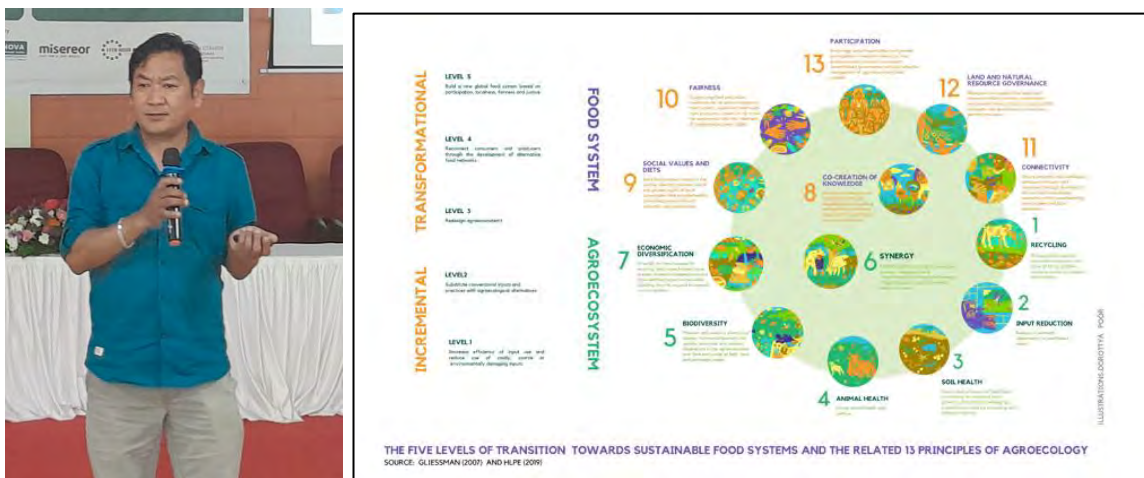


Figure 18: Sharad sharing a presentation about commercialisation within the framework of agroecology (photo: Brigid Letty)

Sharad shared a framework for considering commercialisation, explaining the role of Prolinnova as he sees it.

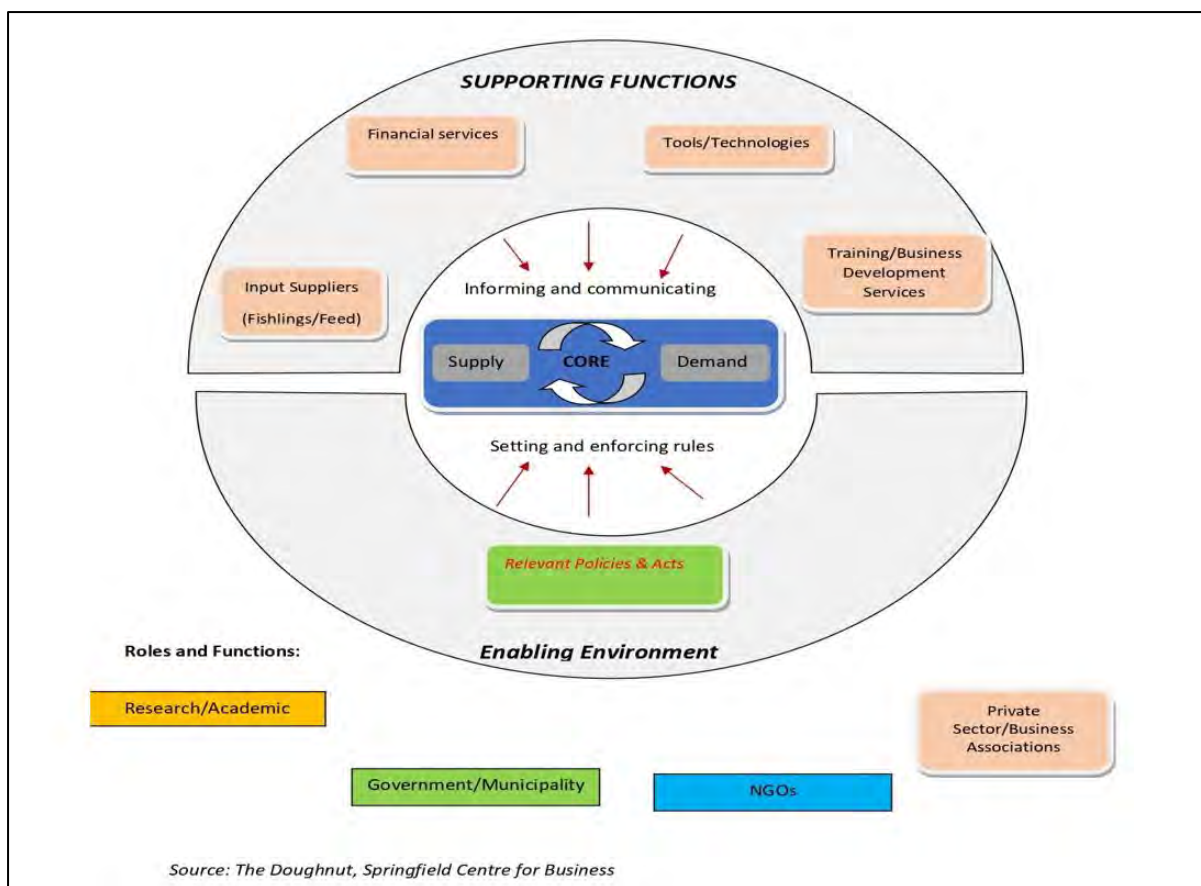


Figure 19: Framework shared by Sharad for working with commercialisation

Wanyama then shared about some of the opportunities that exist to support commercialisation within the PID approach:

- Scaling innovation responsibly (documentation and validation through PID is a basis for commercialisation).
- Inclusive value chain development (we should not only look at it at the end when the innovator has a product to market).
- Strengthening innovation ecosystems (MSPs can be incubators).
- Policy influence (commercialisation policies in particular).

Some challenges related to markets that we've seen include access to local market outlets, lack of collective action and lack of storage facilities, which forces farmers to sell even if prices are low.

Vincent then shared the Locally formulated Dairy Goat Meal (LOFODA-G Meal) case from Kenya. The farmer started by developing a meal based on the plants that indigenous goats were already eating. Then the mixture was further developed to meet dairy goat needs through a PID process. The innovation has led to a social enterprise that involves other community members, registered as Nyando Basin Lofodo Enterprise. The focus on LOFODA has also brought visibility for Prolinnova.

Vincent highlighted that some innovations provided opportunities for commercialisation and they wanted to ensure fairness and equitable benefits and have thus encouraged dairy goat farming in the communities where they work (one of the agroecology principles being fairness). The innovation has led to development of poultry and fish feed, as offshoots of the initial innovation. With improved dairy production, more value addition is now taking place (i.e. social

values and diets – another principle of Agroecology). Clearly, it has also contributed to economic diversification – with the integration of women and youth into production groups. They have applied to Kenya Bureau of Standards (KBS) but have not yet received approval. They are also considering that the enterprise, which reached this stage through the use of public (donor) money and resources via Prolinnova, should benefit the wellbeing of the network, so 10% of the profits are to be invested in the LISF.

Franklin asked a number of questions: (1) whether the focus on local markets is a Prolinnova process, as well as (2) how they are handling the pressure of the initiative on natural resources.

Sharad responded that we are probably not looking at (big) export markets initially and rather starting with a focus on local markets (i.e. not being too ambitious). Paul felt it could depend on other aspects of the project because the new Proli-SAM project focuses on territorial markets and commercialisation. Regarding Franklin's second question, and competition with other farmers. Vincent felt that the harvesting methods are sustainable, and that they are mostly harvested during the rainy season when there is abundance. Furthermore, local communities can buy LOFODA at a subsidised price. Community members, who don't have another cash crop, are also now producing fodder to supply the enterprise.

Birgit had a couple of questions about whether the process of supporting the PID has been documented as that is an innovation in itself, while the need to maintain the composition of the feed also needs to be monitored. Vincent said that after obtaining KBS certification they will check it again after two months. Chesha highlighted that the first time they submitted parameters to KBS, they failed because the aflatoxin content had exceeded the permitted threshold, which is why they are now drying in a solar dryer.

The second case that was shared was the experience of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in India, shared by Siby Joseph. The FPOs are supported by PDS and he explained that 70% of farmers are marginalised small-scale farmers who do not have economies of scale, which led to establishment of this institutional innovation in 2013, which provides access to inputs as well as collective bargaining and access to markets. The FPOs have executive directors that manage its business aspects. PDS was appointed by the government to provide hand-holding support to FPOs for a period of five years.

Mutizwa raised a point about the possibility of partnering with the private sector and referred to a discussion about who the private sector is in terms of the Agroecology Coalition. He asked who we as Prolinnova see as the private sector. The response was that we need to see if it has come up within the strategy session.

Following the two cases of commercialisation support, there was a description of the group work process.

Group Work (45 Mins)

Four groups to work on:

1. How do we support farmer innovators to access local markets (Facilitator - Brigid)
([Basanta](#), [Vincent](#), [Carolynne](#), [Tezera](#), [Maggie](#), [Birgit](#), [Ananya](#), [Alana](#), [Jony](#))

2. What are the collective marketing approaches that would be suitable for farmer innovators? (Facilitator - Wanyama)
([Joe](#), [Refilo](#), [Paul](#), [Augustine](#), [Vitou](#), [Emma](#), [Natascha](#), [James](#))

3. What approaches could be used to support local innovation with relevant technologies in the commercialization process? (Facilitator - Sharad)
([Shaibu](#), [Hellen](#), [Richard](#), [Leonard](#), [Sigue](#), [Franklin](#), [Peter](#), [Samuel](#), [Ashwin](#))

4. How do you strengthen policy support for commercialisation (Facilitator - Chesha)
([Dorn](#), [Djibril](#), [Claudio](#), [Ernest](#), [Mutizwa](#), [David](#), [Siby](#))

All groups to draft a definition of commercialization within the framework of LI/ PID and agroecology (consider the elements of agroecology mentioned in the presentation)

Group 1: Supporting farmer innovators to access local markets

This group included Basanta, Carolynne, Vincent, Tezera, Ananya, Alana, and Jony. Ways of supporting innovators to access markets that were identified included:

- Categorisation and identification of markets - Understand value add for different kinds of innovation. Identify the market - could be other farmers, scientists, private sector etc
- Build communication and awareness about the product. Awareness raising to raise publicity about the product through community gatherings such as burials, parties, religious ceremonies. Identify most appropriate ways of communication that speak to the community. Peer to peer, social media, youtube. Also note that awareness can create new markets. Aspects to do with branding, packaging
- Promote value addition techniques for the product in question to make it more relevant and attractive.
- Extension advisory services to the innovator.
- Expose innovations for purposes of networking and partnership building through community fairs, exhibitions, scientific symposiums.
- Documentation of innovations and their experiences and the solutions they provide. This is very crucial and will enhance community ownership and acceptance. Documentation also helps in upscaling.
- Capacity building of innovators on market strategies, rights, pricing, negotiation to build confidence.
- Awarding of the innovation and innovator to enhance recognition and confidence.

- Facilitate Multi Stakeholder Engagements on the innovation and conduct joint experimentation but with farmers taking the lead to build credibility in the market space

Points to ponder – these came through the group discussions

- Depends on the nature of the product. Seedling may be required locally, machinery may stretch to other local markets
- How can markets support local innovators instead. How does the market come to the innovator?
- The support from partners should be Stepwise..gradual metamorphosis but without complicating the process in the name of supporting farmers access markets. Otherwise farmer will loose focus and interest
- It is critical to prioritise simplification and inclusion as support is being extended

The group defined commercialization in their own understanding related to prolinnova values:

- Profitability although important should not be the primary agenda of commercialisation.
- The profit should benefit the community not only the farmer, so the aspect of social enterprise should be at the fore front. Value addition to the communities.
- Commercialisation should breed other innovations within the community.
- Local based commercialisation should present mutual benefits.

Group 2: Collective marketing approaches

This group was facilitated by Wanyama and included Joe, Refilo, Paul, Augustine, Vitou, Claudio, Emma, Natascha and Leonard. The list of possible options included tribal welfare community (TRIFED) supported by the government to set up retail shop for the tribal products (specialty); Online marketing; Farmer innovation marketing show; Weekend organic product selling point (Farmer market); and Collective shops.



Figure 20: Example of a collective shop.



Figure 21: Examples of product aggregation.

Group 3: Supporting local innovation with technologies for commercialisation

The team comprised Mohammed Farhaan, Siby Joseph, Hellen Mangoi, Franklin Avorny, Mohammed Shaibu, Samuel Oslund. In response to the question: ‘What approaches could be used to support local innovation with relevant technologies in the commercialization process’, the following ideas were suggested.

Approaches to Support Local Innovation and Commercialisation

Several key strategies were proposed:

- **Financial Mechanisms:** Suggestions included establishing a revolving fund that innovators could access, utilise, and pay back (without interest, typically) so that the fund is available for others. Linking innovators to financial institutions that offer fair loans with low interest rates was also mentioned. Furthermore, government schemes, such as those run by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), can provide crucial funds to popularise selected innovations, helping innovators benefit financially and gain public recognition. Initial support is required for this kind of work, and linking innovators to funding agencies or NGOs is important.
- **Infrastructure and Technology Access:** Participants discussed linking innovators to existing technologies, such as machines (for processing, washing, or chopping) that help them commercialise their innovations. A crucial idea was the creation of a common service facility or incubation centre—a shared workplace with specific tools and machines—where innovators can test, incubate, or get engineering support for their prototypes.
- **Awareness and Promotion:** Strategies for creating awareness included demonstrating the use of technologies to local innovators in workshops, meetings, or fora. Using platforms like food fairs, and utilising local media (radio or television) and social media for rapid popularisation were suggested. One specific marketing approach proposed creating a database where new innovative machines (like a pepper thresher) could be

uploaded, allowing retailers to easily learn about and spread the word about these new products.

- Capacity Building and Extension: Adopting a farmer-to-farmer exchange of knowledge approach was proposed, where the capacity of experienced farmers is built, enabling them to then train others in their communities. This peer exchange is also seen as a way to expose non-entrepreneurial farmers to successful commercial, entrepreneurial peers.

Challenges and Safeguarding the Innovator's Interests

A significant part of the conversation addressed safeguarding the innovator, particularly when linking them to investors or attempting commercialisation.

- Entrepreneurship Gap: It was noted that many innovators, especially those observed in the case of PDS, are not interested in commercialisation because they lack an entrepreneurial mindset.
- Respect and Protection: There is a strong consensus that the group must respect and safeguard the interest of the innovator. Before popularisation or commercialisation, protection measures, such as Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), need to be ensured, as there are many examples where innovators have lost their work due to copying and lack of protection.
- Fair Partnerships: Linking innovators with private industry is a useful strategy, especially when innovators cannot afford validation expenses. However, this requires a fair partnership between the innovator and investor, often solidified through MOUs or agreements, to ensure benefit-sharing and prevent exploitation.
- Patent Reform: The current process for obtaining a patent is slow (often taking five or six years in India), suggesting a need to innovate on or modify the patent management process itself to help with commercialisation.

Defining Commercialisation within the Agroecology Framework

The conversation concluded with a specific task: drafting a definition of commercialisation within the framework of Local Innovation, PID and Agroecology.

- Key Concepts and Values: The definition needed to integrate the values, focusing on keywords like sustainable supply, safeguarding innovators, promoting environmental sustainability, and partnership. It must also ensure the satisfaction of the farmer in terms of respect and money.
- Non-Exploitation and Fairness: Commercialisation should be done such that the user of the innovation is not cheated, avoiding the amassing of wealth for one person, making it a non-exploitative process. Strengthening linkages and ensuring equitable benefit sharing are critical.
- **Proposed Definition: Commercialisation, as it applies to LI and PID, can be defined as the process in which local innovators are empowered to improve their innovations to standards that can be accepted by many users to increase their income and livelihoods.**

This collaborative effort highlighted that supporting local innovation is not merely about providing funds or machines, but about creating a systemic environment that prioritises fairness, protects intellectual assets, and fosters entrepreneurial growth in a non-exploitative manner.

Commercialisation Framework for Local Innovation and PID

This process necessitates a framework built on Agroecological values, ensuring it is **sustainable** and **non-exploitative**.

A rough framework:

Safeguarding the Innovator

The framework must prioritise the interests and rights of the local innovator:

- **Respect and Protection:** We need to **respect the innovator**. This requires safeguarding the innovation itself and ensuring **protection of IPR**. Without IPR protection, innovators risk losing control of their work, allowing others to copy it and make money.
- **Formal Agreements:** Safeguarding interests also means developing agreements, such as MOUs, between the innovator and the investor.
- **Streamlining Processes:** Innovating on the patent process itself, perhaps by fostering a faster rate of receiving a patent, would provide a solid form of ownership and help with commercialization.

Fairness and Non-Exploitation

The commercial process must actively prevent unfair practices:

- **Fair Partnerships:** The partnership between the innovator and an investor should be conducted in a **fair manner**.
- **Equitable Benefit Sharing:** There must be an **equitable sharing of benefits**. This is essential to avoid exploitation.
- **Avoiding Cheating:** Commercialisation should be done such that the users of the innovation are **not cheated**, and the process does not allow one party to amass wealth for themselves while other people fail to get value for their money.
- **Satisfaction:** The goal includes the **satisfaction of the farmer** (innovator) in terms of both respect and monetary reward.

Participatory Structure and Support

The framework requires collective involvement and targeted assistance:

- **Partnerships:** Commercialisation is viewed as a **participatory process** that requires partnerships, as it is not a single person's job. Strengthening linkages and connectivity is key.
- **Financial and Technical Support:** Because many innovators may not be financially sound or able to afford the expenses for validating or standardising their technology, initial support is required. This support can come from government departments (like the Department of Science and Technology), NGOs, or funding agencies.

- **Common Facilities:** Support can also include providing common facilities—such as **incubation centers**—where innovators can test their innovations, access machinery, or receive engineering help.

By ensuring that the process is **sustainable**, avoids exploitation, and focuses on **increasing the income base and improving the livelihoods** of the local innovators, the framework successfully blends commercial viability with social and ecological responsibility.

Group 4: Strengthening policies for commercialisation

The following key points emerged from this group's discussions.

1. Evidence and Documentation - Need for clear evidence to support documentation of innovations and processes.
2. Criteria for Commercialization should include:
 - Role of the market
 - Product quality
 - Assessment of the market and business plan
 - Criteria for social, economic, and environmental change
3. Inclusion of Communal Interests
 - Ensure that communal interests are reflected, not only commercial interests.
 - Clarify the role of the private sector, including Collaboration partners, Farmers and ensure the development of common standards
4. Social Protection Systems - these should incorporate relevant rules and regulations that support commercialisation.
5. Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) - can make standards more inclusive; and should apply to local, national, and export markets.
6. Youth and Women's Innovations - Document and provide evidence on the role of youth and women in commercialisation; and ensure their contributions are recognised within social protection systems.
7. Safeguarding Informal Systems - Protect existing informal systems, even when they do not pay tax. For example: Senegal's 10% rule requiring a share of fertilisers to be locally produced; which leads to a wider categorisation of structures (formal/informal).
8. Consultative Frameworks – should allow for stronger farmer voice through group-based consultative frameworks. This requires mechanisms for farmer representation, which can be organised along value chains.
9. Community Agreements - Many communities use non-written business agreements. Consider options for formalising these agreements.
10. Solidarity Groups - these can support advancement and commercialization of innovations.
11. Policy Analysis - Conduct policy analysis to understand enabling or constraining conditions.

Role of PROLINNOVA

1. Support for Local Innovation - Promote commercialization of local innovations.
2. Linking Innovators to Value Chain Actors - Facilitate connections between innovators and value chain actors, e.g., transport services.
3. Ensuring Value Chain Profitability - Ensure profitability for the innovator and for all actors involved in the value chain surrounding the innovation.
4. Innovation Process and Joint Experimentation - Support joint experimentation as part of the innovation process. Outcomes may lead to commercialisation and to linkages with value chain actors. This may require formal agreements with actors outside the community and informal agreements with actors within the community.
5. Environmental Sustainability - Assess and ensure the environmental sustainability of innovations.
6. Commercialisation as a Process - View commercialisation as a process that reflects both maturity level and financial viability.
7. Communal Interests - Ensure alignment with broader communal interests.
8. Social Acceptance - Assess social acceptance of innovations prior to scaling.
9. Innovation Readiness - Evaluate innovation readiness in terms of whether all necessary ingredients for scaling are in place and what does the market ecosystem looks like.

Session: findings from the final evaluation of the ELI-FaNS project

The session was facilitated by Joe Nchor from ACDEP, Ghana, project coordinator of the ELI-FaNS project. Silvere Toignan, the consultant who undertook the final evaluation of the ELI-FaNS project shared his findings by Zoom. He used a powerpoint presentation that highlighted the following:

- The self-assessment of transformation of participants' innovation capacities revealed that they had moved from being innovation users to innovation creators.
- Despite the limitations of having small numbers of respondents, they indicated that the innovations contributed to their wellbeing.
- The LISFs were seen as decentralised rural financing mechanisms that enhanced community ownership and gave communities local decision-making power.
- All innovations were seen to respond directly to rural development challenges with high potential for scaling and replication.
- A number of gender transformative outcomes were noted, related to social influence, economic growth and technical and social skills.
- In terms of institutionalisation of LI/PID, the status was said to be progressive integration at different levels across countries.
- The strategic framework proposed by the external evaluator was:
 - Complete institutionalisation (policy, academia, programmes)
 - Financial autonomy (diversified funding, revenue generation)
 - Full African governance (regional leadership, endogenous capacity).

See powerpoint presentations

DAY 5, 14 NOVEMBER

The overall programme for the day was presented by Chesha and Djibril.

Session: Fund raising and dealing with the changing donor landscape and trends

Chesha and Djibril facilitated this session. They explained the assignment to the participants who were to work in four small groups using the world café format. The facilitators explained how the world café format worked. The groups were asked to write short and clear ideas on colour cards, each table using a different colour. Each table was asked to select a table owner who would stay at the table while the other participants rotated to other tables and added to the ideas at each table they visited. Three rotations were done, each for 15 minutes with 5 minutes for the rotations. The owner of the table was expected to harvest as many ideas as possible from the visitors to the table. The topics for the tables were as follows and included funds to keep the network functioning and funds to continue our work in the communities:

Table 1: Sustaining the LISFs to ensure that the LI/PID process can be continued within the communities

Table 2: Developing a resource mobilization strategy for Prolinnova (consider the different levels as country/ regional and international level both for field activities and operations)

Table 3: Diversifying the resource mobilization base for Prolinnova (looking beyond the current donor base)

Table 4: Increasing the capacity, legitimacy and visibility of Prolinnova to attract like-minded funders

The table owners presented the ideas collected at each table:

Topic 1 Sustaining the LISFs to ensure that the LI/PID process can be continued within the communities

- Exclusive group account
- Benefit sharing
- Fund management
- Mobilise funds locally
- Capacity on proposal writing based on evidence
- Explore external funds (government and private); criteria-based; self-help groups
- Shared infrastructure that allows to more effectively receive and distribute funds
- Community-managed rotating funds
- Clear structure and guidelines on loans, procedures, monitoring, dispersal
- Membership fee structure for continuity – improve management
- Contribution pooling from commercialisation
- Understand how to manage and plan network funds
- Reinforce capacity and build leadership; advocacy dialogue
- Build local ecosystem relationships
- Knowledge and financial literacy sharing
- Support initiatives through facilities and networks
- Small microloans and loan education – microfinance education
- Rotating funds

Topic 2: Developing a resource mobilization strategy for Prolinnova

- Mapping and profiling potential/ aligned partners and collaborators as all levels (CPs, Regional)
- Identification of timelines for each partner and communication to the partners
- Reinforce the POG and support and capacitate them to be able to engage at the different levels
- Recruitment of relevant and influential network members and capacity building for mainstreaming LI/PID
- Align with the current government strategies
- Build up social enterprise and local rotating/ microfinance funds
- Support local enterprise development
- Customise the strategy to suit the different levels (CPs, Sub-regions etc.)
- Strategic documentation of achievements and contribution to different sectors
- Explore CSRs – recognition by the government for linkage
- Establish a strong lobby group
- Explore consortia
- Align with current donor trends
- Enhance controlled flexibility
- Enhancing visibility and networking (update website and make it easier to navigate)

Topic 3: Diversifying the resource mobilization base for Prolinnova

It will be important to revisit current donor priorities to understand how different donors are positioned. As the language and priorities of donors shift, the landscape becomes more opportunistic, and we are in a way compelled to mirror these changes in our own structure and proposals. This means we need the capacity to respond quickly and strategically. A dedicated fundraising team would be essential—one that can adapt rapidly, maintain strong relationships with donors, and draw on ready-made, country-specific proposal materials aligned with an overall Prolinnova Portfolio that is rooted in the new strategy.

To keep operations and network membership free, we also need a structured donor-reporting system. Country platforms should be empowered to write their own proposals and respond to donors' evolving expectations. Some adaptation in the packaging of our work may be required.

One option is to create funding pools aligned with clusters of philanthropies, while maintaining strong donor relationships. All projects should centre local innovation and participatory innovation development, with space to integrate additional themes—such as soil health—around this core. A library of innovations could help communicate our unique value and attract funding from those who benefit from our work.

Access to national funds is another important opportunity. Country platforms should be more active in networking and lobbying in-country. However, accessing national support may be challenging where accountability is scrutinised because Prolinnova is not officially registered. At national level, platforms could also help farmers access government programmes (e.g., in India). Generating income locally—for instance through social enterprises—could strengthen financial autonomy.

Crowdfunding offers an additional avenue, creating direct public support for Prolinnova projects. Overall, it would be useful to have a diversified portfolio of funding sources aligned with Prolinnova principles. Contributions to the portfolio could be monetary or non-monetary, such as collaborations with schools and universities, or exchanges involving students and

experienced farmers. Investment for commercialisation is another option, potentially through partnerships, donations, or start-up funding expecting returns.

For more traditional funding pathways, we could pursue partnerships with northern collaborators who share our values and can lobby effectively among northern donors. International and national projects should include overheads to support Prolinnova operations and fundraising capacity.

Finally, sharpening Prolinnova's profile is key. Participatory innovation development has multiple entry points—job creation, business development, agroecology, climate change—and our donor strategy should be organised around these thematic areas. At the same time, we should remain flexible in adapting our approach and responding to the specific focus areas of individual donors. With philanthropists, there may also be room to negotiate priorities and support for proposal development. Ultimately, maintaining a strong, flexible funding portfolio will allow us to respond quickly to upcoming calls—large or small. Dorn also suggested exploring a fundraising cooperative, which could further strengthen our capacity.

Topic 4: Increasing the capacity, legitimacy and visibility of Prolinnova to attract like-minded funders

Capacity:

- Cross learning webinars
- Vetting process for prospective partners
- Standard “pitch deck”
- Building relationships and connections through shared spaces (ask funders for their networks – who could we be connected with?)
- Advocate outward from within, build platform capacity, train existing people

Legitimacy

- Respect Prolinnova's governance principles
- Follow the vision
- Financial transparency within the network and within the communities
- Active and trustful website and social media
- Strength of authenticity by not pandering to the market (focus)
- Marketing and impact
- Focus on Cp/partner organisation/ prolinnova strengths

Visibility

- Funders care about evidence and report presentations
- Mapping funders – reinforcing capacity – strong documentation
- Storytelling to create accessible narrative to appeal to donors
- Using press/ mass media to build awareness, presence on various projects (eg. open events)
- Document evidence and share/ diffuse (sharing ideas too)
- Identify favourable partners for favourable strategy
- Look at international events and spaces
- Using social media to look at farmers' current presence. Encourage youth. Look for youth funding
- Many orgs now use social media to look for donors
- Attractiveness of consortium to donors and efficiency for organisations.
- Outreach in existing networks

- Engaging academia to publish Prolinnova related work
- Building r/ships and connections through shared spaces
- Reach outside of existing networks
- Look to CoP as a way to present Prolinnova internationally
- Inviting donor reps to the local context
- Unique partnerships and complementary collaboration based on partner organisations' strengths

Session: Action planning

This session was facilitated by Brigid and Paul. As Brigid has her right hand in a sling after the accident, Sharad helped with doing the typing and updating the action planning table. Brigid had cleaned up the action plan from the previous IPW and AfPW and then facilitated a session on the outstanding actions from the two previous events. Some actions were re-scheduled and some actions were dropped as they were not done and not relevant anymore.

Thereafter the actions arising from this IPW were added to the action plan as in Annexure 2.

Closing of the IPW

Chesha and Djibril facilitated the closing, saying thank you to all who were involved in making the event a success. A special word of appreciation was due to the staff of PDS who had work untiringly and with great enthusiasm to ensure that things ran smoothly. A special word of thanks was given to James and Fr Sabu, who had been fully supportive and ensured that all the necessary permissions were obtained to hold the event. Thereafter Fr Sabu handed a small momento to all the participants on behalf of PDS and gave a vote of thanks and officially called the IPW to a close.

ANNEXURE 1: PROGRAMME FOR IPW 2025, INDIA

Day 1: Monday, 10 November 2025				
Time	Activities	Presenters/organisers	Moderation and time keeping	Comments
8:30–10:00 (120 mins)	<p>Setting up the information market place and mini farmer innovation fair: Country Platform (CP) participants set up stands to showcase material (posters, booklets, any other info) from the CP partner organisations as well as the projects they are involved in under the ProInnova umbrella. Each country to bring flag to decorate their stall.</p> <p>Invited farmer innovators from Kerala set up their stands.</p>	CP participants and invited farmer Innovators/ PDS staff	James	<i>Coordinated by staff of PDS and Marion College for translation Malayalam to English</i>
9:30–10:00	TEA/ COFFEE BREAK			
10.00 – 13.00 (180 mins)	<p>Official opening of the workshop/information market/ mini farmer innovation fair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opening prayer – Welcome: TJ James, CP Coordinator (5 min) – Opening Address: Fr Bobby Alex Mannamplackal, President, Peermade Development Society (5 min) – Inauguration: Dr N Anil Kumar, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board (10 min) – Lighting of the traditional lamp – Felicitation: Fr Hubby Mathew, Director, Social Services, St Thomas Mission Society, Mandia, Karnataka (5 min) – Felicitation: Dr. Ram Krishna Shrestha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal (5 min) – Felicitation: Dr. Mutizwa Mukute, Co-Chair, ProInnova Oversight Group (5 min) – Felicitation: Dr N P Anish, Deputy Registrar (Academic Affairs), Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (5 min) – Felicitation Fr. Sabu John Panachikal, Executive Director, Peermade Development Society (5 min) – Opening of the mini farmer innovator fair and information market 		Chesha/ Djibril	<i>to be organised by PDS, including drawing up a programme for the opening, lighting of the lamp, opening prayer etc.</i>
12:30 – 13:00	Presentation of certificates to farmer innovators and group photo			

13.00 – 14.00	LUNCH BREAK			
14:00 – 16:00 (120 minutes)	Introduction of participants/ overall programme and logistics (60 mins) Introduction of participants; overview of logistical arrangements and programme for workshop Introduction to Peermade Development Society (10 – 15 mins) CP and SRC Presentations (60 mins) – 10 minutes per CP CPs present their key achievements in past 2 years, plans for advancing Prolinnova’s approach in the next two years (with or without funded projects) and key challenges Asia region CPs- Nepal, Cambodia, Philippines, RC-Asia	Sharad/Chesha Mr Joseph CPs	Brigid/Paul Siby	CPs will be provided with a PPT template consisting of 4 slides/presentation
16.00– 16.30	TEA/ COFFEE BREAK			
16.30– 18.30 (120 mins)	Continuation of CP and SRC presentations (10 mins per presentation) Eastern and Southern Africa Sub-region (ESA) CPs – Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, Ethiopia, SRC-ESA West and Central Africa Sub-region (WCA) CPs – Benin, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, WCA-SRC	CPs	Brigid/Paul	
Closure for the Day (and announcements)				
Dinner – 7:30 pm				
8:30 onwards – meeting of Prolinnova Asia partners (Sharad, Prem, Ram Krishna, Basanta, James, Vitou, Maggie and Chesha)				
Day 2: Tuesday, 11 November 2025				
8.30– 9:30 (60 mins)	POG feedback on network-related issues and achievements: - Feedback from POG on key issues from previous year and meetings - Functioning of CPs (host organisations, CP coordinators, meeting minimum commitments; dormant CPs, potential new CPs) and National Steering Committees - Functioning of SRCs, IST and POG	Mutizwa Mukute/ Birgit Habermann (POG co-chairs)	Wanyama/ Paul	
9:30 – 10:30	Prolinnova strategy for 2026–2030 – Way forward	Mutizwa/ Djibril		Arrange Zoom link for Koma

(60 mins)	Presentation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strategy development process (summary) - Outline of strategy document - Generating feedback from participants on different aspects for the next five years (key thematic areas, key activities) - Organisational structures and roles in Prolinnova with Regional Support Teams and Regional Oversight Groups becoming functional – interactions, sharing and learning among different bodies at different levels) 				(Cambodia) to join the meeting.
10.30 – 11.00	TEA/ COFFEE BREAK				
11.00–13:30 (150 minutes)	Prolinnova strategy for 2026–2030 – Way forward (continued) Group work on strategic directions and plenary presentations	F/SD Team	Task	Wanyam a/ Paul	
13.30–14.30	LUNCH BREAK				
14.30–15.00 (30 mins)	Preparation for field visit next day (instructions and handout)	James, Chesha and PDS team			
15:00 – 17:30	Tour of Peermade Development Society	PDS team			
<i>Tea will be served during the tour. This will be followed by sightseeing to be back in time for dinner</i> Dinner 19:30					
20:30 Evening session (1 hour) – Discussion on agroecology promotion in Nepal and experiences in Millet value chain development – led by Ram Krishna Shrestha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal					
Day 3: Wednesday, 12 November 2025					
7:30 – 14:30	Field visits – four small groups to four locations Group 4 to leave at 7:00 am; Groups 1, 2 and 3 leave at 7:30 am	Field groups	visit	PDS staff	<i>Organised by PDS staff; each group to have a translator from Malayalam – English – Malayalam</i> <i>Each group will also have an English-French-English translator</i>
14:30 – 15:30	ARRIVAL in PDS and SHORT BREAK				
15:30 – 16:30	Preparation of group presentations				

16:30 – 18:30	Group presentations	Maggie/ Paul	Chesha and Paul	
Closure for the Day				
Dinner 19:30				
Day 4: Thursday, 13 November 2025				
8:30 – 10:00 (90 min)	Protecting the intellectual property of farmer innovators: Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs); open source; protection of data/IP in relation to local innovations; individual vs, group patents; do we need to patent or not? How do we ensure wider sharing of local innovations while protecting IPRs? Agricultural knowledge commons and the role of technology	Dorn Cox (Farm Hack)	Chesha/ Djibril	
10:00 – 10:30 (30 min)	- Discussion (Dorn and Samuel) Group work in IPRs Presentation of group work	Samuel Oslund (11 th Hour)		
10.30 – 11.00	TEA/ COFFEE BREAK			
11:00 – 12:30 (90 min)	Commercialisation of products of local innovation; social enterprise development; benefit sharing; supporting marketing innovations through PID or building capacity for effective marketing etc. - Discussion (Wanyama and Sharad) Examples from Prolinnova: - LOFODA commercialisation in Kenya (Vincent - Prolinnova Kenya) - Farmer Producer Organisations in Kerala (Siby Joseph, PDS, Prolinnova South India) Group work on Commercialisation	Sharad/ Wanyama	Chesha/ Djibril	
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH			
13:30 – 14:00 (30 min)	Presentation of group work - commercialisation	Sharad/ Wanyama	Brigid/ Paul	
14:00 – 15:00 (60 min)	ELI-FaNS project – findings of final evaluation/ feedback from participants - Short introduction to ELI-FaNS project – PPT (Joe) - ELI-FaNS evaluation and findings – PPT (Silvere) – by Zoom - Group discussions on findings and sharing in plenary Future perspectives	Joe/ Evaluator (on-line)	Brigid/ Paul	<i>Arrange Zoom link for evaluator to share his findings</i>

15:00 – 15:30	TEA/COFFEE BREAK			
15:30 – 17:00 (90 minutes)	ELI-FaNS project – findings of final evaluation/ feedback from participants (contd)	Joe/ Evaluator (on-line)	Brigid/ Paul	
Closure for the Day				
19:30 – 22:00	Cultural and musical evening with dinner (with traditional clothing and music from CPs)	Students of Marian College/ Sharad		Organised by tourism students of Marion College
Day 5: Friday, 14 November 2025				
8:30 – 10:30 (120 mins)	Fund Raising, changing trends in donor funding; diversification of funding portfolio; creative means of generating funds Group work on fund raising/ presentations of group work	Chesha/ Djibril	Sharad/ Paul	
10:30 – 11:00	TEA/ COFFEE BREAK			
11:00 – 11:30 (30 mins)	Presentations of group work on fund raising	Chesha/ Djibril	Sharad/ Paul	
11:30 – 12:30 (60 mins)	Open Space for new ideas and initiatives	Idea owners		
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH			
13:30 – 15:30 (120 mins)	Action planning Looking back at previous plan and drafting new plan	Brigid/ Paul	Chesha/ Djibril	
15:30 – 16:00	TEA/ COFFEE BREAK			
16:00 – 17:00 (60 mins)	Evaluation of IPW (30 mins) Closure of IPW (30 mins)	Maggie/ Djibril James/ Sabu/ Mutizwa/ Chesha	Chesha/ Djibril	

ANNEXURE 2: ACTION PLAN IPW 2025

No.	Actions	By whom	When
<i>ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS WORKSHOPS</i>			
1	<i>Identification of digital cases in CPs</i>	<i>Caroline, Vincent, Samuel and Wanyama to follow up with SRCs regarding cases (if available)</i>	<i>February 2026</i>
ACTIONS FROM IPW 2023			
2	<i>Documenting institutionalisation case study in Mali</i>	<i>Paul and Diakit�</i>	<i>Jan 2026 (Start) – Feb 2026 (End)</i>
3	<i>Share experience on MoU in SA</i>	<i>Koki, Ernest, Vincent, Brigid</i>	<i>July 2026</i>
ACTIONS FROM AfPW 2024			
4	<i>Finalise the last webinar report</i> <i>Finalise the institutionalisation booklet</i>	<i>Paul, Brigid, Chesha, Wanyama</i>	<i>December 2025</i> <i>April 2026</i>
5	<i>Follow up on Cambodia for documenting institutionalisation</i>	<i>Chesha, Sharad and Vitou</i>	<i>June 2026</i>
6	<i>Follow up on Ethiopia for documenting institutionalisation</i>	<i>Yohannes (Chesha to contact by end of 2025 and get feedback)</i>	
7	<i>Follow up with John Kaganga in Uganda to documenting institutionalisation of PID in FO</i>	<i>Chesha and Daudi (Chesha and Wanyama to follow up by end of 2025)</i>	
8	<i>Document impact of conflict on local innovation in Ethiopia</i>	<i>Yohannes (Chesha to contact by end of 2025 and get feedback)</i>	
9	<i>Include a 2-hour introductory training session on theatre in next workshop</i>	<i>Alvim (Claudio to contact)</i>	<i>2026 AfPW</i>
10	<i>Explore SA case on institutionalisation in NGO</i>	<i>Brigid</i>	<i>March 2026</i>
11	<i>Explore Cameroon case on institutionalisation – needs to</i>	<i>Etoa and Paul</i>	<i>End of December 2025 (for confirmation)</i>

No.	Actions	By whom	When
	<i>be defined (extension or university)</i>		
NEW ACTIONS FROM IPW 2025			
1.	<i>IPW Report (Draft 1) Chesha to contact David for students' note</i>	<i>Brigid and Chesha</i>	<i>End January 2026</i>
2.	<i>Personal reflections on IPW</i>	<i>Alana</i>	<i>Mid December 2025</i>
3.	<i>IPW Report Final</i>	<i>Brigid</i>	<i>End March 2026</i>
4	<i>Final strategy doc (2026-2030)</i>	<i>FSD team</i>	<i>Mid February 2026</i>
5.	<i>Translate and share Mali and other CPs documents on website</i>	<i>Paul, Diakite and other WCA CPs</i>	<i>End of January 2026</i>
6.	<i>Digital documentation of innovation related to pest control Sharing and dissemination</i>	<i>Alana (lead), Shaibu, Diakite, Richard, Helen, Leonard, Samuel, Dorn</i>	<i>January 2026 (Start) – June 2026 (Draft)</i>
7.	<i>Two scientific articles on ProliGeaFaSa project</i>	<i>Sique, Augustine, Paul</i>	<i>March 2026</i>
8.	<i>Working group on commercialisation including IPR Develop Plan of Action</i>	<i>Sharad (lead), Wanyama, James, Joe, Vincent, Dorn</i>	<i>December 2025</i>
9	<i>AfPW (Benin to host)</i>	<i>Paul, Benin CP, IST</i>	<i>November 2026</i>
10	<i>Asia Partners workshop</i>	<i>Sharad, Maggie, James, Vitou and Chesha (IST)</i>	<i>TBD</i>
11	<i>ESA farmer innovation fair and symposium</i>	<i>IST, Vincent, and sub region support team</i>	<i>June – August 2026</i>
12	<i>Forum on Water Management WCA</i>	<i>Djibril, Paul, (CPs in Senegal, Burkina Faso)</i>	<i>February – March 2026</i>
13	<i>Online support to DRC</i>	<i>Paul, Djibril, Emma</i>	<i>End of February 2026</i>

No.	Actions	By whom	When
14	<i>Documentation of integrating Lis in the curricula of academic institutions in Nepal</i>	<i>Sharad, Basanta, Dharma, Yogendra (AFU, IAAS, Ilam university)</i>	<i>End of March 2026</i>

ANNEXURE 3: COMPILATION OF POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

Compilation of PowerPoint Presentations for IPW 2025

CP and Regional platform Presentations

International Partners Workshop

10 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

[Country Platform (CP) report for the period October 2024 to October 2025: achievements, lessons learned and future perspectives]

Cambodia

Sam Vitou

Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities (without funded projects)

- ❑ point 1: Prolinnova Cambodia shifted its Coordination from Centre d'Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambogien (CEDAC) to Community Developer Organization (CDO) in 2022
- ❑ Point 2: Substituted of some NSC members from different institutions
- ❑ Point 3: Continue working with Cambodia Agriculture Cooperative Union (CACU) on climate resilient agriculture especially on rice production



Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities (without funded projects)

Policy Influence:

Royal Government of Cambodia has set two priority policy programs for agriculture to be launched immediately in 2023 :

- ❑ Point 1: *Introducing coordinating mechanism and financing program that enhance agricultural production, market access and price stability at a reasonable level and*
- ❑ Point 2: *Deploying agricultural technical officers to all communes that have agricultural activities (**Commune Agriculture Officers, CAO**) across the nation and forming farmer associations in rural areas.*



Key lessons learnt (3)

- ❑ point 1: Institutionalisation is a key factor to sustain Prolinnova initiative including administration and innovation
- ❑ Point 2: Staff turn-over can affect institutionalisation process.
- ❑ Point 3: CP can be established and its members motivated led by individuals who has internalized its mission, principles and approach.

Key challenges faced (3)

- point 1: Lack of documentation of local innovation that evolve from time to time
- Point 2: Absence of formal policies that support local innovation
- Point 3: Staff turnover of dedicated individuals

Future plans for advancing Prolinnova's mission in the CP

□ Using PID Approach:

1: CDO will work with PDAFF, RUA and CACU to promote low-emissions rice production in Cambodia (PLER) through Alternative Wet and Dry (AWD) farming

2: CDO will establish an internal control system and apply it to all rice producer group members to achieve organic standard certification, particularly in rice farming

3: CDO seeks the possibility to cooperate with Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) to implement Carbon Finance on Mangrove based agroforestry



International Partners Workshop

10-14 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

**[Country Platform (CP) report for the period October 2024 to
October 2025: achievements, lessons learned and future
perspectives]**

Nepal

Prem Bahadur Thapa
Ram Krishna Shrestha

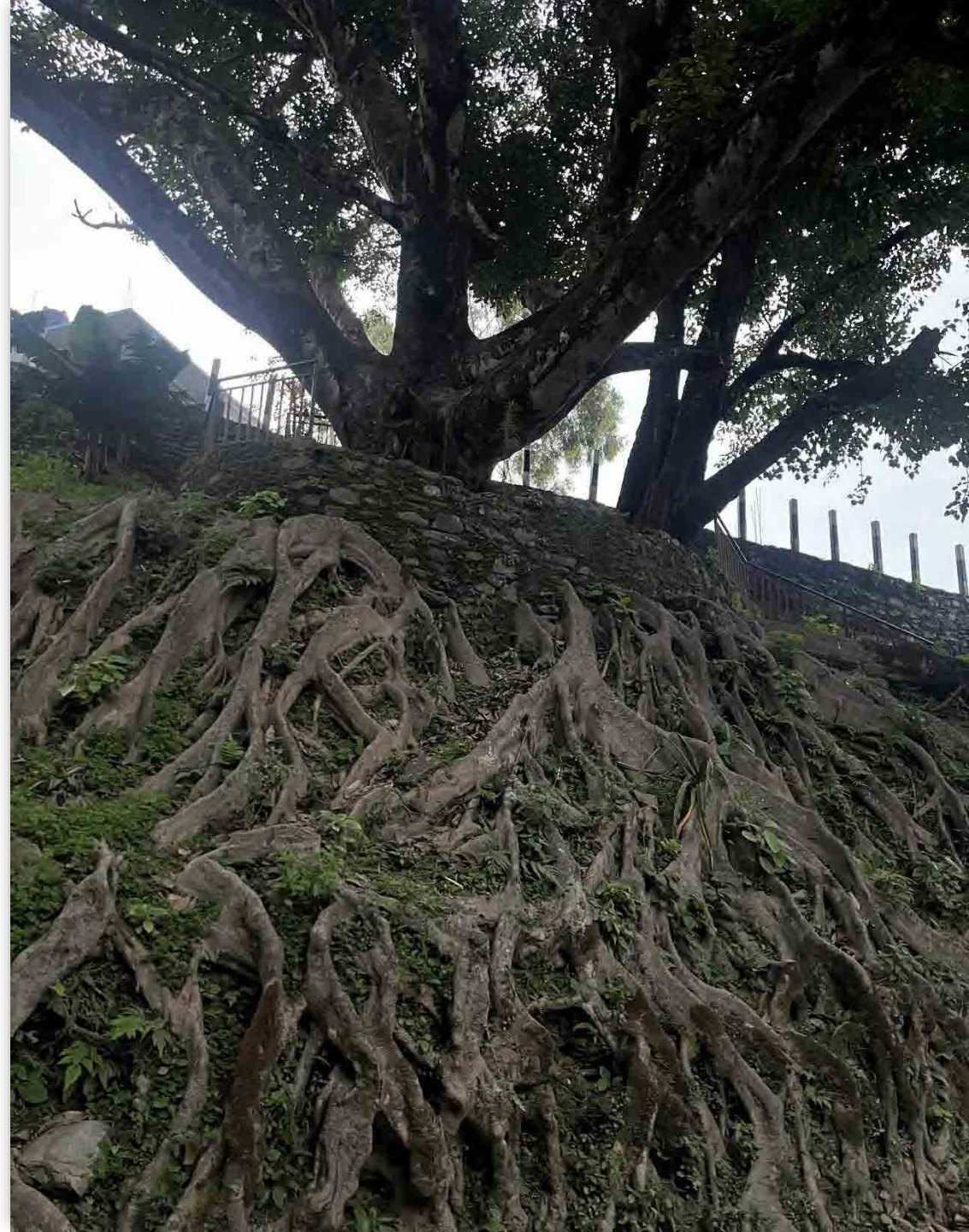
Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities

- ❑ Interactions with **like-minded professionals & institutions** (MoALD, LIBIRD, SAHAS, NPG, & others) separately & together with Chesha (**inactive since 2013**) – Strengthened NSC
- ❑ **NWG reconstituted** drawing membership (five members) from the institutions having a long association with Prolinnova
- ❑ Attempts for mainstreaming the local innovation and PID within the **GoV framework**; Interactions with **University students**; **Orientation** in Ilam, Nepal; local innovations in the context of CC and increasing vulnerability in **agrifood system being discussed** within NSC/NWG
- ❑ An article *“Integrating local innovations and multiplying their benefits within an agroecological farming system: Learning from farmer innovator Chandra Prasad”* a case of Chandra Pd Adhikari in *Appropriate Technology*, Vol. 52, No, 1. **published**



Key lessons learnt

- ❑ Institutions & professionals are interested to join hand-in-hand but feeling difficulties in operation because of **less priority in planning**. Resource to accelerate the network **values and strategies** into practice
- ❑ Local innovators are empowered, and it can add immense value with little support – but needs sharing strategically.
- ❑ Holistic approach considering the entire agrifood value chain needs to emphasize in Prolinnova policy & programs



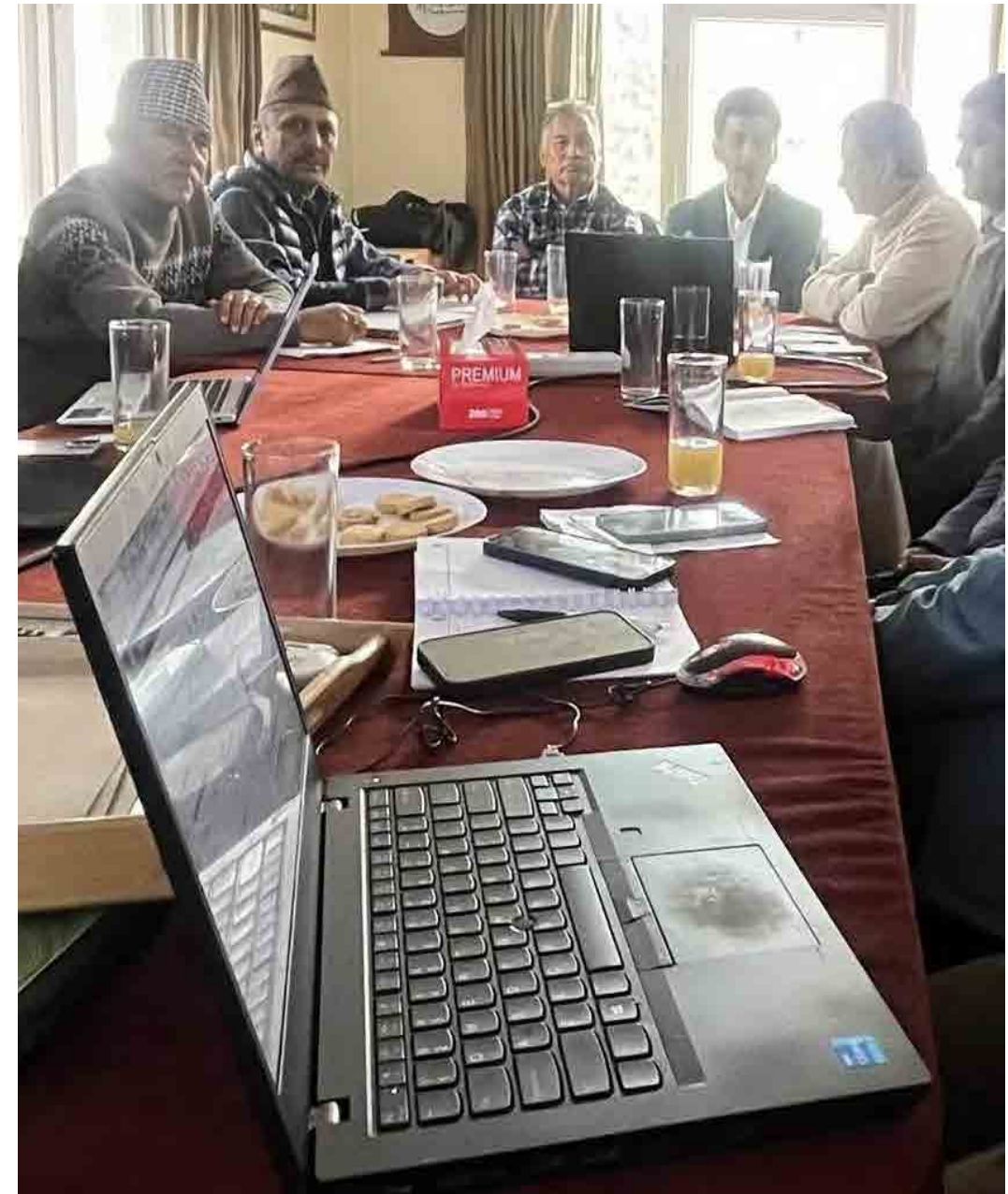
Key challenges faced

- ❑ Awareness on the importance of local innovation among the major stakeholders including the political leadership & policy makers
- ❑ Less focus on joint efforts on learning documentation and its consolidation. Recent socio-political situation including many others has made Nepal further difficult and uncertainty.
- ❑ Lack of resources for furthering and institutionalizing the local innovation as well as strengthening the PROLINNOVA network



Plans for advancing Prolinnova mission in the CP

- ❑ Regular meeting of National Steering Committee and National Working Group
- ❑ Accelerate documentation and sharing; learning and local innovation & CoPs (e.g.: case of Tulsi Gyawali in Chitwan)
- ❑ Promoting local innovation needs to be mainstreamed within internal programmes by GOs, INGOs and national/local NGOs.
- ❑ Proposal development for nominal level resource generation to implement agreed plan for strengthen Prolinnova mission





--- THANK YOU ---

International Partners Workshop

10-14 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

Country Platform (CP) report for the period October 2024 to October 2025: achievements, lessons learned and future perspectives

PHILIPPINES

Maggie Rosimo, IIRR



PHILIPPINE COUNTRY REPORT

PROLINNOVA

PROMoting Local INNOVation
in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

IPW 2025

Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities

Key Results:



Strengthened partnership with state universities (SUC) in participatory action research



Revisited the opportunities with the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Training Institute



3 SUCs engaged to introduce PTD and PID
 Visayas State University, Cavite State University, Central Luzon State University

Key lessons learnt

Opening wedge activities to engage future allies for PID



Finding the right focal to become champion for PTD/PID



Key lessons learnt

Looking for common grounds



Key challenges faced

- ❑ Active partnership only happens when there is a (shared) project.
- ❑ Change in leadership with partner organizations, sometimes (often) change in priorities and strategies

Future plans for advancing ProInnova's mission in the CP

For the academe pathway:

**Collaboration on action
research in all field
programs of IIRR,
deepening the partnership
specifically with the
academe's extension office
on participatory**



Future plans for advancing Prolinnova's mission in the CP

For the DA ATI pathway:

**Explore co-
development of training
program on PTD and
PID**





THANK
YOU!

International Partners Workshop

10-14 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

SRC-ESA report for the period **October 2024 to October 2025**: achievements, lessons learned and future perspectives

Prolinnova ESA Sub-Region Platform

Jacob Barasa Wanyama

Key ESA-SRC achievements

- Subregional Governance & Coordination
 - ESA Charter finalised and signed by 7 CPs (2023)
 - ESA Support Team (ESASST) complete & EOG nomination ongoing
 - Virtual Secretariat (Wanyama, Rumuald, Mawahib)
 - Regular coordination meetings of ESAPP members
- CP Capacity Building & Inter-CP Collaboration
 - 5 CPs with NSCs; Kenya most functional
 - Capacity needs identified: PID, documentation, LISFs, institutionalisation, governance
 - PID trainings for Kenya & SA (2024)
 - Backstopping to SA (x2), Moz (x2) & Kenya (x2)
 - Inter-CP Learning (Kenya - Uganda, SA - Kenya, Mozambique- SA)



Key KEY SRC-ESAPP achievements

- Policy Dialogue, Institutionalisation & Fundraising
 - PID strategy; Kenya implementing, Mozambique & South Africa drafting theirs
 - Institutionalisation discussions with Moz, & Kenya & SA)
 - FIF & C (April 2024): major policy engagement platform
 - CGIAR Science Week & FAO FFS Award
 - Kenya–Uganda proposal to EARAF (April 2025)
- Documentation and Knowledge Sharing)
 - Webinar series; reports uploaded
 - Appropriate Technology Journal Articles (Moz, Uganda, Kenya, & SA)
 - Annual reports (2023 & 2024) shared
 - ESAPP coordination meetings reports



Key lessons learnt



- The success of regionalisation depends on the availability of resources at both the CP and regional levels, as well as on members' governance, networking, and mutual interests.
- Weak Country Platforms impede progress.
- Countries engaged in Prolinnova projects are the most active. ESAPP started with eight countries, but now has four active members, three of which have Prolinnova projects.

Key challenges faced

- CP Performance
 - Civil - Disrupted CP activities in Sudan; coordinator active from exile
 - Inactivity – CPs such as Ethiopia are inactive, but individuals remain engaged
 - Declared dormant – Zimbabwe (2023), Tanzania (2022)
- Resource Constraints at both ESAPP and CP Levels



Future plans for advancing Prolinnova's mission in the ESAPP

- Strengthen resource mobilisation efforts at both the CP and sub-regional levels (multi-country).
- Conclude the ESA-Subregion Oversight Group & Institutionalise ESAST, and POG coordination meetings.
- Continually to strengthen the current four active CPs in resource mobilisation (at CP and multi-country levels – concentrating on these active CPs.
- Monitor the emerging trends in CP-peer support to partners interested in forming their CPs



THANK YOU



Guidelines for CP presentations for IPW 2025

All CPs prepare a short update on LI/PID activities in the past year (October 2024- October 2025) and plans for advancing the approach in future (**with or without funded projects**)

1. Each CP has **10 minutes** which is:
 - 5 minutes for presentation
 - 5 minutes for translation
2. Following **each batch** of CP presentations there will be **15-20 minutes** for questions for clarity / to harvest issues for discussion later.
3. Focus on **activities after October 2024** – including network development, identifying and documenting LI, support to farmer-led joint research (PID), learning/ sharing events, mainstreaming in different organisations; support to curriculum development etc.
4. Limit to **6 slides**, including cover; the content of each slide is indicated in the heading of the slides below.
5. **Each slide should have a photograph and a maximum 3 short bullet points** that the presenter uses for presentation.

International Partners Workshop

10-14 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

[Country Platform (CP) report for the period **October 2024 to October 2025**: achievements, lessons learned and future perspectives]

[Ethiopia]

**[Tezera Getahun
tezerag@yahoo.co.uk]**

Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities (**with or without funded projects**)

point 1

Point 2

Point 3

Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities (with or without funded projects)

point 1

Point 2

Point 3

Key lessons learnt (3)

- ❑ point 1: From past experience PROLINNOVA is a commendable development approach promoting farmers innovation

- ❑ Point 2: PROLINNOVA need to be customized according to country priorities

- ❑ Point 3: Lacks Visibility

Key challenges faced (3)

- point 1: Different PROLINNOVA hosting organs in Ethiopia and lacks institutional memory
- Point 2: Weak communication and funding opportunities with the hosting organ
- Point 3: Inadequate follow up on PROLINNOVA activities from the Steering committee

Future plans for advancing Prolinnova's mission in the CP (3 ideas)

- ❑ point 1: Learning approaches and strategies from partners, and customize to the Ethiopian context
- ❑ Point 2: Identify key issues from the conference and plan the future PROLINNOVA
- ❑ Point 3: Integration of PROLINNOVA into the UNIYRP in 2026 and other programs like “Farmers Day” and “Pastoralist Day”

International Partners Workshop

10-14 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

Prolinnova Kenya report for the period October 2024 to October 2025: achievements, lessons learned and future perspectives]

KENYA

VINCENT MARIADHO & HELLEN MANG'OI

Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities

- ❑ Eleven local innovations fully documented (Farmer-led Research)
- ❑ Five local innovations subjected to PID exercise and outcome documented (Farmer-led Research)
- ❑ Presentation as Panelist in five major events; Locally and internationally (Institutionalization of PID)
 - Network and connections created



Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities

- ❑ Farmer innovators showcased at various events (Dissemination)
 - Increased exposure of innovators
 - Enhanced innovators' confidence
 - Exposure and recognition of innovators
- ❑ Accelerated fundraising (Resource mobilization)
 - Agroecology fund-Successful
 - BMEL-Concept note approved
 - ESA-FIF & Symposium (PK partners and 11th Hour)
- ❑ Commercializing LOFODA-G-Meal
 - Equipment (Solar dryer)
 - Factory land purchased



Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities Cont'd

❑ Scaling out and continued efforts on institutionalization of PID

The Kenyan agroecology strategy 2024-2033 launched in November. Pillar 4 targets to strengthen research, innovation and training to foster co-creation and co-learning on agroecological approaches





Key lessons learnt (3)

- ❑ Agroecology has gained momentum in the food and nutrition security and climate change adaptation space. Need to fully align Prolinnova work.
- ❑ The survival of a CP lies on the organizational strengthening-LMSPs and NSC
- ❑ Institutionalization of PID requires persistence and consistency



Future plans for advancing Prolinnova's mission in the CP (3 ideas)

- Expand the PK membership
- Develop PK 5 year strategic plan (2026-2030)
- Accelerate resource mobilization and networking

International Partners Workshop

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Country Platform (CP) report for the period
October 2024 to October 2025: achievements,
lessons learned and future perspectives

Mozambique

Claúdio Machabana

Main achievements of the NP in relation to Prolinnova-related activities (with or without funded projects)



- ▶ Reactivation of forest nurseries after destruction during post-election demonstrations
- ▶ Training students in the manufacture of grass pots for plant nurseries and chicken coops
- ▶ Dissemination of improved granaries in two communities
- ▶ Backstopping meetings by Jacob Wanyama

Backstopping meeting by Jacob Wanyama

September 2025



Key lessons learned (3)

- ▶ Young people are clearly concerned with minimising the limitations that communities face in the food production and processing process. This is the case of the innovative Rafael, who invented a watering can for vegetable gardens from recycled cans, and Sélio, who invented a dual-purpose processor (grater/strainer) from scraps of zinc sheet metal.



Main challenges faced (3)



- ❑ Destruction of the nursery and infrastructure of the Tchemulane Association—a very active member of our platform
- ❑ Poor fundraising due to the task force's limited availability and a significant reduction in the number of potential donors.

Perspectives

- ❑ Encourage greater involvement of research and educational institutions in DPI/IL.
- ❑ Revitalise the task force to be more active in fundraising.
- ❑ Identify more innovations.

International Partners Workshop

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Country Platform (CP) report for the period
October 2024 to October 2025: achievements,
lessons learned and future perspectives

Mozambique

Claúdio Machabana

Principais realizações da PN em relação às atividades relacionadas com a Prolinnova (com ou sem projetos financiados)



- ▶ Reativação de viveiros florestais após destruição durante as manifestações pos-eleitorais
- ▶ Capacitação de alunos em matéria de fabrico de vasos de capim para viveiros de plantas e para ninhos de galinhas
- ▶ Disseminação de celeiros melhorados em duas comunidades
- ▶ Encontros 2 de *backstopping* por Jacob Wanyama

Encontro de *backstopping* por Jacob Wanyama

Setembro 2025



Principais lições aprendidas (3)

- ▶ É notória a preocupação dos JOVENS em minimizar a limitação que as comunidades enfrentam no processo de produção e processamento de alimentos. É o caso do inovador Rafael que inventou regador de hortícolas a partir de latas recicladas e; do Sélio que inventou processador com duplo uso (ralador/coador) a partir de retalhos de chapa de zinco.



Principais desafios enfrentados (3)



Constrangimentos

- ❑ Destruição do viveiro e infra-estruturas da Associação Tchumulane- um membro muito ativo da nossa plataforma
- ❑ Fraca angariação de fundos devido à falta de disponibilidade da *task force* e à redução significativa do número de doadores potenciais.

Perspectivas

- ❑ Estimular o maior envolvimento de Instituições de pesquisa e de ensino no DPI/IL.
- ❑ Revitalizar a *task force* para ser mais ativa na angariação de fundos
- ❑ Identificar mais inovações

International Partners Workshop

10-14 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

Country Platform (CP) report for the period October 2024 to October 2025: achievements, lessons learned and future perspectives]

[South Africa]

[Richard Chuene, Refiloe Thobejane, Ernest Letsoalo and Brigid Letty]



Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities (with or without funded projects)

Institutionalisation efforts in Limpopo:

- Presentation at the LDARD Extension & Advisory Services Conference, November 2024.
- IP workshop at University of Limpopo, Jan 2025
- PID findings posters presented at SA Society for Agricultural Extension, July 2025 and at Indigenous Plant Use Forum, August 2025
- Biofertiliser research proposal presented to LDARD Research Committee, Oct 2025

Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities (with or without funded projects)

- ❑ Wanyama's backstopping trip in Aug 2025
 - ❑ UL postgraduate students presented research proposals to university research committee and data collected in learning side
 - ❑ Infusing PID processes into other UL modules at undergraduate and honors levels
- ❑ PID supported through ELiFaNS - Limpopo: Biofertiliser & Biopesticide; KwaZulu-Natal: Maize stalk borer control, Calf feed formulation, Chicken production
- ❑ Governance: Limpopo PTT and NSc Meetings, ELiFaNS external evaluation by Silvere in September 2025.



Key lessons learnt

1. Farmer-led research empowers innovators, However, be clear about ProInnova and avoid raising expectations.
2. Working together as team (LPTT) makes it easier to conduct PID, write articles and share responsibilities.
3. Finding other projects (KZN) / own work programmes (Limpopo) that can extend support to PID is a form of institutionalizing the approaches



Key challenges faced

1. **Urgent need of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between LDARD and Prolinnova, UNIVEN and Prolinnova; and between UL and Prolinnova.**
2. Identification of new innovation to conduct PID without any big expectation.
3. Local innovation support funds/facilities not yet pursuit and operationalise.



International Partners Workshop

10th -14th November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

**Country Platform (CP) report for the period: October 2024 to
October 2025: achievements, lessons learned and future
perspectives**

Uganda

By Ms. Nakajubi Carolyne Kirabo

Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities



Virtual briefing on network issues and 2025 plans; launched social media and updated profiles and website.



Secured an 18-month agro-ecology project with Prolinnova Kenya (Aug 2025), launched with initial meetings and a 4-day PID training.



Documented four innovations—solar incubator, biochar, biofertilizer, banana-wilt pesticide—shown at PID training and slated for PELUM Uganda week



PID training event (22nd Oct – 25th Oct 2025)

Key CP achievements in relation to Prolinnova-related activities



CP Chair Mr Ssentongo judged the FAO farmer field school innovation competition in Rome (13–18 Oct 2025), spoke on community innovations, and attended grassroots agroecology sessions.



Trained youth from higher-learning institutions to make biodegradable potting materials from leaves and banana fibres.



Farmer-led research in Wakiso on using Bakash for banana nematode control was adopted by 165 farmers.



Participated in agroecology events, including UNFFE National Agriculture Show (Jul 2025), PELUM-Uganda agro-ecology week (Oct 2024), Harvest Money Expo, and PEWOSA shows.



CP members participating in the Farmer's fair- 2025 organized by UNFFE

Key lessons learnt

- ❖ Consortium approaches effectively mobilise resources, demonstrated by a funding award from a Uganda–Kenya CP partnership.
- ❖ Assigning a platform focal person plus the CP coordinator improved stakeholder communication and coordination, activating the platform.
- ❖ Partnerships and information sharing among members expanded the platform's technical, knowledge, and resource base.



Key challenges faced

- ❖ Capacity gaps in identifying and documenting local innovators, causing financial strain for activities like exhibitions.
- ❖ Weak knowledge of intellectual property rights among innovators, deterring open sharing of innovations.
- ❖ Lack of simple, accessible PID materials, hindering effective grassroots training.
- ❖ Socio-cultural norms limit women's engagement and access to productive resources, reducing their ability to innovate.
- ❖ Reluctance from public and private institutions to invest in grassroots innovations due to perceived low economic returns.

Plans for advancing Prolinnova's mission in the CP (3 ideas)

- ❖ Identify and document grassroots local innovations more thoroughly.
- ❖ Strengthen and expand partnerships with platform members, other CPs, and strategic partners.
- ❖ Pursue joint resource mobilisation with members and partners to fund more activities.
- ❖ Lobby for institutionalisation and public investment in the PID approach.
- ❖ Increase member participation and coordination in national exhibitions to showcase local innovations.
- ❖ Consolidate the CP through joint planning and regular catch-ups to create an aligned strategic plan.

International Partners Workshop

10-14 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

**[West and Central Sub regional Platform report: achievements,
lessons learned and future perspectives]**

Paul Jimmy, Subregional Coordinateur for WCA

Key SRC-WAC achievements in relation to Prolinnova -related activities

- ❑ **Training & capacity building of CPs**– Regional PID training workshop in 2024 in ELI-FaNS targeted CP: Benin (10/1W), Burkina Faso (17/1W), Ghana (24/5W): equip and strengthen MSPs members to lead efficiently project activities (LI, JE, LISFs)
- ❑ **Backstopping visits**– Burkina Faso (July 2024, October 2025); Benin (March 2024, August, 2025); Senegal (September 2025); Ghana (August 2024): meet with stakeholders, understand the context of MSPs, support MSPs in their structuring and operation, giving recommendations or orientation for new MSPs formation (ex. Burkina Faso CP for new Proli-SAM project)
- ❑ **Regionalisation /structural aspect** – sub regional CPs meeting, Charter reviewed, ST-WCA and OG-WCA signatures ongoing (5/6), sharing the charter on the Prrolinnova site web (asap)
- ❑ **Regionalisation/functioning aspect** – webinars series (PID institutionalization in research and education; in government extension and NGO), AfPW, IFIF&C: spaces for knowledge sharing, mutual learning
- ❑ **Documentation** – Supporting PID institutionalization documentation (ex. Case study on Government extension services and NGO in Ghana and Kenya leading to a webinar held in April 2025; Contributing 4 publications in Appropriate Technology Magazine: e.g., “Action funds stimulate mutual learning towards improving child nutrition in Benin” (NaviNut project)



PID training group photo in Benin, March 2024



Meeting with the NSC members in Ghana, August 2024

Key SRC-WAC achievements in relation to Prolinnova -related activities

❑ Policy dialogue : PID approach in the spotlight

- Participation and presentation at the 7th Africawide Agricultural Extension Week (AAEW Malawi 2025) / African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)
- Participation and exhibition Prolinnova materials at the International Colloquium on Agroecology organized by Benin National Agricultural University

❑ Networking

- The facilitation of the formation and approval of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) partners as a new Prolinnova CP in April 2024
- Nigeria CP reactivation process ongoing (e.g., preparing together application to CS4RAA call on Climate services but did not succeed to apply)
- Connexion with Welthungerhilfe (WHH): German NGO to support policy advocacy towards German development policy more derived from the African policy on food systems and agriculture (discarded).
- Sorghum Foundation contact for a potential cooperation around local innovation and farmer-led research related to sorghum value chain (to be followed-up)

- ❑ **Fund raising**– New Proli-SAM project (*Strengthening farmer-centered multi-stakeholder platforms for local innovation and sustainable agroecological markets in the Sahel*) proposal by Burkina Faso and Senegal CPs, in partnership with South Westphalia University of Applied Sciences (FH SWF) got selected among 4 best proposals out of 80+ applications by BMEL, got approval for the initiation phase funding leading to the submission of the detailed 3 year research project for a final evaluation.



SRC-WCA presentation at AAEW 2Malawi 2025



SRC-WCA sharing Prolinnova to the Chancellor of UNA

Key lessons learnt

- ❑ Significant capacity and potential among stakeholders in the WCA sub-region regarding local innovation, PID, and LISFs
- ❑ Potential for proposal writing for calls application among CPs and subregional Platform members
- ❑ A climate of cooperation and trust is necessary for stakeholder engagement and contribution to the network
- ❑ High motivation and continuous communication with CPs useful to maintain commitment

Key challenges faced

- Low connexion with sub-regional ARD organizations (CORAF, ARAA/ECOWAS)
- Different levels of participation and commitment among country partners
- Need to support a harmonized understanding of Prolinnova principles and guidelines
- Limited presence in academic literature of Prolinnova concepts, knowledge, and experiences

Future plans for advancing Prolinnova's mission in WCA subregion

- ❑ Establish/ Strengthen linkages with ARD institutions and organizations at the subregional level with a view to greater regionalization
- ❑ Make the subregional platform's bodies more operational by increasing commitment, subregional project initiatives and engaging the policy dialogue and mutual learning
- ❑ Increase the capacity of stakeholders to mobilize resources and get involved
- ❑ Increase scientific literature writing (opportunities with Proli-SAM project)



Thank you for your kind attention / Merci/ ጠጤ (nandi)

Atelier international des partenaires

10-14 novembre 2025, Idukki, Kerala, Inde

[Rapport de la plateforme nationale (CP) pour la période d'octobre 2024 à octobre 2025 : réalisations, enseignements tirés et perspectives d'avenir]

[BENIN CP]



[Léonard ADJE]

Principales réalisations du CP en rapport avec les activités liées à Prolinnova (dans le cadre du projet ELI-FANS)

- ❑ 11 DPI sur les deux sites d'apprentissage avec 5 innovateurs: 3 sur le site de Tchaourou et 2 sur le site de Bembéréké. 4/5 des innovateurs sont des femmes et jeunes qui représentent 80% des bénéficiaires.
- ❑ 14 FIL ont mis en place sur les 2 sites (7 FIL par site). 100% des bénéficiaires sont des femmes et hommes de moins de 35 ans
- ❑ Mise à échelle (commercialisation de toutes les IL ayant fait l'objet de DPI; participation des innovateurs à diverses foires alimentaires notamment à celle organisée au cours du mois du consommateur locale en Octobre 2025 à Parakou.)



Quelques innovateurs avec leurs innovations codéveloppées, emballées et étiquetées



Image de l'innovation sur le fromage de soja amélioré en vente sur le marché de Badékparou

Principales réalisations du CP en rapport avec les activités liées à Prolinnova (en dehors du projet Elifans)

- ❑ **Documentation et diffusion:** couverture médiatique d'activités, diffusion de deux bulletins politiques et du catalogue des IL au cours de diverses rencontres locales, nationales et internationales;
- ❑ **Participation en ligne à la conférence Tropentag** le 12 Septembre 2024 organisée à Vienne en Autriche / Présentation d'une communication poster par la Coordinatrice sur le thème **“La Facilité d'appui à l'Innovation Locale (FIL) comme catalyseur de la créativité des agriculteurs dans l'élaboration de solutions innovantes pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle au Nord-Bénin”**;
- ❑ **Participation de deux innovatrices (Latifa et Ganigui) aux jurys de soutenance** d'étudiants ayant travaillé sur l'élaboration de business plan autour de leurs innovations à l'Université de Parakou.
- ❑ **Exposition de deux innovateurs (Latifa et Orou Méré) à la foire des innovations transdisciplinaires** organisée par l'Université de Parakou le 22 septembre 2025, en marge d'un séminaire international d'été ayant mobilisé des participants de 16 pays d'Afrique et d'Europe;
- ❑ **Implication de Prolinnova Bénin** dans la liste nationale des plateformes d'innovations et dans le **cadre de concertation multi-acteurs du secteur agricole** du Bénin;
- ❑ **Participation à deux ateliers de concertation** sur les programmes et projets d'adaptation aux changements, organisés par le ministère du cadre de vie et du développement durable du Bénin, en collaboration avec divers partenaires techniques et financiers internationaux;



Quelques images d'exposition des innovateurs au cours du summer school international organisé par l'université de Parakou sur les moyens de subsistance



Participation de Latifa (Site 1) et de Ganigui (site 2) aux jurys de soutenance à l'UP



Présentation en ligne du poster sur le FIL au Tropentag 2024



Photo de famille de l'atelier sur la résilience face aux changements climatiques au Bénin

Principaux enseignements tirés (3)

- ❑ La stratégie de préfinancement des activités est efficace pour pallier au problème lié au retard dans les transferts de fonds
- ❑ Les médias et réseaux sociaux locaux sont des outils incontournables dans la promotion de l'innovation locale; comme moyen d'atteindre la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle
- ❑ La multiplication des occasions d'interaction entre paysans innovateurs et acteurs de la recherche scientifique est un puissant moyen pour booster leur capacité d'innovation et faciliter l'institutionnalisation

Principaux défis rencontrés (3)

- Quelques difficultés rencontrées dans la collaboration sous régionale et internationale
- Retard dans le transfert des fonds
- Difficultés procédurales d'intégration officielle des approches de Prolinnova dans les curricula de formation (cela demande du temps)

Projets futurs pour faire avancer la mission de Prolinnova dans le CP (3 idées)

- Réflexion sur des projets pouvant susciter l'intérêt de potentiels bailleurs
- Recherche de nouveaux bailleurs potentiels
- Exploration des opportunités nationales de financement d'initiatives de promotion d'innovation locale



Merci de
votre
aimable
attention
!
Thank you!

misereor
GEMEINSAM GLOBAL GERECHT

PROLINNOVA INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS WORKSHOP (IPW) 2025

National Platform Report

PROLINNOVA-BURKINA FASO



W. Augustin OUEDRAOGO

Main achievements of the Country Platform (CP) related to activities linked to Prolinnova

- ❑ **Point 1** : Implementation of Projects **ELI-FANS, FaReNe, Proli GEA FaSa.**
- ❑ **Point 2** : Documentation of local innovations and PID processes
- ❑ **Point 3** : Organization of exchange visits **around joint experiments and local innovations**



Main achievements of the Country Platform (CP) related to Prolinnova activities

- ❑ **Point 1** : Holding review and planning meetings for project activities with the National Steering Committee.
- ❑ **Point 2** : Organization of radio presentations on innovations and PID processes
- ❑ **Point 3** : Evaluation of Local Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (LMSPs) and Establishment of the National Network of Innovative Farmers



Main lessons learned

- ❑ **Point 1 :** The importance of a shared vision:
A platform functions effectively only when all stakeholders understand and commit to a common vision. Without it, initiatives become fragmented and cohesion weakens.
- ❑ **Point 2 :** Transparency, communication, and respect for commitments are the cornerstones of the sustainability of PMPs and PMPLs; they strengthen collective dynamics.
- ❑ **Point 3:** The valorization of PID results motivates stakeholders, strengthens their sense of belonging, and attracts new members.

Main challenges encountered

- ❑ **Point 1 :** The involvement of research institutions and universities within the platform
- ❑ **Point 2 :** Mobilization of resources to support local innovation and innovators
- ❑ **Point 3 :** The strengthening of capacities and synergy among the platform's stakeholders and innovators



Future projects to advance Prolinnova's mission within the Country Platform (3 ideas)

- **Point 1 :** Strengthening the partnership with the research sector through the signing of a framework agreement with the National Center for Scientific and Technological Research (CNRST) in order to consolidate institutional and scientific collaboration.
- ❑ **Point 2 :** Expansion of the platform by encouraging new memberships based on the profiles of organizations, universities, and relevant stakeholders, in order to strengthen diversity and complementarity of expertise.
- ❑ **Point 3 :** Update of the platform's governing bodies, including the host organization, the secretariat, the operating charter, and the collaboration agreement between projects, in order to ensure better governance and more effective coordination.



**THANK
FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION**



ATELIER INTERNATIONAL DES PARTENAIRES

10-14 NOVEMBRE 2025, IDUKKI, KERALA, INDE

[Rapport de la plateforme nationale (CP) pour la
période d'octobre 2024 à octobre 2025]

République Démocratique du Congo PP



Présenté par : NSIMIRE CIZUNGU Emma

PRINCIPALES RÉALISATIONS DU CP EN RAPPORT AVEC LES ACTIVITÉS LIÉES À PROLINNOVA (avec ou sans projets financés)

- ❑ Point 1: Mobilisation des acteurs(Universités, chercheurs(es),ONG, agriculteurs), mise en place et structuration de la plate forme , élaboration de la charte du CP
- ❑ Point 2: identification des différentes innovations locales accompagnées par les acteurs membres du réseau
- ❑ Point 3 : Participation aux ateliers/webinaires régionaux sur l'institutionnalisation de l'approche DPI



PRINCIPALES RÉALISATIONS DU CP EN RAPPORT AVEC LES ACTIVITÉS LIÉES À PROLINNOVA (AVEC OU SANS PROJETS FINANCÉS)

- Point 1: Réunion d'informations des acteurs de la PP visant la compréhension de l'approche de l'innovation locale et le DPI
- Point 2: Renforcement des partenariats pour la mobilisation des ressources



PRINCIPAUX ENSEIGNEMENTS TIRÉS (3)

- ❑ Point 1: La prise en compte des innovations locales des agriculteurs par des chercheurs et des services de vulgarisation (Diobass RDC).
- ❑ Point 2: Les échanges inter-plateformes favorisent la diffusion rapide des bonnes pratiques (Expérience de certains membres).
- ❑ Point 3: Engagement et motivation des acteurs pour l'approche de l'innovation locale et le DPI comme atouts



PRINCIPAUX DÉFIS RENCONTRÉS (3)



- ❑ Point 1: Insuffisance des ressources financières pour soutenir les innovations locales .
- ❑ Point 2: Les innovateurs(trices) locaux(les) travaillent d'une manière isolée et leurs innovations ne sont pas connues, documentées et valorisées.
- ❑ Point 3: Faible accès aux outils numériques pour la documentation et le partage d'expériences sur les innovations en milieu rural.

PROJETS FUTURS POUR FAIRE AVANCER LA MISSION DE PROLINNOVA DANS LE CP (3 IDÉES)

- ❑ Point 1: Promouvoir le développement participatif des innovations locales et créer une base des données nationale des innovations locales,
- ❑ Point 2: Soutenir l'émergence du leadership des femmes et des jeunes dans les processus d'innovation locale dans le secteur agricole.
- ❑ Point 3 : Développer un mouvement national d'appui et de valorisation des innovations locales avec tous les acteurs impliqués.

MERCI POUR VOTRE AIMABLE
ATTENTION

*THANK YOU VERY MUCH
AKSANTI SANTI*

International Partners Workshop

10-14 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, South India

[Country Platform (CP) report for the period October 2024 to October 2025: achievements, lessons learned and future perspectives]

[GHANA CP]



[Mohammed T. Shaibu & Joe Nchor]

CP's achievements

- ❑ **Twenty three (23) innovations identified, documented, upgraded through LISFs** and disseminated widely through community sharing, radio and farmer-to-farmer exchanges for adoption.
- ❑ Three (3) PID processes on **improved compost, local food condiment and organic storage pesticide** fully completed, and documented in a booklet and 2 videos. PID outcomes disseminated to enhance learning, adoption, scaling and institutionalization.
- ❑ **Field staff (22) of Department of Agriculture offices based in the 2 sites** were trained on LI/PID approach, leading to identification and documentation of more innovations for promotion.
 - **The staff are now applying PID/LI principles in extension methods making their work more relevant and impactful.**



CP achievements

- ❑ Farmer Innovation Fair held in Walewale site for 30 innovators to exhibit innovations. Over 500 farmers, local stakeholders, political authorities and media participated, leading to increased support for farmer innovation to improve food security and livelihoods.
- ❑ Local partner and MSP members in Walewale site collaborated with Municipal Assembly (through radio session, farmers exhibitions, joint field visits) leading to **inclusion of local innovation in Agroecology in the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) of the Assembly to scale sustainable food systems.**
- ❑ Held a business development training for 12 (8f/4m) commercially-minded innovators, to assist them to upscale and commercialize their innovations through product development and market linkages for improved incomes from local innovation.
 - **Over 30 innovators, mostly women, have commercialized local innovation products in agro-processing, local foods, livestock feeds, organic pesticides etc)**



Key lessons learnt

- ❑ **PID has empowered innovators and made them recognized as change agents in their communities.** This has encouraged and motivated wider appreciation and adoption of the local innovations and the approach.
- ❑ **The position of influence of individuals in an organization, coupled with its size makes it easier to mainstream LI/ PID approach within it.** Prolinnova Ghana achieved better institutionalization results with small grassroots NGOs and district government extension agencies than with large and higher level organizations.
- ❑ **Women adopted the LI/PID approach and innovations much quicker than men** most of whom expected material incentives and inputs to participate. Therefore, prioritising women innovations enhances equitable benefits and reducing the gender gap between men and women.



Key Challenges Faced

- **Growing interest**

+

- **Increased participation of communities and farmers**

over-stretched the project budget, and reduced funds available for

❖ **policy dialogue and**

❖ **networking activities at the national level.**

- During farming season, farmers and innovators became less available for season-long PID experiments as they have to give priority attention to their farming activities.
- This affected learning.

Staff attrition in ACDEP and local partner institutions has affected long-term human capital and capacity development for expanding the CP's activities on farmer innovation, institutionalization and networking to national scale

Future plans for advancing Prolinnova's mission in Ghana

- ❑ **Strengthen the capacities of local lead partners and the multistakeholder platforms** to be stronger and more committed to sustain local innovation and farmer-led joint research processes.
- ❑ **We will initiate working with regulatory bodies (Ghana Standards Authority, Food & Drugs Authority) to help standardize and ensure safety of innovation products** to facilitate and promote commercialization of local innovation products at local and national level.
- ❑ **We will focus more attention on sensitization and evidence-based advocacy with local organizations and private sector for funding of LISFs** to support and scale local innovation activities.
- ❑ Future plans will focus on **working with universities to include farmer-led innovation or PID courses** in their academic curriculum.

**Thank You for
Your Attention**



International Partners Workshop

November 10-14, 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

[Report from the national platform (CP) for the period from
October 2024 to October 2025: achievements, lessons
learned, and future prospects]

[MALI] 

[Bourama DIAKITE]

Main achievements of the CP in relation to activities related to Prolinnova

□ Dissemination of peasant innovations and good nutritional practices: 2,683 people, including 979 women, representing 36% reached, 78 animation sessions conducted on 10 peasant innovations, and 1,010 people, including 700 women, representing 69.30% reached through 6 sessions.



□ Joint experimentation to evaluate the fruit powders of *Ficus gnaphalocarpa* "Torogongon Den" in Bambara and the leaves of *Laptadenia hastata* "zôgnè" in Bambara for seed treatment in sole sorghum cultivation and sorghum/cowpea association by 6 farmer experimenters.



Main achievements of the CP in relation to activities related to Prolinnova

- ❑ Development of four (4) posters but not printed on the results of joint experiments:
 - ▶ the performance of solutions prepared from the bark, leaves, and twigs of *Balanites aegyptiaca* 'Zèguènè' on sorghum smut;
 - ▶ the performance of *Combretum micranthum* fruit powder 'N'golobè' in seed treatment to combat sorghum smut;
 - ▶ the performance of *Guiera senegalensis* 'N'goundjè' fruit powder in combating sorghum smut;
 - ▶ the performance of *Ficus gnaphalocarpa* 'Torogongon Den' fruit powder as a seed treatment to increase sorghum productivity.
- ❑ Preparation of an article on the use of *Balanites aegyptiaca* to combat sorghum smut with the support of PROLINNOVA IST.
- ❑ Preparation and printing of one (1) scientific article, one (1) experience sheet on infant nutrition, and one (1) policy brief on the FIL.

Key lessons learnt

- ❑ The various dissemination channels used have been very important in promoting farmers' innovations and enhancing the knowledge of farmers;
- ❑ The various joint experiments conducted were a mutual learning experience among the different stakeholders;
- ❑ The various nutritional demonstration sessions carried out helped to diversify diets among participants targeted.



Sorghum Harvest at Oumar Zan DIARRA's, an Experimental Farmer in Wacoro, Dioïla Region

Main challenges encountered and solutions found

- ❑ Insecurity has made it difficult to mobilize farmers for group activities and has reduced the frequency of periodic monitoring by the technical team.
- ❑ The crisis related to fuel for office and field activities.
- ❑ Taking into account resilient agroecological practices in the production systems of rural households.
- ❑ The different mobilization sessions were held in villages where there is less risk of insecurity.
- ❑ Communications via phone, email, and WhatsApp were used to gather information.
- ❑ Remote work for the office and the use of ICT for the field.
- ❑ Production and use of compost, and crop association in the agricultural production of rural households.
- ❑ Membership in the national agroecology platform and participation in meetings for exchanging experiences on peasant innovations and agroecological practices.

Future projects to advance Prolinnova's mission in CP

- ❑ The promotion of peasant innovations in the context of climate change.
- ❑ The promotion of agroecology based on practices and movements.
- ❑ The pursuit of documenting evidence-based experiences to encourage decision-makers to commit to promoting the PID approach, farmer innovations, and to facilitate resource mobilization.



Corn/peanut association by Siriman TRAORE in the village of Zéta, Dioila region



THANK YOU
Ani Tié

Atelier international des partenaires

10-14 novembre 2025, Idukki, Kerala, Inde

[Rapport de la plateforme nationale (CP) pour la période d'octobre 2024 à octobre 2025 : réalisations, enseignements tirés et perspectives d'avenir]

[MALI PP] 

[Bourama DIAKITE]

Principales réalisations du CP en rapport avec les activités liées à Prolinnova

□ Diffusion des innovations paysannes et des bonnes pratiques nutritionnelles : **2 683** personnes dont **979** femmes soit **36%** touchées, **78** séances d'animation réalisées sur **10** innovations paysannes et **1 010** personnes, dont **700** femmes soit **69, 30%** touchées par 6 séances;



□ Expérimentation conjointe pour évaluer les poudres de fruits de *Ficus gnaphalocarpa* « Torogongon Den » en bambara et les feuilles de *Laptadenia hastata* « zôgnè » en bambara pour le traitement des semences dans la monoculture de sorgho et l'association sorgho/niébé par 6 paysans expérimentateurs.



Principales réalisations du CP en rapport avec les activités liées à Prolinnova

- ❑ Elaboration de quatre (4) posters mais non imprimés sur les résultats des expériences conjointes :
 - la performance des solutions préparées à partir de l'écorce, des feuilles et des branchettes de ***Balanites aegyptiaca*** « **Zèguènè** » sur le charbon du sorgho ;
 - la performance de la poudre de fruit de ***Combretum micranthum*** « **N'golobè** » en traitement des semences pour lutter le charbon du sorgho ;
 - la performance de poudre de fruit de ***Guiera senegalensis*** « **N'goundjè** » pour lutter le charbon du sorgho ;
 - la performance de poudre de fruit de ***Ficus gnaphalocarpa*** « **Torogongon Den** » comme traitement des semences pour augmenter la productivité du sorgho.
- ❑ Elaboration d'un (1) article sur l'utilisation de *Balanites aegyptiaca* pour lutter contre le charbon du sorgho avec l'appui de PROLINNOVA Shesha et Paul.
- ❑ Elaboration et impression d'un (1) article scientifique, d'une (1) fiche d'expérience et d'une note politique (1) sur le FIL.

Principaux enseignements tirés

❑ Les différents canaux ont été très importants dans la valorisation des innovations paysannes et d'amélioration des connaissances des paysans et paysannes;

❑ Les différentes expérimentations conjointes réalisées ont été un apprentissage mutuel entre les différents acteurs;

❑ Les différentes séances de démonstrations nutritionnelles réalisées ont permis de diversifier les régimes alimentaires



Récolte du Sorgho chez Oumar Zan DIARRA, Paysan expérimentateur à Wacoro, Région de Dioïla

Principaux défis rencontrés et solutions trouvées

- L'insécurité a rendu difficile la mobilisation des paysans paysannes pour les activités de regroupement et a réduit la fréquence du suivi périodique de l'équipe technique.
- La crise liée au carburant pour les activités du bureau et du terrain.
- La prise en compte des pratiques agroécologiques dans les systèmes de production des ménages ruraux.
- Les différentes sessions de mobilisation ont été dans les villages où il y'a moins de risque d'insécurité.
- Les communications par téléphone, e-mail et WhatsApp ont été utilisés pour collecter les informations.
- Travail à distance pour le bureau et l'utilisation des NTIC pour le terrain.
- Production et utilisation du compost, de l'association des cultures dans la production agricole des ménages ruraux.
- Adhésion à la plateforme d'agroécologie au niveau national et participation à des rencontres d'échanges d'expériences sur les innovations paysannes et les pratiques agroécologiques.

Projets futurs pour faire avancer la mission de Prolinnova dans le CP

- la promotion des innovations paysannes dans un contexte du changement climatique
- la promotion de l'agroécologie basée sur des pratiques et des mouvements



***Association maïs/arachide chez Siriman TRAORE
dans le village de Zéta, Région de Dioila***

Prolinnova International Workshop (IPW) 2025

November 10-14 novembre 2025, Idukki district, Kerala, India

Report from the Senegal National Platform (CP)



By:

Abdou Thiam, Project manager Prolinnova Senegal

Main achievements of the CP

- ❑ Forum on water management as part of the celebration of Peasant Innovation Day
- ❑ Facilitation and documentation of two joint experimentation processes
- ❑ Community sharing session on new local innovations identified at the Kaolack and Niore learning sites

Main achievements of the CP

- Networking of innovative farmers at national level
- Organisation of an inter-platform exchange visit
- Creation of profiles of innovative farmers
- Participation in the Prolinnova training of trainers workshop
- Visit by Chesha Wettasinha to the Dagana site
- Backstopping visit by the CSR/AOC to the Dagana and Podor sites

Key lessons learned

- ❑ The involvement of technical and research departments in conducting joint experiments.
- ❑ Exchange visits are a good strategy for learning about and disseminating local innovations.
- ❑ Effective training for stakeholders can be a driving force for the success of project activities.

Main Challenges Encountered

- ❑ Low participation in research on water management issues in agriculture
- ❑ Low involvement and motivation of certain technical services in joint experimentation processes.

Projets futurs pour faire avancer la mission de Prolinnova dans le CP

- ❑ Recycling agricultural and domestic waste for soil fertilisation;
- ❑ Programme for promoting and disseminating innovations in farming;
- ❑ Development of a 'Young Rural Innovators' project



Strategy Development

Draft Prolinnova Strategic Directions (2026-2030)

Findings and recommendations from the POG
foresight and strategy identification process

Presented at the IPW, 11 November 2028

Purpose of the presentation

1. To share the findings of the foresight and strategy development outcomes.
2. To obtain comments and validation from the IPW for the subsequent development of the Prolinnova 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

Foresight and strategy development process

POG and IST adopted an inclusive, multi-method foresight and strategy development process, as follows:

- 1. November 2024-March 2025:** Looking back (how well have we done in the past 5 years based on our strategic plan?) and stock taking (environmental scanning, trend analysis) – CPs and RPs
- 2. March 2025:** Surfacing outcomes and thematic focus areas based on the foresight development process and SWOT analysis – POG and IST
- 3. March to June 2025:** Conducting regional consultations (involving regional and country platforms to identify strategy intervention areas).
- 4. June-October 2025:** Further consultations and drafting of the 2026-2030 Prolinnova Strategy – Friends of Prolinnova, farmer innovators, and donors.
- 5. November 2025:** Presentation, review, and approval of the strategy

The main recommendations from foresight process

1. Adopt agroecology as the overarching concept in which PID is promoted and enacted. Agroecology encompasses knowledge co-production, practice, movement building, and policy influence.
2. Shift focus from “innovation” as the end in itself to innovation as a means to foster a progressive transition toward agroecology and systems change.
3. Shift focus from “innovation” as the end in itself to innovation as a means to foster a progressive transition toward agroecology and systems change.
4. Make MEL pay more attention to articulating the outcomes and impact being created by Prolinnova.
5. Reduce and limit the number of outcome areas and thematic focal areas to 5 to increase the likelihood of achieving them.

Recommendations from the strategy development process

- ❑ Use agroecology as the overarching concept where PID and local innovation are treated as knowledge co-production towards more inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation.
- ❑ Utilize PID and local innovation to enhance livelihoods, increase climate resilience, strengthen agroecological practices, recognize and value local knowledge and ways of knowing, promote more equitable multi-stakeholder knowledge co-production partnerships, and influence relevant policies.

The six emerging strategic directions

1. Promote Local Innovation (LI) and Participatory Innovation Development (PID) for Agroecological Transformation
2. Promote and Sustain Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs)
3. Build and Strengthen Farmer Innovator Networks
4. Systematically Track and Document PID Outcomes and Impacts
5. Expand Prolinnova's Influence in Agricultural Research and Development (ARD) Policy
6. Ensure the Growth and Sustainability of Prolinnova as a Community of Practice

**1. Promote Local Innovation (LI) and
Participatory Innovation Development (PID)
for Agroecological Transformation**

1.1. Strengthen LI/PID Processes and Practices

1. Enhance network capacity to understand and practice LI/PID for economic, social, and environmental benefits.
2. Deepen women's and youth's participation in PID and LI.
3. Identify, document, and support LIs and PID processes, focusing on agroecological transformation and value chain aspects.
4. Emphasize PID as an approach to addressing climate change and building resilient local food systems.
5. Utilize PID as a context-specific solution-finding method, especially for local climate change manifestations.

1.2 Foster PID and LI institutionalization and partnerships

1. Build capacity of partner organizations (research, development, education) to facilitate LI/PID and co-produce knowledge with farmers.
2. Strengthen multi-stakeholder knowledge and implementation partnerships.
3. Enhance institutionalization of LI/PID in regional and country platforms.

2. Promote and Sustain Local Innovation

Support Funds (LISFs)

2.1. Build and Sustain LISFs

1. Build capacity of Local Multistakeholder Platforms (LMSPs) to set up and manage LISFs for PID activities.
2. Find creative ways to revolve LISFs (e.g., charging interest on funds to innovators).
3. Strengthen LMSPs and innovators' capacity to engage stakeholders (local government, philanthropists) for LISF fundraising.
4. Partner with Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs) to invest savings as LISFs and establish banking relationships.
5. Expand VSLA concepts to support LISFs through social funds and revenue contributions.

3. Build and Strengthen Farmer Innovator Networks

3.1. Support Networking and Learning

1. Support networking and exchanges among local innovators at local, regional, and international levels.
2. Build capacity of local innovators, especially women and youth, to organize and sustain innovation and PID.
3. Build social capital through Community Innovation Hubs, Schools, Labs, or Centres managed by innovator communities.
4. Support community institutions for collective action and sustained innovation.
5. Build solidarity among innovators to influence decision-making and research/extension approaches.
6. Support projects that advance and sustain local innovation.
7. Engage farmer innovators to mentor youth and women in farming and innovation.

4. Systematically Track and Document PID

Outcomes and Impacts

4.1. Enhance Documentation and Communication

1. Select “proof of concept sites” to generate evidence for PID effectiveness.
2. Develop documentation and sharing plans tailored to different audiences and scaling needs.
3. Support innovative, cost-effective documentation methods (e.g., participatory video, student involvement, social media).
4. Enhance network capacity for evidence-based communication.
5. Strengthen monitoring, evaluation, learning, and reporting to be more outcome- and impact-driven.
6. Package and communicate evidence for diverse audiences (policymakers, donors, academics).
7. Hold periodic innovation and knowledge-sharing events (e.g., Farmer Innovation Fairs at various levels).

5. Expand Prolinnova's Influence in Agricultural Research and Development (ARD) Policy

5.1. Mainstream Local Innovation in Policy and Practice

1. Strengthen the network's capacity to influence relevant policies and decision-making processes.
2. Build solidarity among farmer innovators and communities to influence decision-making bodies and research and extension approaches.
3. Establish/strengthen partnerships with like-minded organizations to advocate for agroecology and sustainable food systems policies and budgets.

6. Ensure the Growth and Sustainability of Prolinnova as a Community of Practice

6.1. Strengthen Partnerships

1. Expand partnerships at all levels (country platforms, regions, global) with organizations and individuals sharing participatory development values.
2. Continue and strengthen South-South learning and exchanges.
3. Broaden and deepen multistakeholder partnerships, including the private sector, youth, and women's groups.
4. Co-design and jointly implement programs and projects with members.

6.2. Enhance Internal Network Building and Governance

1. Attract and mentor new young members passionate about Prolinnova's mission.
2. Develop and implement inclusive decision-making and accountability structures.
3. Strengthen network management, coordination, and increase paid staff.
4. Ensure good governance, transparency, and accountability, and regularly evaluate governance at all levels.

6.3. Diversify and Strengthen Resource Mobilization

1. Diversify resource mobilization strategies (current/past funders, philanthropic organizations, private sector).
2. Build capacity and legitimacy to attract and receive funding.
3. Develop a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy, including social enterprise development and benefit sharing.
4. Tap into national budgets and revisit funding approaches to reduce dependency and promote sustainability.
5. Develop MOUs on working modalities and cost sharing with partner institutions.

Questions for group discussions

1. Please review the activities under your strategic direction and suggest what activities (i) should be revised and how, (ii) should be added, and (iii) should be removed.
2. Please review and consider revising the wording of the strategic direction.

These discussions will take one hour.

GROUP 1 – THEME 4

Joe

Richard

Caludio

Wanyama

Mohamed Rehan

4. Systematically Track and Document PID

Output, Outcomes and Impacts

- For what purpose

4.1. Enhance Documentation and Communication

1. Select “proof of concept sites” to generate evidence for PID effectiveness.
 - Clarify proof of concept. sites - Need to clarify, but could be where work has been done and concepts as be
2. Develop documentation and sharing plans tailored to different audiences and scaling needs.
 - We did not change this, but make sure that the plans should encompass a document, considering different formats.
3. Support innovative, cost-effective documentation methods (e.g., participatory video, student involvement, social media).
 - There are more – for example, Theatre by Innovators
4. Enhance Prolinnova network capacity for evidence-based communication.
 - Clarify at what level of networks? (farmer innovators, Institutions, Nation platform, subregion, regional, global levels).

5. Strengthen monitoring, evaluation, learning, and reporting to be more outcome- and impact-driven.

-Be aware

-Output, outcome and impact reporting (time frame)

-Should plan for it

-Strategic plan articulates intended output, outcome, and impact

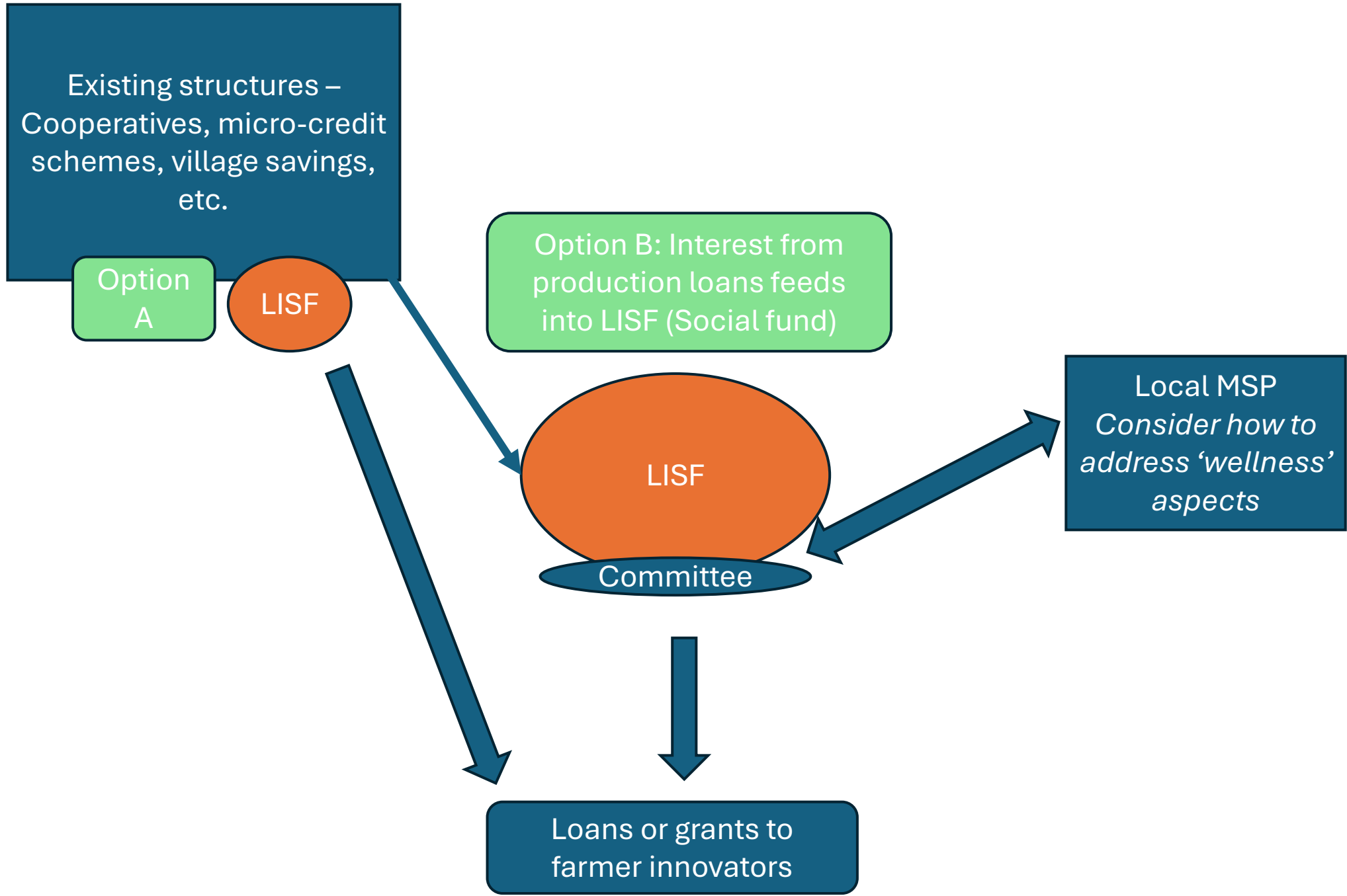
6. Package (**appropriately**) and communicate evidence for diverse audiences (policymakers, donors, academics, **farmers**).

7. Hold periodic innovation and knowledge-sharing events (e.g., Farmer Innovation Fairs and competing at various levels).

-Apart from fairs, what are the other sharing events – Innovation context, intercommunity CP learning and exchange, farmer showcasing?

Promoting and sustaining Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs) as a means of supporting farmer-led joint research

- Conceptualise and build LISF
 - Build the capacity of Local Multistakeholder Platforms (LMSPs) to set up and sustain LISFs for supporting PID activities (strengthening capacity in fund management, ownership and sustainability of the fund etc.)
 - Find creative ways of using existing structures as LISFs and find ways to revolving resources (eg. Whether loan or grant, and whether charging interest)
- Use of the funds to promote innovation
 - Support testing and experimentation by farmers
 - Support commercialization and promotion of innovations
 - Support learning and sharing (Cross-visits and farmer fairs)
- How to sustain the LISF
 - Strengthen the capacity of LMSPs and farmer innovators to engage with stakeholders such local government, philanthropists to raise funds for the LISFs
 - Monitoring, reflection and learning about LISF functioning.



Existing structures –
Cooperatives, micro-credit
schemes, village savings,
etc.

Option
A

LISF

Option B: Interest from
production loans feeds
into LISF (Social fund)

LISF
Committee

Local MSP
*Consider how to
address 'wellness'
aspects*

Loans or grants to
farmer innovators

District level (L) MSP
*Lobbies for funds for
LISF*

District level
LISF

Village 1
Cooperative
Committee

Village
level
LISF

Village 2

Village 3

Strategic directions for 2026-2030

- Continue promoting LI and PID approach to support transition to agroecology.
- Promoting and sustaining LISFs as a means of supporting farmer-led joint research.
- Building and strengthening farmer innovation networks.
- Systematic tracking and documenting PID outcomes / impacts for increasing Prolinnova's visibility.
- Expanding Prolinnova's influence in ARD policy.
- Ensuring further growth and sustainability of Prolinnova as a COP [through partnerships, network building, resource mobilisation].

Our thoughts on all the strategic directions

- Under SD 5, institutionalization is broader than ARD organisations and could include other departments (Dept of Health, etc.), and local authorities.
- Under SD 6, make reference to MoUs as they can be essential
- Need for a repository of innovations / PID outcomes – this requires a decision about promoting innovation versus scaling innovations.

Groupe francophone

Axe 03 de la stratégie

Building and strengthening farmer innovator networks

- Support "networking of local innovators" and "create opportunities of exchanges, and learning and sharing among farmer /local innovators at local, regional and international levels”
- Support, strengthen and find innovative ways of continuing to host of farmer innovation fairs that have been effective thus far but require substantial funding and logistics
- Build capacity of local innovators with focus on women and youth to enable them better organize and sustain their innovation and PID
- Invest in building social capital of local innovators by creating and supporting "Community Innovation Hubs or Schools or Lab or Centres" governed and managed by innovator communities/ groups themselves.
- Invest in community institutions that help local innovators to better organize and engage in collective action to advance and sustain their innovation.
- **Build farmer innovators and communities’ capacity to influence decision-making bodies and research and extension approaches.**

- Support specific projects supporting local innovation that advances the work of local innovators and sustains their innovation
- Engage farmer innovators to mentor youth into farming and to build their capacity
- Use women innovators to mentor other women, men and youth in the community
- Support incentive and motivations to farmers innovators and to build their network
- Build the capacity of the farmer innovators in using ICT in their work and their network

5.0: Expand Prolinnova's Influence in Agricultural Research and Development (ARD) Policy

5.1: Mainstream Local Innovation in Policy and Practice

Group Members

Ram Shrestha

Jony

Shaibu

David E.

Ananya

Existing Point 1

- Strengthen the network's capacity to influence relevant policies and decision-making processes.
 - Appropriate identification of relevant organisations to scale the network's capacity to influence relevant policies and decision-making processes.
 - To pay attention to the contexts and relationships among different organisations and networks within a country, e.g., how powerful the state and non-state actors are, who has influence in what sectors.

Existing Point 2

- Build solidarity among farmer innovators and communities to influence decision-making bodies and research and extension approaches.
 - Support experienced innovators to demonstrate their innovations at Agricultural Research and Development Fora.
 - Support a focused arm within country platforms that focus on mobilizing leadership by connecting experienced people, relevant institutions, and targets to improve documentation and skill-building to encourage capacity building.

Existing Point 3

- Establish/strengthen partnerships with like-minded organisations to advocate for agroecology and sustainable food systems policies and budgets.
- No comment to make on it

Additional Point 4

4.0 Strategically involve community leaders (Assembly members, Key Informants, Group leaders, Chiefs, etc) in Prolinnova activities to strengthen the mainstreaming of local innovations.

- Encourage a bottom-up approach where capacity is built on the lower, grassroots level.

Additional Point 5

5.0 Organisations under Prolinnova network can lobby with representatives at higher policy level to chart the course of mainstreaming local innovations.

- To pay attention to policy coming from the top and leverage grassroots power to build buy-ins from those at higher institutional power.
- *10 year strategy, 5 year action plan* where responsibility and leadership, as well as a timeline, are established.

Group 5, Theme 1

Repositioning the topic

Original: Continue promoting LI and PID approach to support transition to agroecology

Revised: Continue promoting LI and PID approach *to shape agroecology*

Subtopic 1: Related to LI/ PID process and practice

- Enhance the network's capacity to understand and practice LI and PID towards agroecology to bring about economic, social and environmental benefits to communities
- Deepen women and youth participation in PID and LI.
- Identify, document LIs and support PID (farmer-led joint research) processes (focusing on LIs that promote agroecological transformation); develop the LI/ PID process in aspects of the agricultural value chain such as agro-processing, marketing/ commercialization through socially equitable processes (such as social enterprises, community-owned businesses, equitable partnerships with fair trade partners etc.)
- Emphasize PID/PTD as being an approach to address climate change relying on agroecological principles for purposes of building local, resilient food systems
- Present PID as a method for finding solutions to each given context (for example climate change manifestations are local and hence solutions have to be found locally)

Revisions

- Strengthen the network's capacity to inform agroecology understand and practice LI and PID towards agroecology
- Deepen equitable women and youth participation in PID and LI.
- Identify, document, and disseminate LIs and support PID (farmer-led joint research) processes (focusing on LIs that promote agroecological transformation); develop the LI/ PID process in aspects of the agricultural value chain
- Emphasise PID as being an approach to adapt to and mitigate climate change relying on agroecological principles
- Present PID as a method for finding solutions in each given context

Subtopic 2: Related to capacity strengthening in LI/PID

- Increase the number of people with the capacity to train on and implement PID; assess and improve the effectiveness of capacity development
- Build the capacity of Prolinnova partner organisations – agricultural research, development and education – to facilitate processes of LI/PID competently – for co-production of knowledge based on farmer innovation.
- Give more focus on training for behavioural/ attitudinal changes of ARD partners before starting with PID.

Revisions

- Increase the number of people with the capacity to train on and implement PID; assess and improve the effectiveness of capacity development
- Build the capacity of key partner organizations to facilitate processes of LI/PID competently
- Give more focus on training for behavioural/ attitudinal changes of ARD partners

Subtopic 3: Related to partnership building/ institutionalisation

- Strengthen multi-stakeholder knowledge and implementation partnerships.
- Enhance the institutionalization of LI/PID in regional and country platforms and members.

Revisions

- Forge and strengthen diverse partnerships involving LI/PID
- Enhance the institutionalization of LI/PID in regional and country platforms and members.

**Ensuring further growth and
sustainability of Prolinnova as
a community of practice**

Partnerships

➤ Expand partnerships (at all levels – CPs, (sub) regions, global) with a range of organisations/ individuals who share a similar ethos of people-centred, participatory development.

- **Local Country Platform (CP) Framework:** There is no single blueprint for CPs, as the network avoids being prescriptive to enable cultural adaptation. Individual countries must determine their own framework, which requires bringing in diverse stakeholder groups. A network analysis of partners is a potential next step.

Partnerships

- Continue with and strengthen South-South learning and exchange (eg. cross country exchanges)
 - **Exchange:** South-South exchange must be deeper than general knowledge exchange. To account for diversity in larger countries, there is a suggestion to divide country platforms into regional platforms.
 - **Decentralization of Exchange:** Physical exchange visits are considered very beneficial. There is an ongoing challenge to decentralize communication and exchange beyond the Country Platform coordinators to include a wider range of people, such as farmers, particularly in regions facing language diversity issues (like Asia).

Partnerships

- Broaden and deepen multistakeholder partnerships and strengthen networking in agroecology, including the private sector, youth, and women's groups.
- **Private Sector:** Partnerships have been intentionally lacking to avoid "big ag," but there is potential to evolve with small enterprise and commercialization ambitions. Joint project implementation is seen as key to building these relationships, despite the difficulty in finding private sector partners with the network's ethos.
- Co-design and jointly implement programs and/or projects with members.

Network Building

- Attract and mentor new young member passionate about Prolinnova's mission
- Develop and implement inclusive decision-making and accountability structures
- Strengthen network management, coordination, and increase paid staff
- Ensure good governance , transparency, and accountability, and regularly evaluate governance at all levels

Network Building and Governance

- **External Review:** The effectiveness of the decentralized governance structure is appreciated, but the potential for outside/external auditing and analysis of the network governance was raised as a point of discussion.
- **Accessibility and Onboarding:** The language in documents like grant applications is often "jargon-heavy" and inaccessible to local communities. There is a need for simplified explanations (or "explainers") of Prolinnova. While there is no formalized onboarding process, the network utilizes a mentorship model where a senior country coordinator supports newcomers.
- **Knowledge Mobilization:** A key area of interest is making better use of the network's human resources. This could be achieved by creating a **human/people resource database** to query what is known and who has what expertise, which would also help with institutional knowledge retention. The existing website content needs to be made into a more accessible "knowledge commons."

Resource Mobilization

- Diversify resource mobilization strategies
- Build capacity and legitimacy to attract and receive funding
- Develop a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy, including social enterprise development and sharing
- Tap into national budget and revisit funding approaches
- Develop MOUS on working modalities

Resource Mobilization

- **Funding Model:** The reliance on project-cycle funding (e.g., 3-year cycles) is seen as a driver of short-term thinking that leads to "boom and bust" network approaches, which clashes with the process-oriented nature of Participatory Innovation Development (PID).
- **Alternative Funding:** As traditional international development funds are "drying up," the network must find other sources. Ideas discussed include:
 - Local Innovation Support Funds (testing loan and interest models for farmer innovators).
 - Farmer Access to Innovation Resources (FAIR).
 - Potentially, membership fees.
- **Funder Engagement:** Defined strategies are needed to engage philanthropic and private sectors. The notes propose a "funder ambassador" model and emphasize the need for clear pathways for the network to engage with funders **as a whole** (potentially as a consortium) rather than through fragmented regional or country platform engagements, to avoid "balkanization" and potentially access a **central pool of funds**.
- **Formal Agreements:** The importance of formalized **Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)** at the host-level was stressed. These clear agreements on working modalities and cost-sharing are necessary to manage expectations and ensure commitment across the decentralized network, as "too much flexibility is a weakness."

Field Day Presentations



KOCHUKUDY NURSERY FARM

Prolinnova IPW Field Visit
Group 4

Team: Basanta, Hellen, Refilo, Claudio, David, Jacob Wanyama,
Sigue Hamade, Samuel, Chesha, Sanoop PDS, Stebin PDS















Group 3: Mr. Joshy's Multi-purpose Thresher Machine Innovator



How did he come up with this innovation? What inspired him?

Joshy is a farmer in Erattupetta, Kottayam District, with a background in a 2-year certificate course in automobiles.

Involves in making mixtures especially cowdung, Coconut cake, egg shells, among others.

The mixtures has to be powdered to make bio fertiliser.

He use to make these mixtures manually which was difficult to do.

When he was young, he used to like making craft from local materials.

With this skills he exhibits, coupled with his awareness of higher level machines, he was able to develop the multi-purpose thresing machine.



What initial steps did he take?

- Due to his awareness of higher level machines that can breakdown hard materials, he first produced sharp blades that could help him to break the mixtures (cow dung, coconut cake and egg shells) to produce the bio-fertiliser.
- He developed the multi-purpose threshing machine in 2020, during the Covid pandemic.
- Following the demand from crop farmers to produce bio-fertiliser and livestock farmers to produce livestock feed, Joshy kept modifying the blades to suit a multi-purpose use.



How did he finance the innovation process?

- He has won several awards from the government, but not financing.
- He has applied for support/grant following a call from Kerala Agricultural University.
- Currently, he is servicing/paying a bank loan he took to upgrade his business.

Which problems/obstacles did he face?

How did he deal with the obstacles?

He was initially faced with breakages of the blades, since they form the main component of the machine. He dealt with the breaking of the blades problem by changing the blades. Initial blades were made of carbon steel. Current blades are made of D2 special alloy blades which are very hard to break.



How long did the innovation development process take?

- It took him about 5 years (from 2020) to develop the machine.
- In 2021/2022, other users came to request and he modified it to its current form.
- Three (3) different modifications have been made to have it in its current form.

Did he see the need to market his product? How did he find his market?

- He describes his business as a small enterprise.
- Initial customer: Municipal composting yard.
- Other buyers are the operators of biogas plant.
- Since manufacturing the machine, about 550 machines have been sold.
- Production capacity has been increasing over time.



Did he develop his innovation into a (small/medium) enterprise?

- He views the state of his innovation as small enterprise.
- Pricing:
 - 1 HP = 65,000 Rupees
 - 1.5 HP = 80,000 Rupees
 - 2 HP = 95,000 Rupees
 - 3 HP = 1,300,000 Rupees.

Has he thought about intellectual property and safeguarding his innovation? Has he taken any steps to safeguard IPRs for his innovation?

- He has applied for a patent but is still awaiting the results.
- Currently in the process of standardisation, so that every model parts such as the blades, motor, bold and nuts, etc. are well standardised according to the model.

Has this innovation led to other innovations? What are some examples?

- Yes, he has been able to make an incinerator.
- The incinerator is used to burn biomass to reduce waste.



Has he involved other people in the innovation development process? How has he done this?

- Yes, due to the request of crop and livestock farmers, he was able to modified the machine to suit the purpose of both groups.

What social change has his innovation brought about? Has his innovation benefitted the community? How?

The innovation is serving a large group of users, making them able to shred and grind their bio-fert and livestock feed materials with ease.



Has he got support from the government, non-government or private sector organisations systems to promote agricultural innovation?

- There has been no support from both the government and non-governmental organisations.
- Support, to some extent, has largely been invitation to workshops to showcase his innovation.

What does he feel are the biggest challenges faced in being an innovator? What support does he think is required to stimulate more farmers to become innovative?

- He wish to get request for higher quantities supplies, but that is not coming as expected.
- He thinks that putting an idea into practice can stimulate more farmers to become very innovative.



Thank you! നന്ദി!



Sharad Rai - Mohammed Shaibu - Carolyne Nakajubi - Richard Chuene - Augustin Ouedorago - Emma Cizungu - Paul Jimmy - Mutizwa Mukute - Mohammed Farhan – TJ James - Natasha Sanghvi

Group 2 - Innovations in Black Pepper

Mr. George Mathew & Mr. Kunjunj









Ram Krishna Shrestha
Joe Nchor
Vincent Mariadho
Ernest Letsoalo
Djibril Thiam (English to French translation)
Leonard Adje
Birgit Habermann
Diakite Bourama
Ananya Sairaman
Jony Jos – Field visit facilitator and Malayalam to English translation
Dr. Siby Joseph - PDS

Group 1

Pepper Thekkan Varieties 1 and 2



- Problem: Kerala has almost no regular variation or biodiversity in pepper plant variety, and the existing varieties were very susceptible to wilt and other destructive diseases.
- Solution: The farmer (Mr. Thomas) noticed natural variations (genetic mutation) in the pepper plant and selectively bred for them. These became thekkan varieties 1 (with branched, grape-like smaller peppercorns) and 2 (longer stems). It is through these initial innovations that others were able to come about.



- Collaboration with Peermade Development Society and awards from the government of India and the National Innovation Foundation enabled the farmers' innovations to become widely known within the community, which then allowed them to encourage others to adopt similar varieties to their benefit and that of the ecosystem.
- They have also received several other forms of governmental and NGO support that has enabled their work to become more well-known.





- Another problem: the pepper plant is highly susceptible to a disease called wilt, which attacks the roots of the plant and kills it quickly.
- Solution: in part, the issue was addressed with the advent of the two thekkan varieties, but the greatest innovation here was their grafting system. By taking another pepper family plant and cutting into it, then grafting a pepper plant cutting on top, the farmers were able to create a variety of pepper plant with strong root systems, highly resistant to harmful diseases.
- This extended both the longevity and yield of the pepper plant.





- Other innovations:
 - The farmers created a unique propagation system, through which they were then able to sell the propagated plants to other farmers, increasingly not only their profits but their yields.
 - Using PVC and other smaller pipe structures to grow the plant saves on the need for skilled labor (no need to climb and harvest or cull the trees yearly).
 - Makeshift greenhouses using fish tanks with varying levels of humidity for propagation at different stages.





- Though the farmers have not franchised the pepper thekkan varieties, they have pursued a registration akin to a patent and have found success selling propagated plants and harvested spices to local markets.
- Other small and marginal farmers have not pursued selective breeding in the same way, but have adopted their practices which has benefited the health and food sustainability of the community as a whole.
- Want to develop another variety (pepper thekkan 3) with a new color.
- Variety is needed for wilt and more research is needed for growing conditions amid climate change, and greater technology for growing black pepper.





Latitude: 9.759601
Longitude: 77.080047
Elevation: 796.74±24.1 m
Accuracy: 4.014 m
Azimuth: 55° (NE)
Pitch: -11.7° (2.2°)
Time: 12-11-2025 09:04
Note: Thekken Pepper Farm





How can Prolinnova continue to support farmer innovations in the next strategic period?





- Documentation of the process of innovation and capacity building within farmer organizations so that they can perform this capacity building themselves
- Extending the production and commercialization of the pepper varieties to other areas



Intellectual Property Rights



Prolinnova Partners Workshop

Kerala, India

November 11, 2025

Dorn Cox, Samuel Oslund

Commons Enabling Infrastructure

Exploring the Technical, Legal, Financial, Social structures to support Innovation, trust and knowledge and exchange

From NGO to Community Governance Organization (CGO)

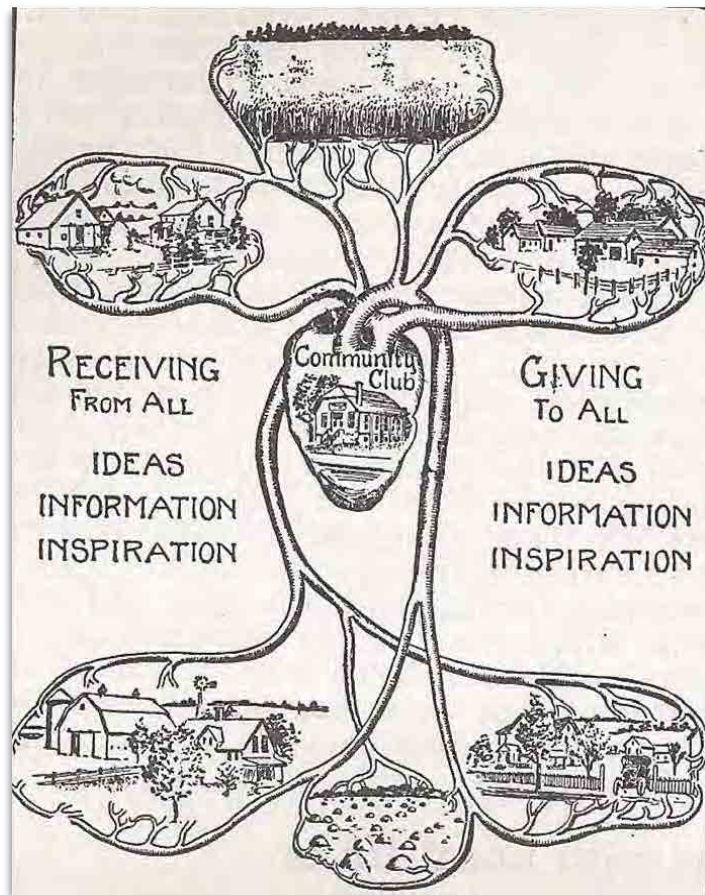
OpenTEAM

Open Tech Ecosystem For Ag Management

FARM HACK



Information AND INSPIRATION



Exchange Global Knowledge for Local Production

DONATE





FARM HACK



A COMMUNITY FOR FARM INNOVATION

TOOLS CONVERSATIONS CALENDAR HOST AN EVENT SHOPS PEOPLE

Login Register

Wiki Update			Short description	Stage	Tool type
09/30/2014		Root Washer	An open-source root washer that can be built sturdily with NO WELDING. Thanks to SARE for helping make this project happen!	DIY	Post Harvest, Harvesting
09/27/2014		Spike Tooth Harrow	The disc harrow I have leaves large gullies on each side. So I built this tool to fill in and level out the gullies. It can be mounted on a tool bar or mounted right on the back of my disc harrow.	Functional Prototype	"Smart Farm" tools

Seeing patterns
emerge
internationally
around grassroots
innovation

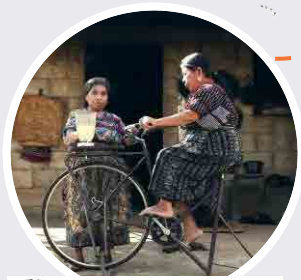
FARM HACK



L'atelier
paysan



Tzoumakers



Maya Pedal
Guatemala



PROLINNOVA
PROMoting Local INNOVation
in ecological, economic agriculture and natural resource management



Grassroots Innovation Assembly for Agroecology (GIAA)

Second convening in Ahmedabad, India
January 2025



Shared Challenges

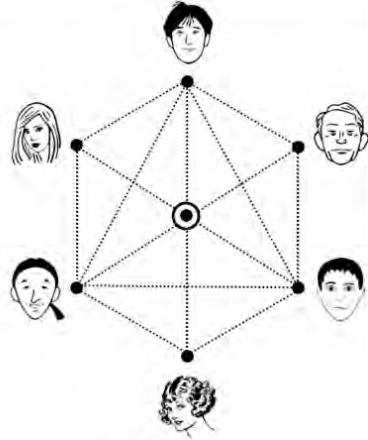
- Protecting Intellectual Property and knowledge
- Scaling and commercialization
- Resourcing

Local innovator



Industry

Alternatives in Tools in the ToolBox Trust and Innovation



Alternative Method	Pros	Cons
Trademarks	Distinguishes products; indefinite duration if maintained.	Does not protect the invention itself.
Copyrights/Open Source Licences	Automatic protection upon creation; no registration needed.	Limited to expression, not ideas or concepts.
Trade Secrets	No time limit; can be maintained indefinitely.	Requires strict confidentiality measures.
Defensive Publications (Also applies to Patents)	Establishes prior art; prevents patenting by others.	No exclusive rights
Prizes and Grants	Encourages innovation without monopolies	

The status quo of conventional innovation

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

THE FUTURE OF EVERYTHING

**THE INDOOR FARMER WHO WANTS TO
REMAKE APPALACHIA'S AGRICULTURE**



**Harvard
Business
School**

AppHarvest: Rebuilding the Appalachian
Economy Through Agriculture

Grist

**A celebrated startup promised
Kentuckians green jobs. It gave
them a 'grueling hell on earth.'**

The inside story of how AppHarvest's indoor farming scheme
imploded — and took its blue-collar workforce down with it.

FAST@MPANY

**The vertical farming bubble
is finally popping**

939. MONTREUIL-sous-BOIS - Le Clos des Pêches E. M.

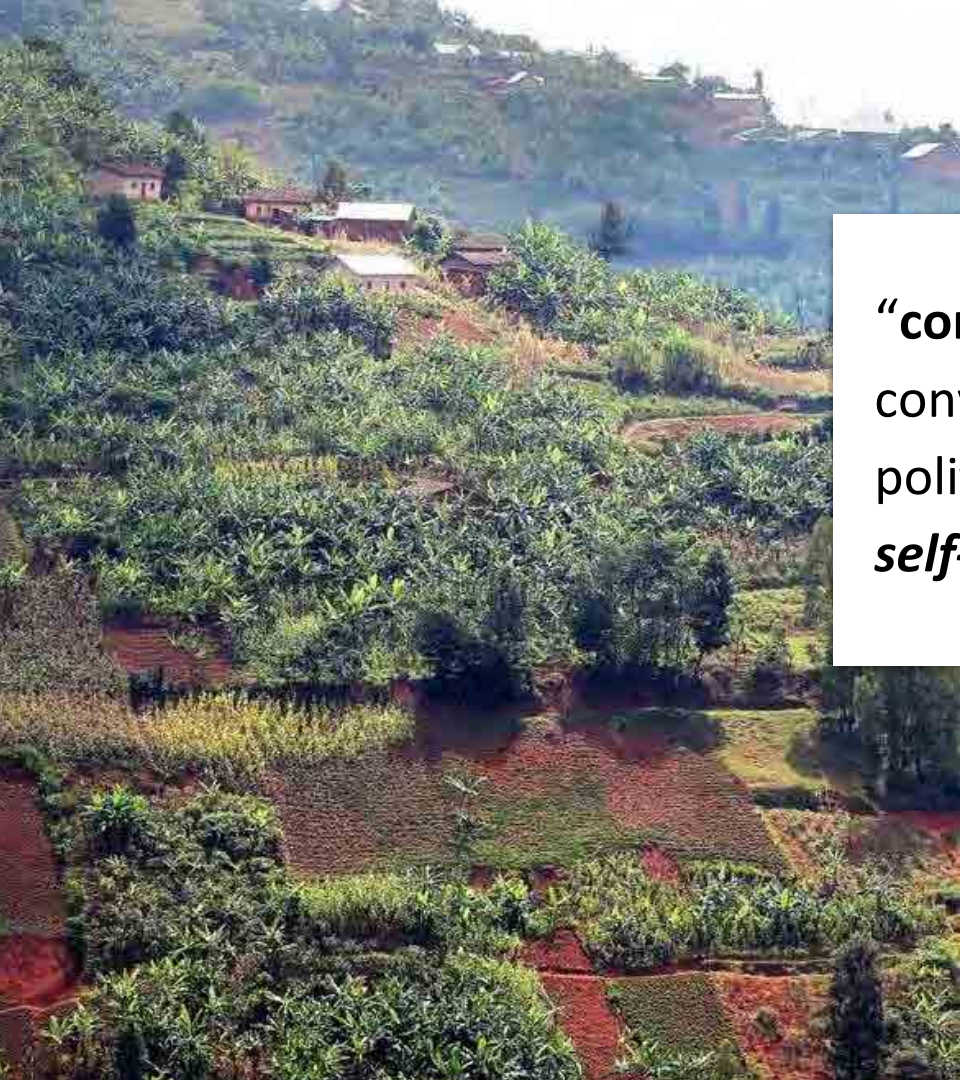
Between open-access
and walled gardens



Building a **knowledge commons** requires shared resources.

Knowledge Commons: Information, data, and content that is collectively owned and managed by a community of users

Enabling Infrastructure: Technical, Legal, Financial, Social structures and administrative backbone to support an agricultural knowledge commons



“commons are not resources, as conventional economics and politics seem to think. They are *self-organized social systems.*”*

*Reference David Bollier

<https://www.resilience.org/stories/2021-10-21/reinventing-commons-governance-in-modern-times/>

A Charter for An Agricultural Knowledge Commons

1. Everyone everywhere has access to the best possible agricultural knowledge to steward the environment and improve their communities livelihoods
1. Food and data sovereignty are inalienable individual and community rights and all knowledge contributed to the commons is with intent, consent, attribution and without coercion.

Commons Enabling Infrastructure

TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Interoperability Standards
- Open Databases
- Multilingual Tools & Interfaces

LEGAL & ETHICAL FRAMEWORKS

- Licencing agreements
- Commons Charters
- Consent management

SOCIAL & CULTURAL STRUCTURES

- Regional Governance
- Cultural Attribution
- Education Training

FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE BACKBONE

- Resource pooling agreements
- Communications, reporting, convening
- Maintenance and hosting

FUNCTIONAL MODULES OF COMMONS INFRASTRUCTURE

LICENCING, DATA
USE AND SHARING
AGREEMENTS

INNOVATION
REGISTRY

CONSENT AND
ATTRIBUTION
SYSTEM

Knowledge Commons: Bringing it all Together

GAME: From Local Spark to Shared Commons

Duration: 30 minutes

Goal: In regional groups, co-design a Commons-Enabling Infrastructure (CEI) to support shared agroecological innovation. Learn to balance social, technical, legal and financial dimensions under time pressure and adapt to emerging challenges

Game play

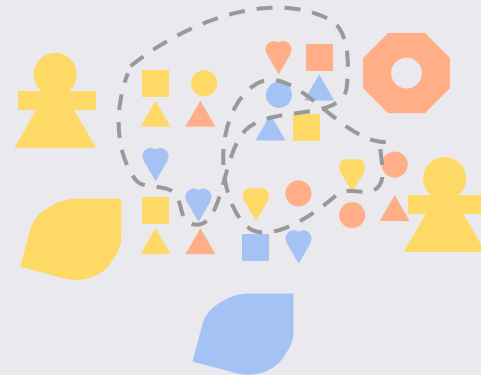
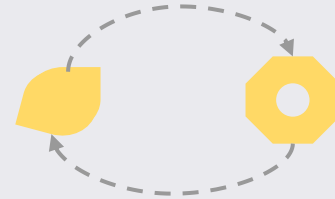
PART 1 **Innovate**

PART 2 **Agreements**

PART 3 **Exchange**

PART 4 **Pool**

PART 5 **Reflect**



Game play

Part 1 Innovate

3 Categories of Innovation



Process

Such as social,
idea, knowledge



Biologic

Natural pesticide,
seed variety, etc



Technology

Tool, tech, and
infrastructure

Roles for each innovation

Innovator(s) - *Agree to share for mutual benefit*

Documentarian(s) - *Pledge to document faithfully with Attribution*

Community Trustee - *Hold interest of the innovator, community and ecosystem in trust - and negotiate on their behalf within shared values for the benefit of the trust*

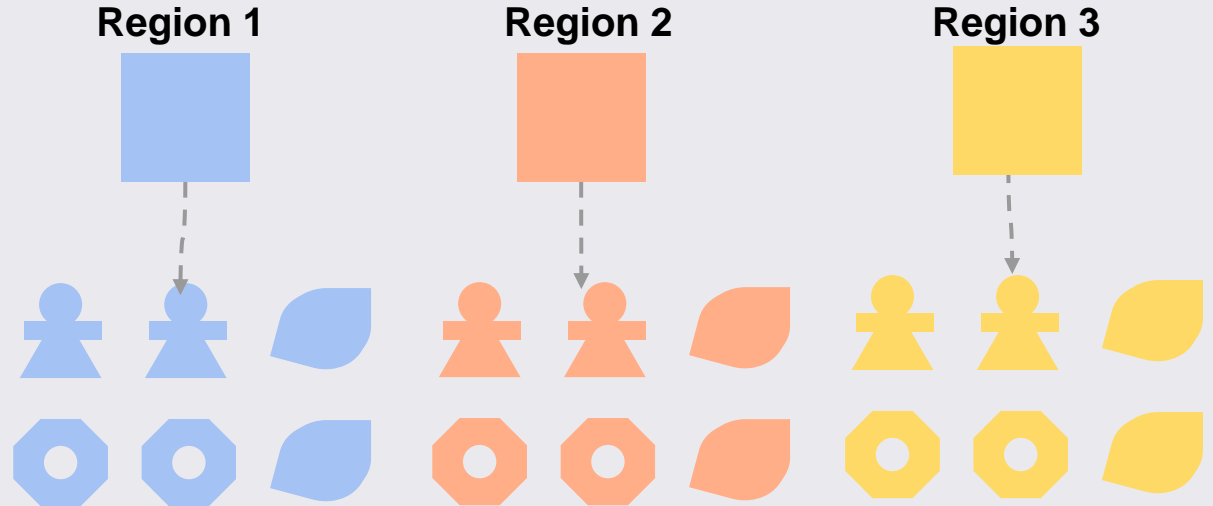
Game play

Part 1 Innovate

Tables assigned in regions and grouped by color

Each table fills out two innovations = 6 per region

Add the 3 roles to each

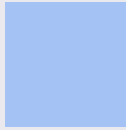


Innovator, Documentarian, Community Trustee

Game play

Part 2 Agreements

Four types of agreements



Legal



Technical

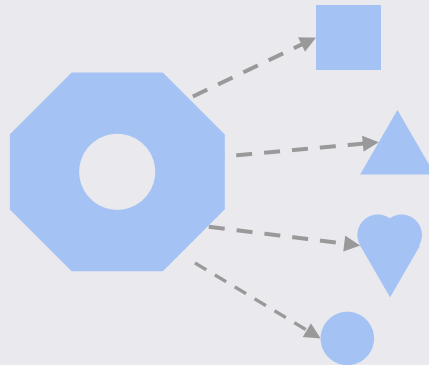


Social



Financial

Each table assigns **conditions** and **agreements** for each of the innovations at their table



Examples conditions and restriction

- Attribution required
- Consent verified (named persons/orgs)
- Non-commercial use only
- Purpose-bound (research/training)
- Geographic scope (specify region/ecosystem)
- Time-bound embargo (x months)
- Community benefit-share (describe)
- Local sovereignty respected (community opt-out honored)

Game play

Part 3 Exchange

Regions engage in exchange with each other. Each region needs to get 2 of each color.

Agreements **go with** the innovation

Regions decide whether they should add their own **new agreements** during the exchange



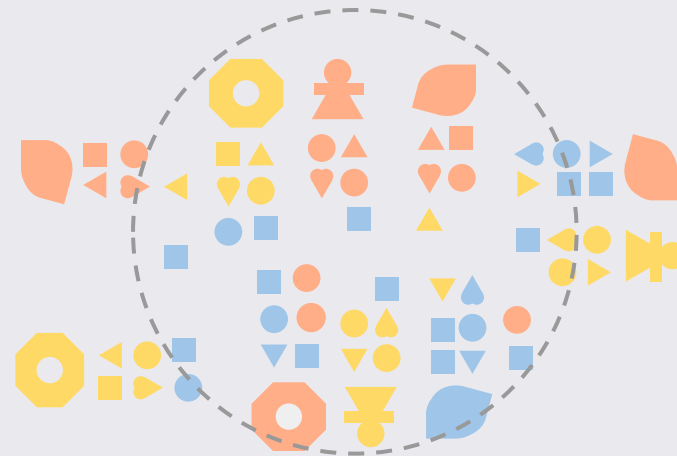
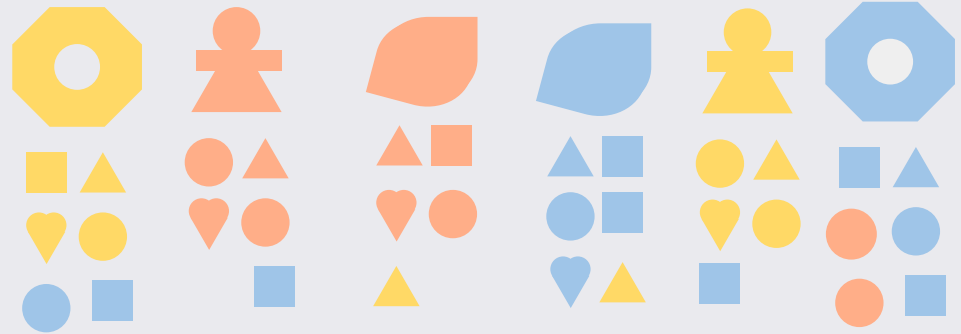
Game play

Part 4 Pool

Once regions have collected two of each color and shape...

...they decide whether to pool them into a shared commons.

To do this, regions decide which innovations and agreements they want to add to the global commons (the center table)



Game play

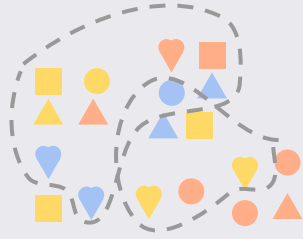
Part 5 Reflect

As a group **reflect** and **discuss**

Some helpful prompts



- Who completed an exchange? What condition mattered most? Who **contributed** theirs to the commons? Why?
- What signaled **trust** fastest (clear attribution? reciprocity offer? purpose-bound use?)
- How might this inform Prolinnova strategies for network to network or farmer to farm exchange?



Thank you!
Merci!

Example Conditional Use Restrictions

- Attribution required
- Consent verified (named persons/orgs)
- Non-commercial use only
- Purpose-bound (research/training)
- Geographic scope (specify region/ecosystem)
- Time-bound embargo (___ months)
- Community benefit-share (describe)
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Prompts after innovations moved to common table

Each table decides What to Do:

- **Publish to Global Commons**
(public) *or*

- **Keep Federated** (trust-only - Conditional)
Based on whether conditions are public-compatible.

1. Who completed an exchange?
What condition mattered most?
2. Who **kept** theirs in the trust? Why?
3. What signaled **trust** fastest (clear attribution? reciprocity offer? purpose-bound use?)

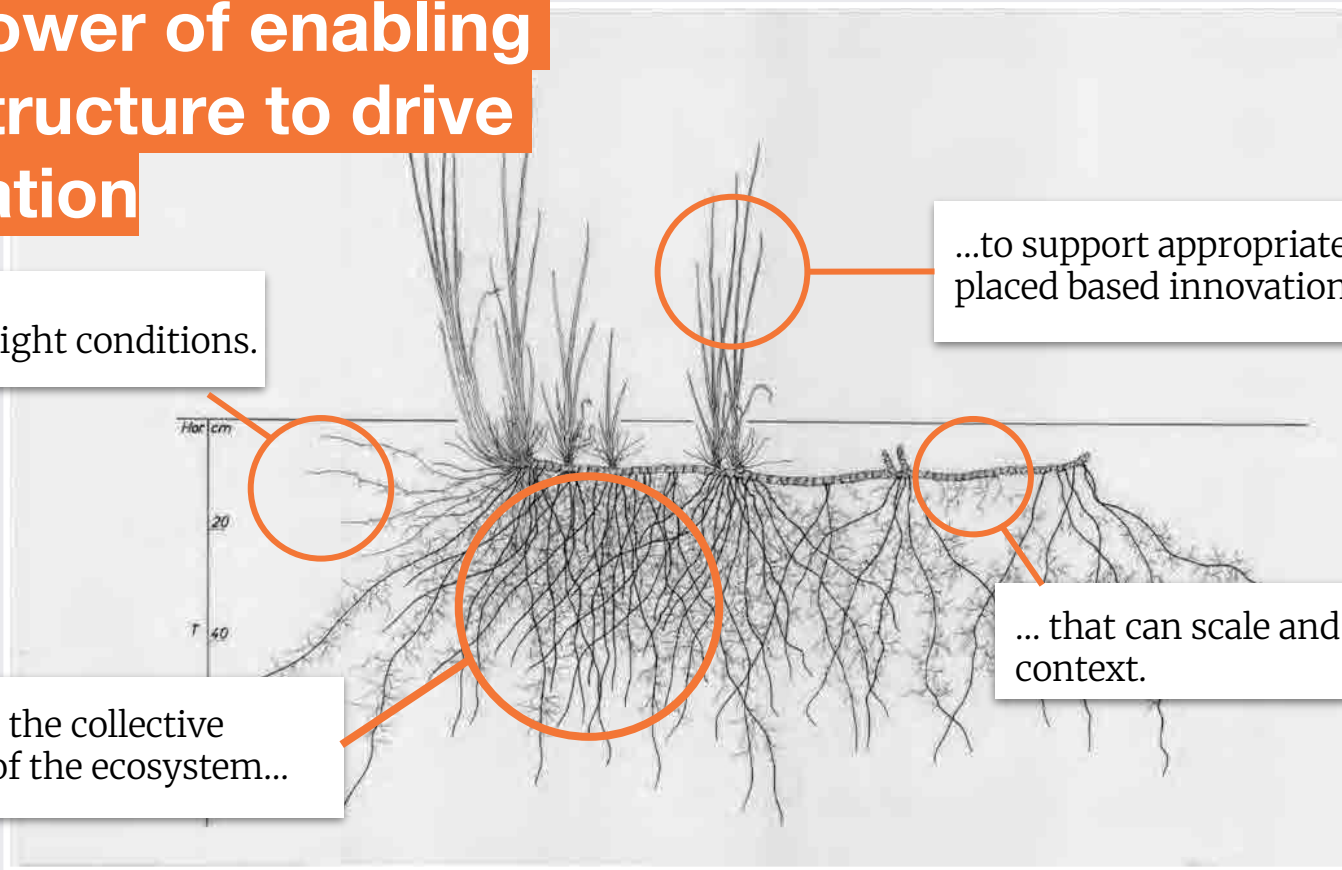
The power of enabling infrastructure to drive innovation

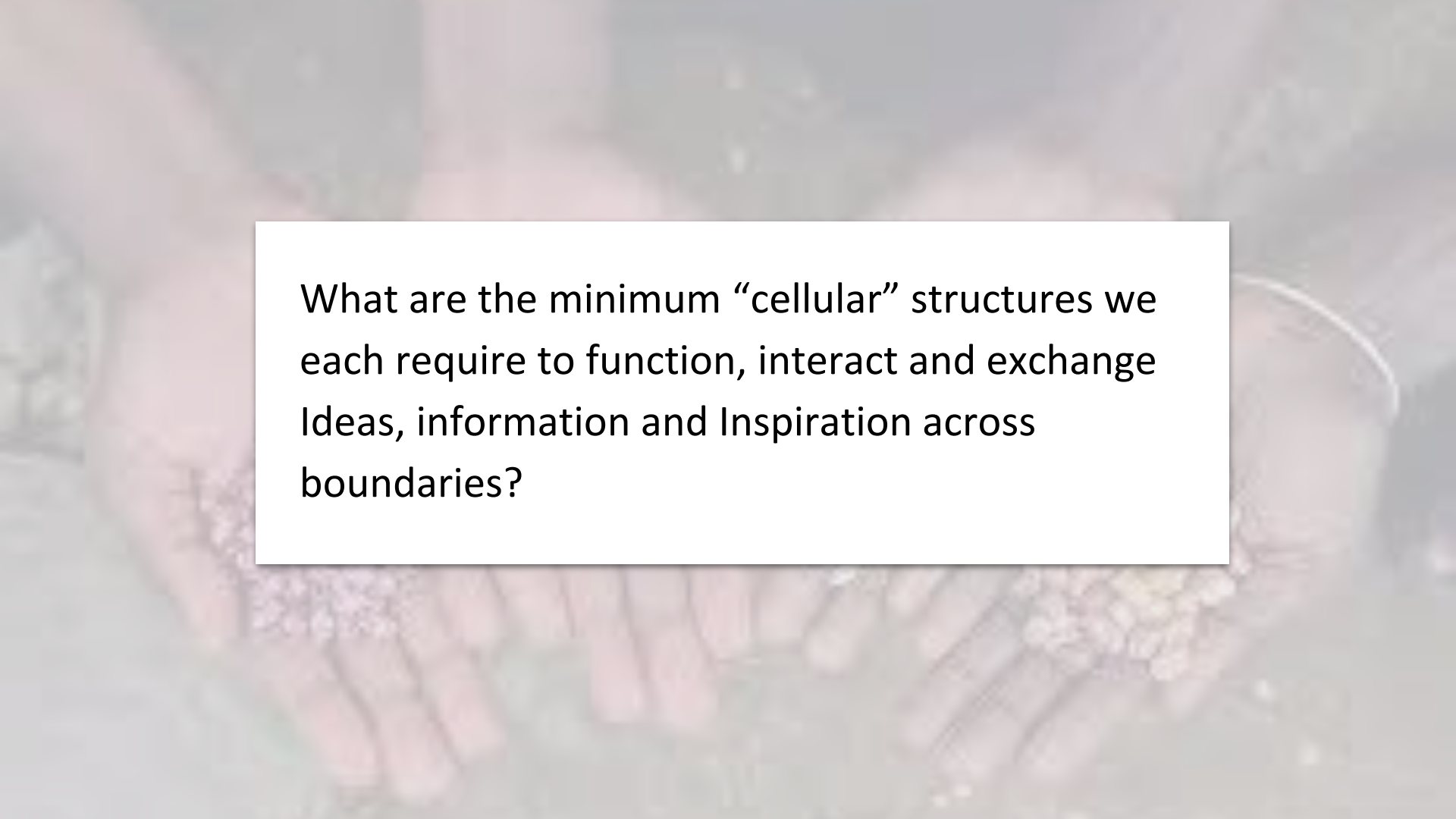
Nurturing the right conditions.

Tapping into the collective intelligence of the ecosystem...

...to support appropriate, placed based innovation,

... that can scale and adapt to the context.





What are the minimum “cellular” structures we each require to function, interact and exchange Ideas, information and Inspiration across boundaries?

Commercialisation

Commercialisation of PID Products and Technologies

PDS Training Centre, Idukki, Kerala (South India)

10 - 14 November, 2025



Sharad Rai, Jacob Wanyama, Chessa Wettasinha

Background/Context

- ❑ One of the objectives in the Prolinnova strategy for 2012-25:
 - Influence national and subnational policy processes that favour development and promotion of identified local innovations by small-scale farmers, including but not limited to market-oriented innovations.
- ❑ PID is situated within the agricultural value chain – from pre-production, production to marketing.
- ❑ PID is applicable to any part of the value chain – that also is marketing and/or commercialisation but at *localised context*.

Framework derived from principles of Agro Ecology (GLIESSMAN (2007) AND HLPE (2019))

INCREMENTAL TRANSFORMATIONAL

- LEVEL 5**
Build a new global food system based on participation, localness, fairness and justice
- LEVEL 4**
Reconnect consumers and producers through the development of alternative food networks
- LEVEL 3**
Redesign agroecosystems
- LEVEL 2**
Substitute conventional inputs and practices with agroecological alternatives
- LEVEL 1**
Increase efficiency of input use and reduce use of costly, scarce or environmentally damaging inputs

AGROECOSYSTEM FOOD SYSTEM



ILLUSTRATIONS: DOROTTY POOR

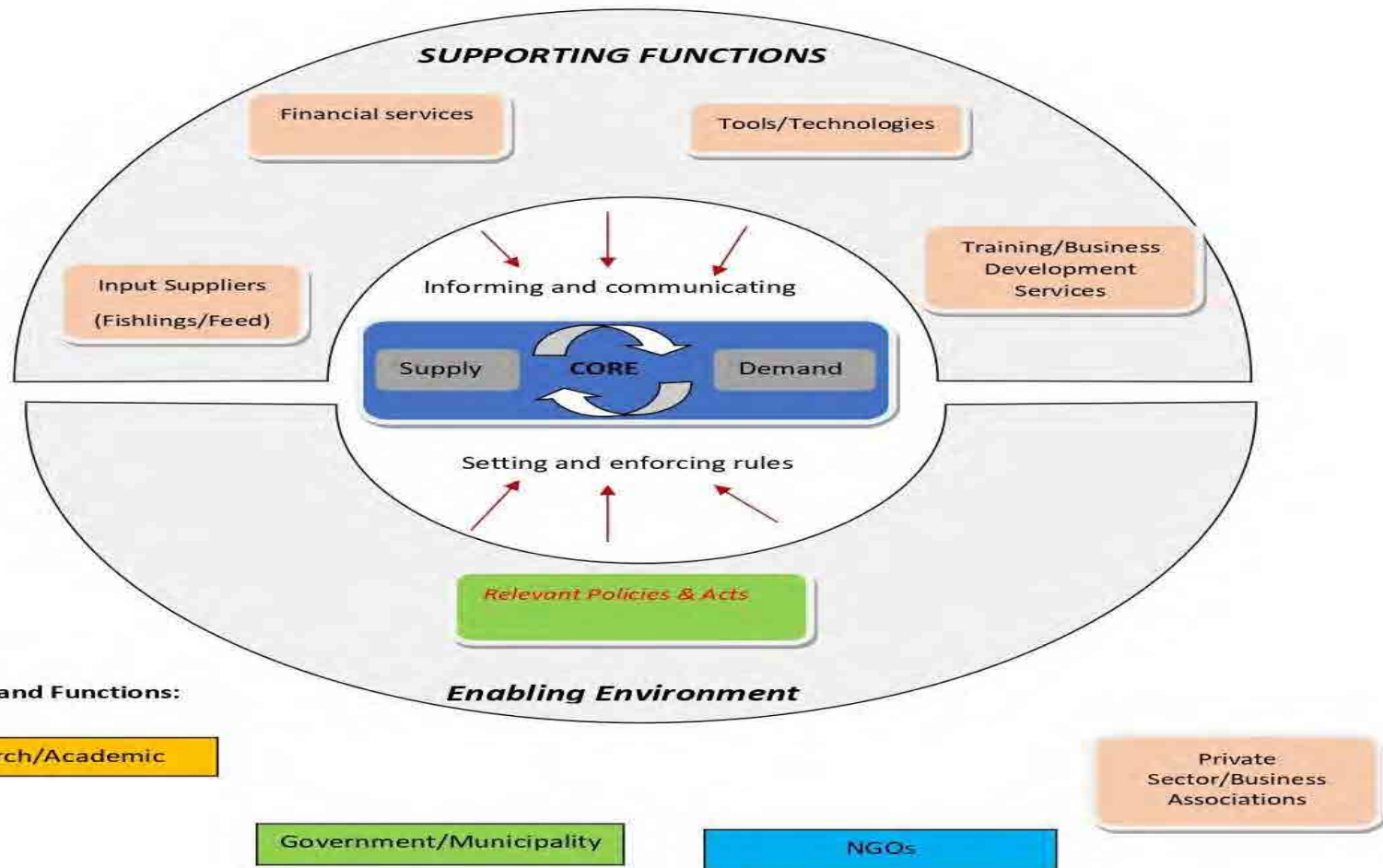
THE FIVE LEVELS OF TRANSITION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE RELATED 13 PRINCIPLES OF AGROECOLOGY

SOURCE: GLIESSMAN (2007) AND HLPE (2019)

Framework for Commercialisation (Agroecology Elements)

- **FAIRNESS:** Support dignified and robust livelihoods for all actors engaged in food systems, especially small-scale food producers, (fair trade, fair employment and fair treatment of intellectual property rights)
- **SOCIAL VALUES AND DIETS:** Build food systems based on the culture, identity, tradition, social and gender equity of local communities that provide healthy, diversified, seasonally and culturally appropriate diets;
- **ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION:** Diversify on-farm incomes by ensuring small-scale farmers have greater financial independence and value addition opportunities while enabling them to respond to demand from consumers,
- **CONNECTIVITY:** Ensure proximity and confidence between producers and consumers through promotion of fair and short distribution networks and by re-embedding food systems.
- **CO-CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE:** At the core of PID

Framework for Commercialisation (Market System)



Opportunities to support commercialisation within PID approach

❑ *Scaling Local Innovations Responsibly*

- Prolinnova's documentation and validation of farmer innovations establishes a foundation for commercialisation.

❑ *Inclusive Value Chain Development*

- Integrating participatory innovation development (PID) into value chain development approach

❑ *Strengthening Innovation Ecosystems*

- Prolinnova's multi-stakeholder platforms can act as incubators

❑ *Policy Influence*

- Prolinnova's advocacy for farmer-led innovation can influence commercialisation policies.

Challenges

Examples

- Access to local marketing outlets
- Collective marketing to be able to have bargaining power
- Storage facilities to sell when the prices increase



International Partners Workshop

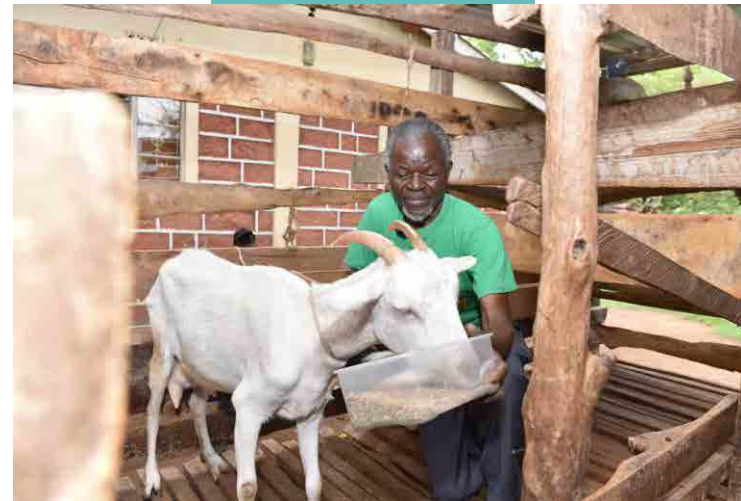
10-14 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

LOFODA-G-Meal

Locally Formulated Dairy Goat Meal

By

Vincent Mariadho & Hellen Mang'oi



Background

- LOFODA G-Meal: A Community-Driven Answer to Food Insecurity, Malnutrition and Climate Vulnerability.
- An innovative way of mixing locally available fodder materials and naturally occurring minerals produce a quality and nutritious dairy goat meal.
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Farmer-own experimentation → Farmer-led joint experimentation → Scientific analysis (for purposes of validation requisite of certification)

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- Financial models and projections

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Current status and success

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Possible contributions to promotion of LI and PID processes

- 10% of annual turn-over (profit) to go into LISF kitty
- Reference point for institutionalization of PID (Success case story)
- A motivation to the community on the importance of local innovation processes



Conclusion and recommendations

- Prolinnova should have a clear position on commercialization of Local innovation
- The position shouldn't compromise/water down the original vision of Prolinnova
- Not all innovations have commercialization potential (**need for assessment and screening**)



THANK YOU

Prolinnova International Partners Workshop (IPW 2025) SRI, Thattathikanam

Social Enterprises

Experience of Farmer Producer Organizations in India

Dr Siby Joseph

Program Director, PDS

Problems faced by the agriculture sector in Kerala

- Farming becoming a less rewarding occupation
 - Farmers remain as producers
 - Land fragmentation and small landholdings
 - Diseconomies of scale
 - Manual operations
 - Increasing cost of cultivation
 - Climate change
 - Price fluctuations / low MSP

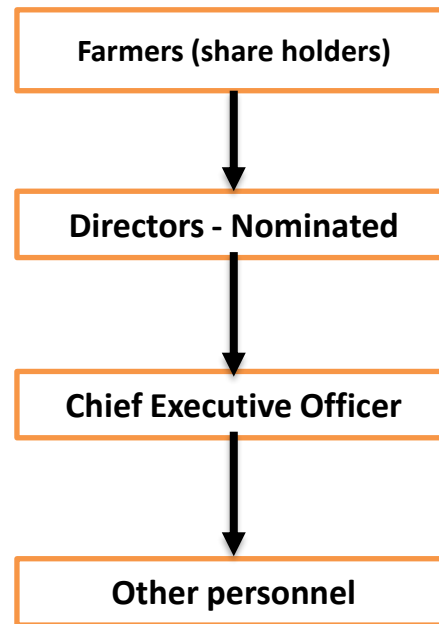
Farmer Producer Organizations

- An institutional innovation in 2013
- Organizations of the farmers, by the farmers and for the farmers
- Farmer collectives – Minimum 10 farmers
- Legal entities – registered as companies / cooperatives
- Engage in backward and forward linkages
- Supply chain management
- Farmers join the FPOs by buying its shares

Benefits to farmers

- Farmers get quality inputs – seeds, manure, farm implements, trainings
- Higher price for agriculture products through aggregation
- Dividend (profit share) for farmers
- Incentives / bonus for farmers
- Better bargaining power
- Channelise government programs

Structure / Governance



Government Support

- National policy on Farmer Producer Organization
- Legal framework for FPOs
- Financial support – Around INR 4 million over a period of 5 years
 - Salary for 2 professionals
 - Other recurring expenses
 - Equity grant as venture capital – INR 2000 / share holder
- Govt supported schemes / credit support
- Credit guarantee scheme for FPOs
- Support for agencies for handholding for a period of 5 years

Farmer Producer Organizations

Challenges faced by the farmers	Through Farmer producer Organizations
Farmers remain as producers	Farmers become agripreneurs
Land fragmentation and small landholdings	Product aggregation
Diseconomies of scale	Economies of scale
Manual operations	Adoption of modern technology
Increasing cost of cultivation	Reduced cost of cultivation
Climate change	Adaptation strategies
Price fluctuations / low MSP	Better price through Semi processing and Value addition

Sustainability of FPOs / Business

- Focus on farmers and farmer friendly initiatives
- Committed leadership - BoD
- More active shareholders in the FPO
- Product diversification
- Handholding by professional organizations
- Convergence with government programs
- Professional management – CEO / Accountant (not shareholders)
- Inter FPO collaborations and network

Thank You....

Group Work (45 Mins)

Four groups to work on:

- 1. How do we support farmer innovators to access local markets** (Facilitator -Maggie,)
(Basanta, Vincent, Carolyne, Tezera, Ananya, Alana, Jony)
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(Shaibu, Hellen, Richard,, Franklin, Peter, Samuel, Siby, Ashwin)
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(Dorn, Djibril, Sigue, Ernest, Mutizwa, David, Diakite)

All groups to draft a definition of commercialization within the framework of LI/ PID and agroecology (consider the elements of agroecology mentioned in the presentation)



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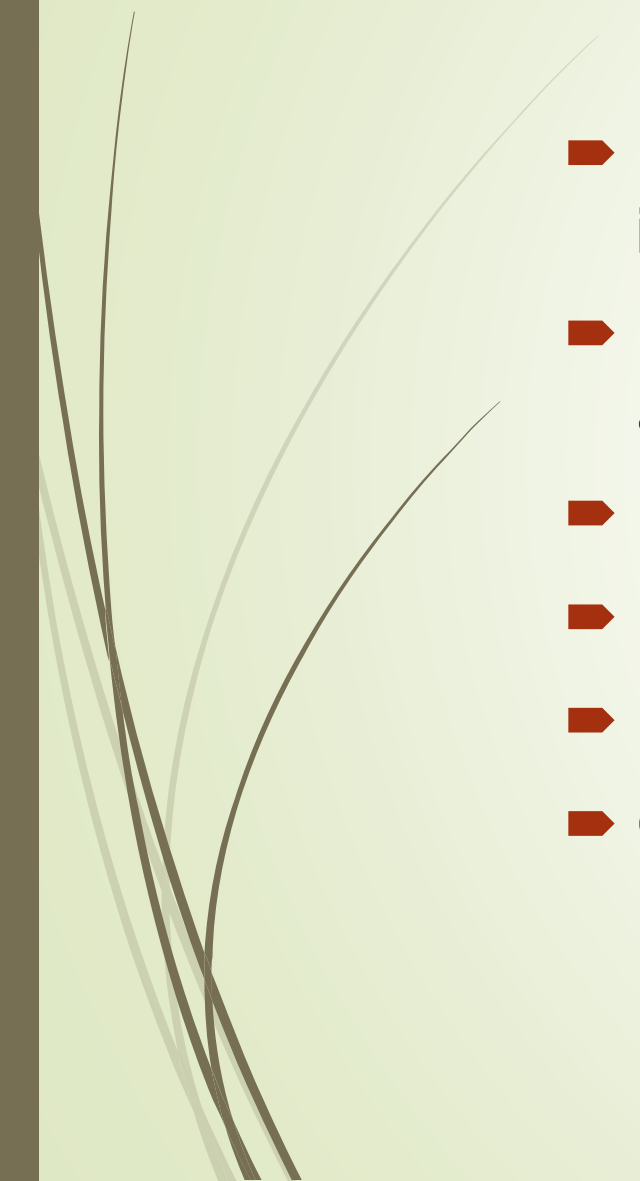


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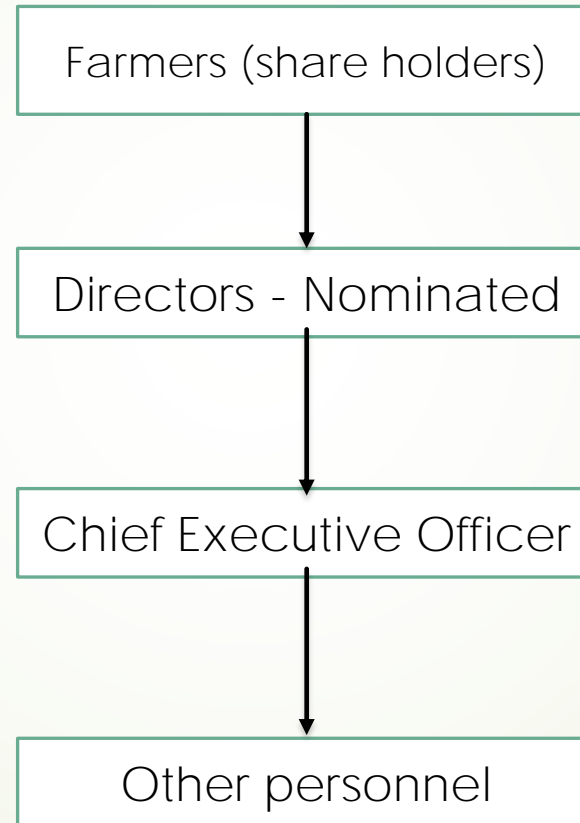
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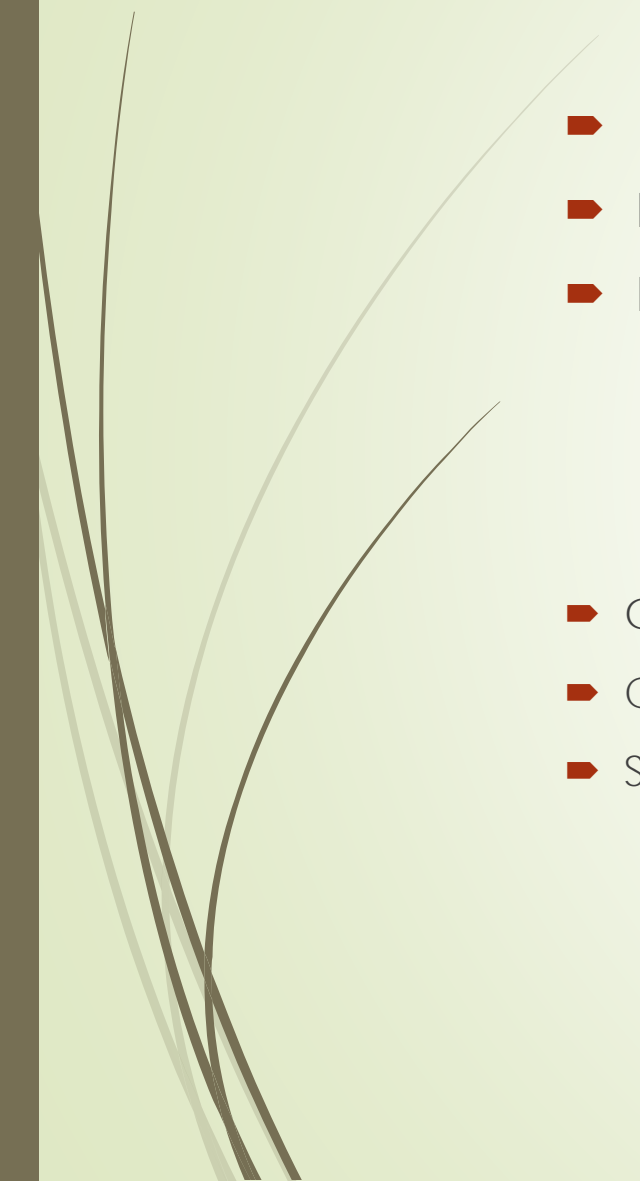
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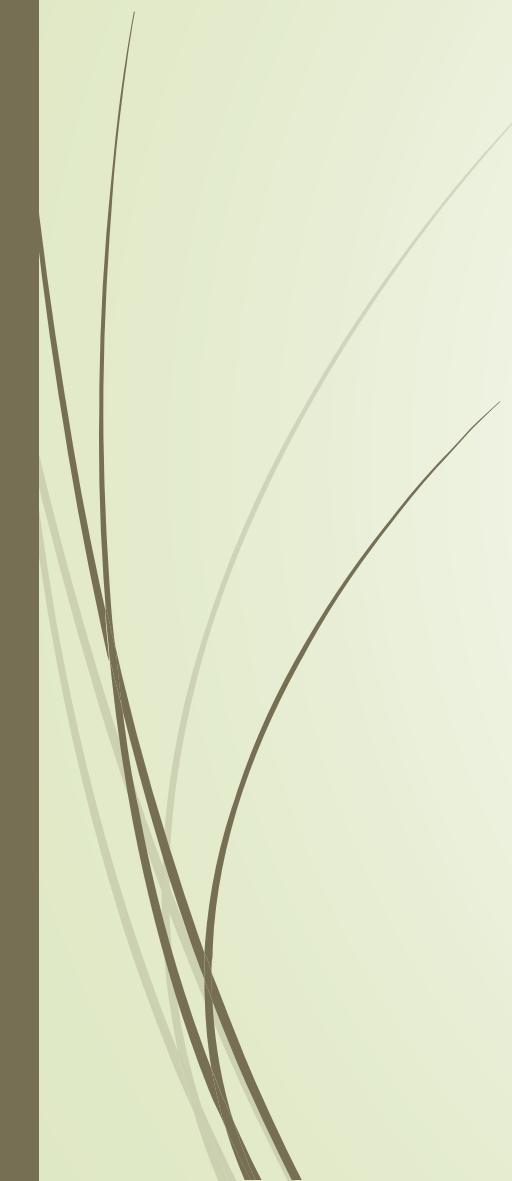
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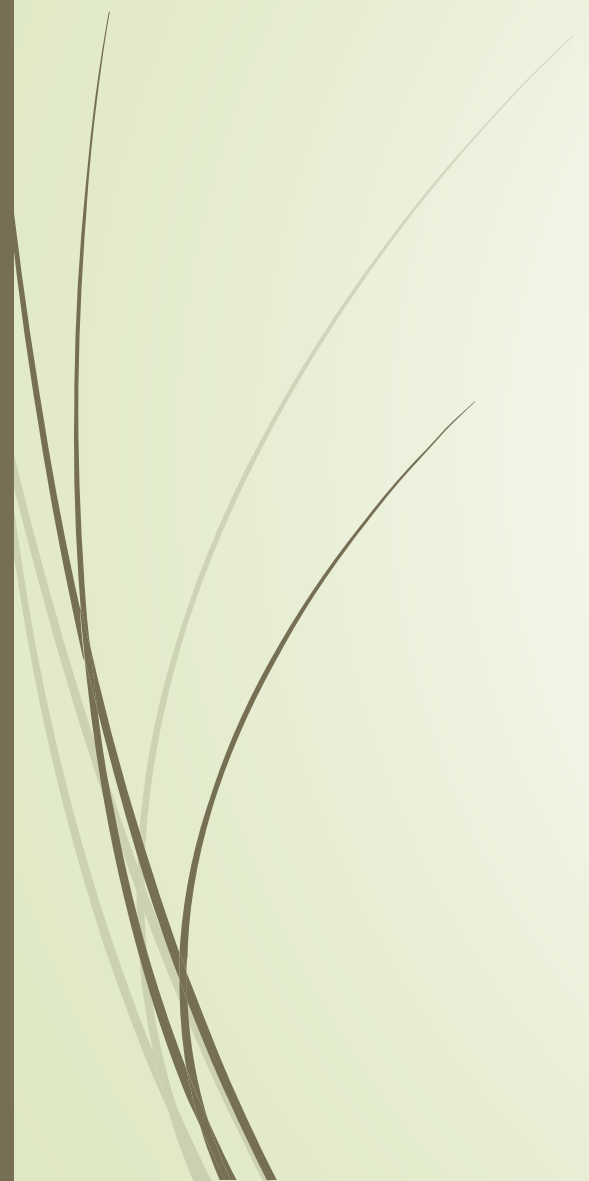
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Commercialisation of PID Products and Technologies

PDS Training Centre, Idukki, Kerala (South India)

13 November, 2025

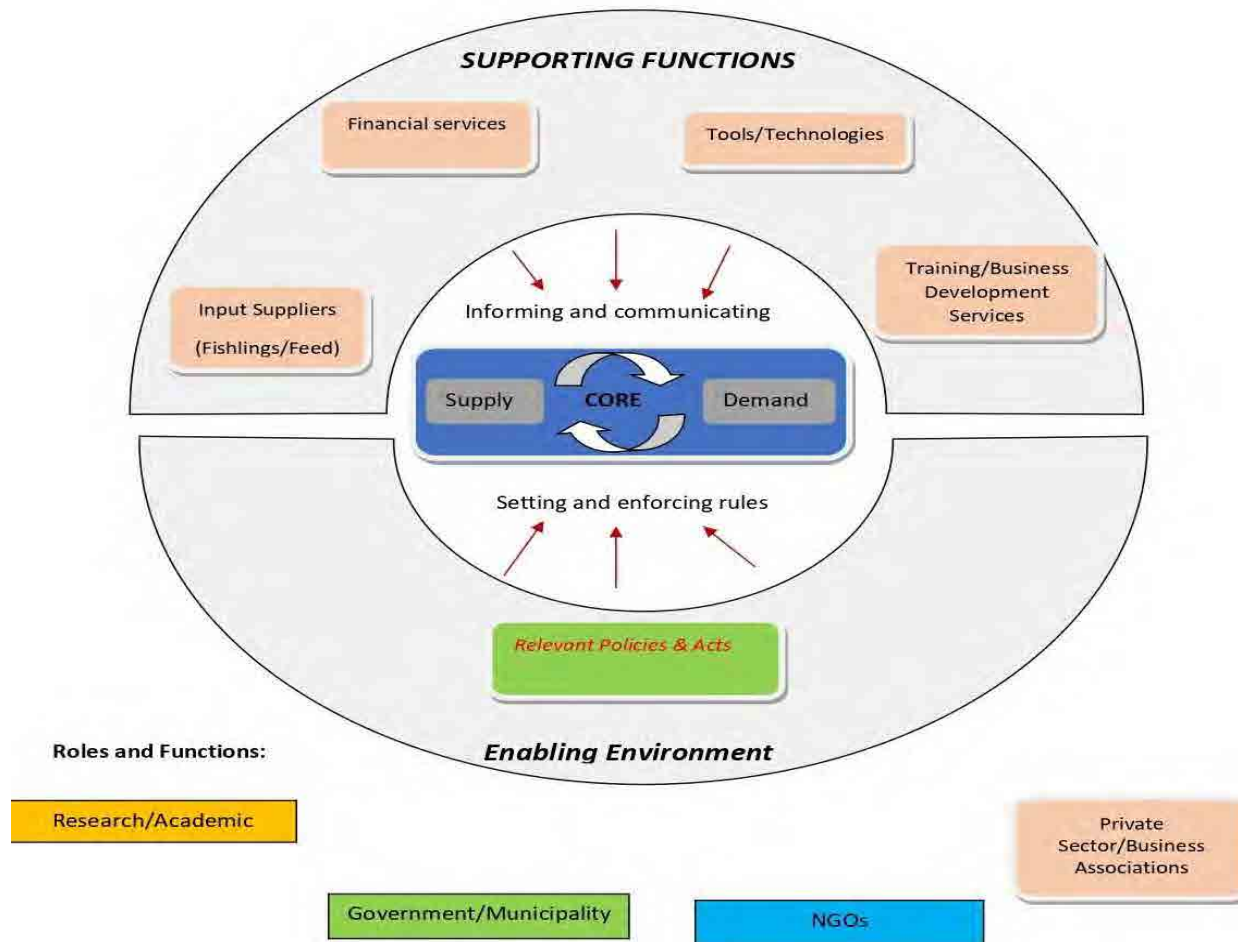


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Framework for Commercialisation (Market System)



Source: *The Doughnut*, Springfield Centre for Business

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INCREMENTAL

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FOOD SYSTEM
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CASES

1. LOFODA (Kenya), Vincent Mariadho, Prolinnova Kenya
2. Farmer Producer Organisation (South India), Siby Joseph, Prolinnova South India

Presentation – 10 mins

Q&A – 5 Minutes

LOFODA-G-Meal



International Partners Workshop

10-14 November 2025, Idukki, Kerala, India

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Locally Formulated Dairy Goat Meal

By

Vincent Mariadho & Hellen Mang'oi



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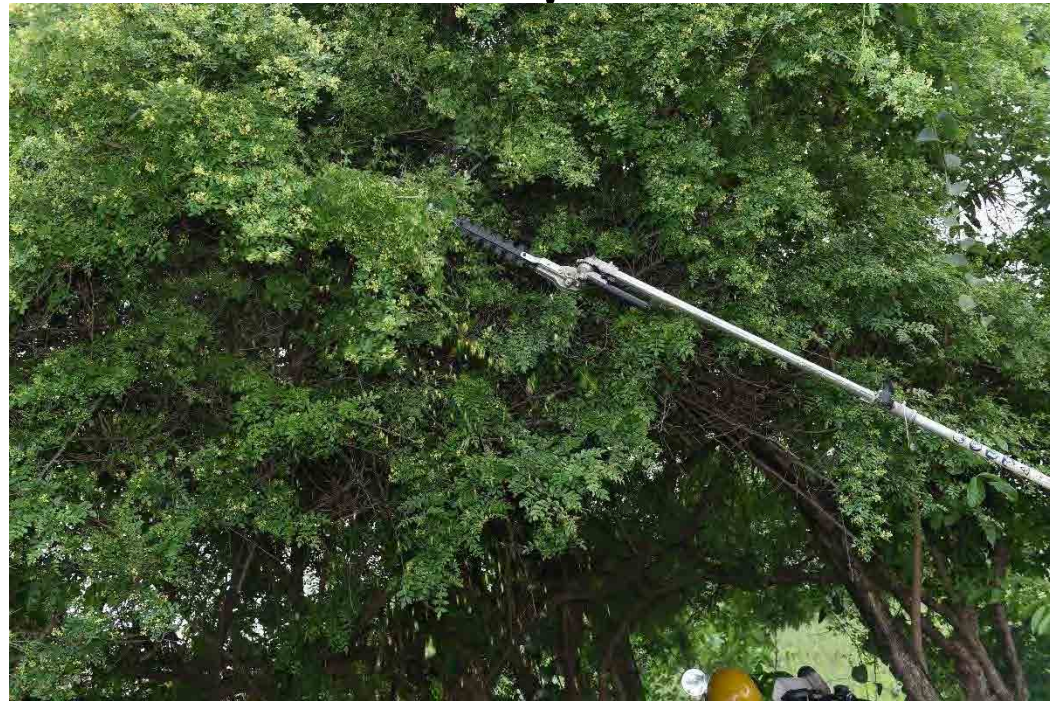
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