

Prolinnova-Uganda Country Platform (CP) Annual Report 2017

1. Introduction

This is an annual report for Prolinnova-Uganda Country Platform (CP) for 2017. It presents the key achievements, challenges and perspectives during the reporting period. Notable is that during the reporting period, the CP is largely constrained with limited funding to effectively deliver on the country program aspirations. Despite this, the CP Secretariat at Environmental Alert ensured that the country platform remained visible and alive among the members, key stakeholders and partners. This was achieved through facilitating and supporting networking activities among members for information sharing and exchange largely through online interactions and participation in CP member's led activities. Furthermore, greater focus and effort were invested into resource mobilization and fundraising¹ (*with support from members of the Prolinnova Oversight Group and the International Support Team*) to advance development of the country platform program. The latter efforts yielded some results in that one of the proposals was approved for funding, within the framework of the *European Union/LEAP-Agric -- Research and Innovation for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in Africa and Europe*. Besides, the fundraising process resulted in the identification of farmer several innovations, some of which require documentation and validation through joint experimentation moving forward.

Furthermore, several strategic partners (such as: *HORIZONT 3000; Makerere University; Abi Zonal Agricultural Research Institute; Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research – ZALF - Germany; Wageningen University – WUR - Netherlands; National Environment Trust Fund – NETFUND – Kenya*) have been identified and being pursued.

2. Achievements, challenges and perspectives

2.1 Key activities implemented, with description of achievements and specifying date/period of implementation and stakeholder involvement

Key activities	Key achievement
<p>A) Identification, documentation and sharing of innovations and Participatory Innovation Development (PID) results (reports, catalogues, posters, flyers, articles, blogs, contributions to Prolinnova website etc)</p>	<p>A total number of 35 innovations falling in categories of sustainable agriculture, food security, renewable energy, water and sanitation, poultry/livestock were identified through interactions/engagements (<i>such as: farmer innovation day celebrations, preparation of concept notes/proposals, the 11th International Community Based Adaptation Conference</i>) with Prolinnova Uganda Country Platform members, partners and stakeholders. These innovations are at different stages of development, thus some require value addition through validation, targeted documentation and dissemination. Hence, subsequent program initiatives should target to add value to these innovations in this respect.</p> <p>Some of the innovations identified were documented in the activity reports, which were uploaded on the Prolinnova website and others have write-ups/cases which are not yet published. They are enlisted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <i>Food security and nutrition through value addition and processing i.e. foods and beverages;</i> ii) <i>Sanitation and hygiene e.g. soap made from jatropher;</i> iii) <i>Sustainable utilization of renewable energy resources e.g. improved energy cook stoves;</i> iv) <i>Environment and natural resources management e.g. promotion of indigenous tree species through farm forestry and agroforestry, Soil fertility sustenance through integrated soil and nutrient management – plant porridge/tea;</i> v) <i>Sustainable agriculture;</i>

¹Hence, 4 proposals were developed and submitted to prospective funding partners, during the reporting period.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi) Poultry management e.g. training chickens for laying and hatching eggs; vii) Small-scale Irrigation systems; viii) Art and crafts through use of local materials; ix) Bee keeping/Apiary; x) Half+Half 1000 Acre Community Forest by Kikandwa Environment Association (KEA). This is a community led initiative for forest landscape restoration on farmland through nature based solutions; xi) Community road water harvesting and management for use in the irrigation of farm crops by smallholder farmers.
<p>B) Networking (at local, national, regional and international level) and policy dialogue (partnerships or collaboration with public institutions or actors, policy workshops at local, national, regional or international level)</p>	<p>The following engagements were conducted by Prolinnova-Uganda Country Platform and members as part of networking:</p> <p>1. Environmental Alert, the host for the Prolinnova Uganda Country Platform (CP) Secretariat and members of the CP participated in the Farmer Innovation Fair, which was held on 3rd September 2017 at the offices of Youth Association for Rural Development in Ngogwe Sub County in Buikwe District. It was supported by HORIZONT3000², the Austrian Organization for Development Cooperation under the auspices of their program on, ‘Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI) East Africa Project,’ which is implemented in Uganda and Tanzania based on the ERI approach. The event targeted to bring together farmer innovators, both men and women, young and old in one place to witness, recognize and celebrate the creativity, ingenuity and innovativeness of men and women practicing small-scale farming under the ERI-East Africa Project. Thus, it drew participation from several partners and stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Key results from the engagement</i></p> <p>a) The farmer innovators shared and disseminated their innovations in agriculture and natural resource management through demonstration and illustrations presented through exhibitions. NB: the list of innovation exhibited is available on line from: https://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/Uganda/2017/farmer-innovation-fair-report-4sept2017.pdf</p> <p>b) Experience sharing and networking among farmers and partners with a common interest in advancing farmer innovations in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources management for improved livelihoods. This is a stepping stone in consolidating and building synergies among partnership through value adding strategic partnerships.</p> <p>However, a clear way forward from this FIF engagement is that <i>the exhibited farmer innovations should be taken through subsequent steps of innovation development involving validation and documentation for further dissemination and up scaling of proven ones.</i> Furthermore, <i>value should be added to the innovation through packaging and marketing</i> so that the farmers can have greater benefits from the innovations which will translate into increased household incomes and livelihood.</p> <p>2. Environmental Alert , the Prolinnova-Uganda Country Platform Secretariat and members of the CP (such as PELUM-Uganda and Kulika- Uganda) participated in the 20 years celebration event for AFIRD in Nkoowe, Wakiso district. AFIRD is a member of Prolinnova-Uganda Country Platform and during the event several innovations in ecologically sound sustainable agriculture were exhibited by the famers they support through their sustainable agriculture programs. These among others included the Vermicompositing innovation, which involves transforming biodegradable municipal waste into valuable composit through utilization of earthworms in the decomposition process, a practice generally known as Permaculture. Besides, AFIRD also conducted</p>

² See Box 4 for further information about HORIZONT3000.

interactive radio talk shows to increase awareness about the innovation. They have also trained 10 farmers (each comprising on average 25 members) about the innovation of vermicomposting.

3. Environmental Alert , the Prolinnova-Uganda Country Platform Secretariat on behalf of the Orolinnova Uganda CP attended the National workshop organized b the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology in partnership with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation for assessing the countries capacity in the participation in the Future Earth Initiative. This is within the framework of a project titled, '*Building and Mobilizing Developing Country Capacity to participate effectively in the Future Earth Initiative.*'

The workshop objectives were: *a) ensure that Uganda's contributions to the Future Earth Initiative are documented and shared globally; b) ensure that Ugandans participate in international research networks with research interests in global sustainability; and c) to develop a national action plan for building capacities to conduct research in Future Earth's priority areas.*

Thus, the Polinnova Uganda CP provided the required feedback and input for consideration into the project design to address the needs of the Uganda national context.

4. The Prolinnova-Uganda Country Platform members (including: Environmental Alert, KEA, ..) participated in the *National Community Based Adaptation (CBA) workshop* held on 14th June 2017 as a precursor event ahead of the *11th International CBA conference*, which was held in Uganda in 2017 and hosted by the Ministry of Water and Environment. At this workshop the members of the Prolinnova Uganda CP shared and disseminated the key lessons, experiences and farmer innovations in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

5. PELUM Uganda, a member of the Prolinnova Uganda CP continued to promote the Community Managed Seed Security Model (CMSS) which is participatory farmer-led approach for systematically planning and executing interventions towards promoting farmers' seed security and seed security and seed sovereignty.

PELUM Uganda works in partnership with Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD) in Nebbi district to promote the CMSS model. In 2017, maize in Nebbi district was massively affected by the Army worm. Farmers in Erusi subcounty, Nebbi district noticed that the *traditional maize variety locally known as 'siri-siri'* was less susceptible to the Army worm as compared to the hybrid varieties that were being given to farmer through the operation wealth creation program.

As a way of addressing the challenge, PELUM Uganda in partnership with CEFORD supported 150 farmers in Erusi Sub-county, Nebbi district in Northern Uganda in the identification and selection of maize seed that is showing characteristics of being less susceptible to the army worm. Farmers were further supported to multiply the seed. This was done through supporting farmers to multiply the seed and variety enhancement through on farm selection processes. Farmers would multiply the seed and share it within the same community.

Overall the initiative contributed to one of the Agro-ecological ways of fighting the army worm, a major maize pest in the sub-region. Moving forawrd, its important to bring reaserchers on board to add value to the assessment of the problem and development of plausible solutions to address the problem.

6. KEA, a member of Prolinnova Uganda CP participated in the Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development studio talk show that focused on, '*Promoting Local Innovation to achieve Sustainable Development,*' held on 21st-23rd March 2018 at the

	<p>World Conference Centre in Bonn, Germany. At this event he shared KEA's work in respect to promoting farmer innovation and the contribution toward achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The event was watched via Tv by more than 1,500 participants from over 100 countries. Further details about is participation are available from: http://webtv.un.org/search/sdg-action-talk-promote-local-innovation-sdg-studio-global-festival-of-action-for-sustainable-development%20201/5756297664001/?term=Global%20festival&sort=date&page=2</p>
<p>C) Fundraising (at local, national, regional and international level) and management of Local Innovation Support Funds/Facilities (LISFs & other forms of supporting local innovators)</p>	<p><i>The following fundraising initiatives were conducted during the reporting period through generation of concept notes/ proposal as responses to funding calls:</i></p> <p>a) <i>Improving Nutrition through Local Innovation in Food Processing and Marketing (NutriPro). This concept note was developed in collaboration with University of Hohenheim, Germany (UHOH, Project Coordinator); Makerere University, Uganda (MAK); Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Uganda (MUZARDI); and Environmental Alert, Uganda (EA) on behalf of Prolinnova Uganda CP. The concept was submitted to the Germany Federal office for Agriculture and Food. Unfortunately, the concept note was not considered for funding.</i></p> <p>b) A project proposal titled, '<i>Sustainable Transition to Entrepreneurial Production in Agriculture through Upgrading.</i>' This is a 3 project focusing on the banana and Mango value chains in Uganda and Kenya respectively. In Uganda project interventions on awareness, information exchange and targeted policy dialogues through multi-stakeholder participation with be implemented through the Prolinnova – Uganda Country Platform. It will involve a multi-partners consortium comprising of: <i>Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Germany, Wageningen University (WUR), The Netherlands; Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kenya; National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND), Kenya; Environmental Alert (EA), Uganda; National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), Uganda; Advisory board: Solidaridad, IITA, OXFAM, Kenya Bureau of Standards.</i> The financial support to Uganda (<i>shared between EA and NARO</i>) is about 200,000 USD over a period of 3 years. The project was approved for funding and scheduled to start by 1st September 2018.</p> <p>c) A concept note titled, '<i>Advancing food security and community resilience to climate change through promotion of indigenous vegetables in Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan.</i>' The total budget is 450,000 Euros over 3 years. It was submitted to the <i>Benefit sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – 4th Call</i> for proposals in 2018. Its under review and waiting for decision. The concept note involved the following Prolinnova CPs in the collaboration: Uganda (Prolinnova Uganda CP - Environmental Alert, Abi Zonal Agricultural Research Institute), Ethiopia (Prolinnova Ethiopia CP) and Sudan (Prolinnova Sudan CP - NCR Institute of Engineering Research and Matera Technology).</p> <p>d) A proposal titled, '<i>Policy engagement to influence investment for attainment of sustainable diets for All,</i>' was developed and submitted to HIVOS for review and consideration. Its waiting for decision. The Prolinnova – Uganda Country Programme was presented as a mechanism for mobilizing and coordination of CSOs and networks (operating in the sustainable agriculture/food security and nutrition) joint engagements for influencing decisions and investments for advancement of sustainable diets for all. The proposed total budget is 290,000 Euros over a period of 2 years.</p>
<p>D) Governance of Prolinnova Uganda Country Platform</p>	<p>During the reporting period, the members of the steering committee and core team participated in decision making based on information sharing, feed back and guidance to the secretariat through the online platform. Thus, their views and inputs were received on concepts/proposal development and processes/content in respect to transition of the Prolinnova network towards establishment of sub-regional platforms.</p>

	It was not possible to conduct face to face interactions/meetings due limited funds to facilitate the meetings i.e. steering committee and core team meetings. Thus, much of the interaction was through the online platforms (i.e. email goodle groups). However, arrangements are under way to organize steering committee meeting before end of quarter II – 2018.
E) Membership coordination, servicing, and mobilization	a) The members of Prolinnova Uganda Country Platform are informed about what going on in the network at national and international levels. This was achieved through information sharing and exchange from the secretariat to the members through the website and social media platforms. Besides, the network is also continuously introduced and presented to stakeholders during the various national stakeholders engagements (in the agriculture, environment & natural resources), where the Secretariat is invited to participate. During these engagements, the network's lessons, best practices from previous engagements (as described in the published information, education, and communication materials) are disseminated among the partners. Hence, this has helped to keep the platform alive even when there are no running programs/projects coordinated through the secretariat.

3.0 Difficulties/challenges

The following are some of the challenges and difficulties faced by the Prolinnova Uganda CP during the reporting period:

- i. Inadequate funding for the Prolinnova Uganda Country Platform limits it from implementing undertakings and aspirations as described in the Prolinnova International strategic plan. This is being addressed through advancing program development through concepts/proposal writing and also persuing collaboration with strategic partnerships;
- ii. Inadequate staffing for the Prolinnova Uganda Country Platform. The coordination of the Prolinnova Uganda Country Platform is still managed directly through the Executive Director's office at Environmental Alert. Moving forwad recruitment of an assitant to support coordination of the platform is being persued as the funding situation improves at the secretariat.

4.0 Conclusion

During the reporting period, the Prolinnova-Uganda CP remained active and alive among the members, partners and stakeholders at the local, national and international levels. The members implemented various activities within their own programs/projects, which promoted the prolinnova concepts, principals and approaches. The CP secretariat participated in member's led activities thereby faciliated in knowing and understanding the activities by the members.

Moving forward the CP and its members will tap into existing opportunities at the national and international levels to advance development of the Country Program, which fits into the Prolinnova International network strategic plan aspirations (e.g. promoting & mainstreaming PID/PTD in national policies & programs) while addressing the underlying issues partaining to innovations in ecologically sound agriculture and natural resources management based on the national and local context in Uganda.

Annex 1: Sample of photography from activities implemented during this period.



Figure 1: Vermi-compost being dried before its packaged. Photo by AFIRD..



Figure 2: vermi tea and compost packaged ready for the market after being dried/processed. Photo by AFIRD.



Figure 3: The Vice chairman LCV wakiso district visiting the farmers' stall where Vermin composting products were on display during the exhibition that was organized for farmers at st thereza primary school last year 2017 Photo by AFIRD.



Figure 4: Kikandwa community members watching a video on road water harvest. Photo by KEA.



Figure 5: Kikandwa community members applying the road water harvesting technique/innovation to sustain and maintain the road. Photo by KEA.



Figure 6: Famer collects the water from the road water harveting technique for irrigation of farm crops. Photo by KEA.

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