

Prolinnova–Uganda Country Platform Annual Report for 2018

1. Introduction

This is the annual report for the Prolinnova–Uganda Country Platform (CP) for 2018. It presents the key achievements, challenges and perspectives during the reporting period. Notable is that, during the reporting period, the CP was largely constrained in terms of funding to effectively deliver on its aspirations. Despite this, the CP Secretariat at Environmental Alert ensured that the CP remained visible and active 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 activities led by CP members.

Furthermore, greater focus and effort were invested into resource mobilisation and fundraising, with support from members of the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG) and the International Support Team (IST), to advance development of the CP programme. Also several strategic partners, such as HORIZONT 3000, PELUM–Uganda and Makerere University’s School of Forestry, Environment and Geographical Sciences, have been identified and are being pursued for more structured collaboration.

2. Achievements and perspectives

The key achievements registered during the reporting period are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Key achievements during the reporting period

Key activities	Key achievements
A) Networking <i>(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)</i>	<p>The following engagements were conducted by the Prolinnova–Uganda CP and its members as part of networking:</p> <p><i>Key results from the engagement</i></p> <p>i) The Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat participated in the national dialogue for review of the draft National Organic Agriculture Policy 2018, alongside other agro-ecological actors in Uganda coordinated by PELUM–Uganda. It involved 25 key practitioners and experts (15 men, 10 women) in the organic agriculture subsector including: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), civil society organisations (CSOs), certification companies, farmer organisations, the private sector and academic institutions. The dialogue was organised by PELUM–Uganda in collaboration with the National Organic Agricultural Organization of Uganda (NOGAMU), Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA) and MAAIF. In the process, key gaps were identified in the draft policy and recommendations suggested from consideration by the MAAIF. Of particular interest among others was for the policy to integrate local innovation and indigenous knowledge into the objective, policy statement and strategies. The goal of the draft policy is <i>“Harnessing the country’s organic agricultural potential by ensuring a regulated and promoted sector that contributes to national development.”</i></p> <p>ii) Members of the Prolinnova–Uganda CP through coordination by PELUM–Uganda participated in the annual joint sector review for the agriculture sector for MAAIF. During this engagement, the CP Secretariat presented a keynote address on behalf of CSOs at the thematic meeting on agricultural productivity. This was attended by at least 40 stakeholders (25 males, 15 females) in the agricultural sector including</p>

	<p>representatives from Government Ministries, Authorities and Departments; the private sector, farmer organisations and CSOs. In the keynote, various issues and associated recommendations (including promotion and support for farmer innovation to advance agricultural productivity) were highlighted for further discussion by the participants during the plenary session.</p> <p>iii) The Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat participated in the inception meeting for the <i>Sustainable Transition to Entrepreneurial Production in Agriculture through Upgrading (STEP-UP)</i> project held in Nairobi and Kampala on 6–14 December. This involved project implementation partners including: Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Germany; Wageningen University and Research (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.</p> <p>This is a 3-year project focusing on the banana and mango value chains in Uganda and Kenya, respectively. In Uganda, project interventions on awareness raising, information exchange and targeted policy dialogue through multistakeholder participation are to be implemented through the Prolinnova–Uganda CP.</p> <p>Unfortunately, project implementation has stalled in Uganda largely due to delayed fund disbursement as a result of emerging changes in leadership and roles within the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology.</p> <p>iv) The CP Secretariat took part in the African Prolinnova CPs Meeting held on 22–24 May in Nairobi, Kenya. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss the progress of the Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security (Prolifans) project and to review and discuss the process of regionalising the Prolinnova network in Africa. Briefing notes and the detailed activity report were shared with CP members through the Googlegroup email. The detailed report is available at: https://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/thematic_pages/food_nutri_sec/african_cps_meeting- nairobi may 2018 final report.pdf</p>
<p>B) Capacity strengthening (training and other forms of capacity development) & organisational development (building support groups, strengthening leadership, building / improving image or brand)</p>	<p>i) Capacity building for Prolinnova–Uganda CP members</p> <p>Ms Verrah Nyakato, programme staff at AFIRD (Agency for Integrated Rural Development) – a member of Prolinnova–Uganda – benefited from a training on “Effective adaptation, financing and innovative approaches to achieve long-term ambitions,” which was organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment and IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development) on 24–25 October.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Ministry of Water and Environment is in the process of developing the Water and Environment Sector capacity-development plan. As part of the process, they were interested in knowing the CSOs and networks operating in the sector. The names of the CP members were therefore submitted for the Ministry’s information and consideration to benefit from its capacity-building initiatives. As a follow-up on this, the Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat participated in the stakeholders’ meeting organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment to review the capacity-building initiatives in the sector.</p>
<p>C) Fundraising (at local, national, regional and</p>	<p>The following fundraising initiatives were conducted during the reporting period through generation of concept notes/ proposals in response to funding calls:</p> <p>i) Southern and Eastern Africa Sustainable Food Systems and Healthy Diets Transition Lab (AFRIDIETS-Lab) – a concept note submitted to the European Union Horizon 2020 by a</p>

<p><i>international level) and management of Local Innovation Support Funds/ Facilities (LISFs & other forms of supporting local innovators)</i></p>	<p>consortium of 21 partners in Europe and Southern and Eastern Africa.</p> <p>ii) The Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat held two meetings with Horizont 3000¹ targeted at developing a framework for structured collaboration for advancing farmer innovation in Uganda. A draft Memorandum of Understanding was developed between Environmental Alert and Horizont 3000. This is being reviewed for integration of inputs by both partners before it is endorsed. This framework will present great opportunity for tapping into the competences and capacities of both partners to deliver on the shared goals of promoting farmer innovation for advancing agricultural productivity and improved livelihoods.</p>
<p>D) Governance of Prolinnova–Uganda Country Platform</p>	<p>During the reporting period, the Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat initiated courtesy visits to members of the steering committee and core team. To date, meetings were held with PELUM–Uganda and Makerere University’s School of Forestry, Environment and Geographical Sciences.</p> <p>In addition, the CP members were regularly updated on what is happening through the online platform.</p>
<p>E) Membership coordination, servicing, and mobilisation</p>	<p>i) The members of the Prolinnova–Uganda CP are informed about what going on in the network at national and international levels. This was achieved through information sharing and exchange from the Prolinnova International Secretariat to the members through the website, social media platforms and Google email group. Besides, the network is also continuously introduced and presented to stakeholders during the various national stakeholder engagements related to agriculture, environment and natural resources, where the CP Secretariat was invited to participate. During these engagements, the network’s lessons and best practices from previous engagements (as described in the published information, education and communication materials) were disseminated among the partners. Hence, this has helped to keep the CP alive even when there are no running projects coordinated through the CP Secretariat.</p>

3. Difficulties/challenges

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

- i. *Inadequate funding for the Prolinnova–Uganda CP limits it from implementing undertakings and aspirations as described in the strategic plan of the international Prolinnova network.* This is being addressed through advancing programme development through concepts/proposal writing and also pursuing collaboration with strategic partnerships.
- ii. *Inadequate staffing for the Prolinnova–Uganda CP.* The coordination of Prolinnova–Uganda is still managed directly through the Executive Director’s office at Environmental Alert. Moving forward to recruitment of an assistant to support coordination of the platform will be pursued when the funding situation improves at the Secretariat.

4. Self-assessment of network functioning

Overall the Prolinnova–Uganda CP is functional, as its governance structures – especially the Secretariat – is actively pursuing regular coordination engagements among the members of the steering committee, core team and CP. Besides, the members have their independent programmes/initiatives within which farmer innovation are promoted at different scales. The Secretariat has pursued various

¹ This is an Austrian non-governmental organisation working in the area of development cooperation with the mandate of member organisations of the Catholic development sector, with speciality in monitoring and implementation of projects as well as provision of experts in developing countries.

opportunities for fundraising as part of programme development through collaboration with the CP members, the Eastern and Southern Africa subregional platform, other CPs (in Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa), the IST and the POG. Unfortunately, these have not yet yielded positive results, thus constraining the Ugandan CP in terms of financial resources to facilitate effective implementation of its strategic objectives and aspirations at the national and local levels.

5. Conclusion

During the reporting period, Prolinnova–Uganda remained active and alive through interactions among the CP members, partners and stakeholders at the local, national and international levels. The members implemented various activities within their own programmes/projects, which promoted the Prolinnova concepts, principles and approaches. The CP Secretariat participated in activities led by CP members and thereby facilitated the members' knowledge and understanding of Prolinnova.

Moving forward, the CP and its members will tap into existing opportunities at the national and international levels to advance development of the CP, in ways that fit into the aspirations laid out in the strategic plan of the Prolinnova international network, e.g. promoting and mainstreaming Participatory Innovation/Technology Development (PID/PTD) in national policies and programmes, while addressing the underlying issues pertaining to innovation in ecologically sound agriculture and natural resource management based on the national and local context in Uganda.

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