

Prolinnova–Uganda Country Platform Annual Report for 2019.

1. Introduction

This is the annual report for the Prolinnova–Uganda Country Platform (CP) for 2019. 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 as part of the development of the Prolinnova-Uganda CP Program programme.

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
<p>A) 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 the Prolinnova–Uganda CP and its members as part of networking: <i>Key results from the engagement</i></p> <p>i) The Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat participated in the National Agro-ecology Actor’s Symposium (NAAS) held on 30th – 31st May 2019 and organized by Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM-Uganda). The symposium targeted as achievement of the following objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. To provide a multi-stalkeholder platform for learning, experience and knowledge sharing, harmonization of understanding and dialogue on agroecology in Uganda;</i> <i>b. To intitiate the process and generate key input toward development of a national Strategy for Scaling up up Agroecology in Uganda;</i> <i>c. To establish a national agroecology actors platform for continniuous learning, experience sharing, influencng engagements and mulit-stakeholder co-creation for the scaling up of agroecology in Uganda; and</i> <i>d. To disseminate and discuss various agroecology related reseach findings.</i> <p>The symposium was attended by over 360 (250 male and 110 female) participants ranging from farmers, private sector, research and academia, government institutions, non-government organisations, international agencies, media and the general public. The key outcomes from the symposium included creation of a deeper, harmonized understanding and appreciation of agroecology by the different stakeholders as a result of dissemination of research findings and farmers lessons; a clear roadmap for developing the National Strategy on Scaling up Agroecology in Uganda; Launched of the National Agroecology Actors Platform (NAAP); a communique on Scaling up Agroecology. Further details are available in the report at: https://www.pelumuganda.org/communique-of-the-1st-national-agroecology-actors-symposium-30th-and-31st-may-2019-kampala-uganda/</p>

	<p>ii) The CP Secretariat took part in the African Prolinnova CPs Meeting held on 13–17th May 2019 in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal at Sahel Vert Agroecology Training Centre in Centre Mampuya. The objectives of the meeting were: to discuss the progress of the Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS) project; receive feedback from the Prolinnova Oversight Group; reviewing the status of the regionalising the Prolinnova network in Africa; and review of the Prolinnova network strategic pla, 2016-2020. The meeting generate various actions, which were documented along with the proceedings into a detailed IPW report. This was circulated among the CP members through the Googlegroup email. The detailed IPW report is available at: https://www.prolinnova.net/content/may-2019-ipw-and-proli-fans-partners-meeting-senegal</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 The Secretariat (2) and members (1) of Prolinnova-Uganda CP (i.e. Kikandwa Environment Association) benefited from an interactive training on, ‘<i>Lobbying, Policy analyses and Advocacy</i>,’ held on 10-11th October 2019. The training targeted at enhancing knowledge and skills for civil society organizations in respect to effectively engagement for influencing duty bearers to actualize climate change resilience actions at national and community levels. The two-day training was organized by Environmental Alert, with funding from Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) through Care Denmark & Care International in Uganda under the <i>Strengthening resilience and promoting inclusive governance for women and youth in vulnerable communities</i> (STRENPO) project¹.</p> <p>The training was attended by 30 participants drawn from; Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Network members; Uganda Forest working Group members; PROLINNOVA members, other like-minded CSO networks whose engagements contribute towards building resilience to climate change. Thus, 2 staff at the secretariat and 1 Prolinnova-Uganda CP member benefited from the knowledge and skills, which they would apply in the future through structured engagement with duty bearers and decision makers for influencing decisions for promoting innovations for climate change adaptation at community level.</p> <p>ii) A 2 days Training of Trainers (ToT) on Integrated Soil and Nutrient Management (ISNM) was conducted by Wageningen University in collaboration with the Kawanda Agricultural Research Organization and Environmental Alert. This is output that was implemented within the framework of the, ‘<i>Sustainable Transition to Entrepreneurial Production in Agriculture through Upgrading (STEP-UP)</i>² Project in Uganda.’ Thus, the ToT equipped 30 participants with additional knowledge and skills in ISNM. They comprized of banana farmer innovators, resperesentatives, processors, district and sub-county extension staff from project sites of Birere, Rugaaga and Rwimi in Isingiro and Bunyangabo districts.</p>
<p>C) Fundraising (at local,</p>	<p>The following fundraising initiatives were conducted during the reporting period through generation of concept notes/ proposals in response to funding calls:</p>

¹ Further information about the project is available at: <http://envalert.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Leaflet-STRENPO.pdf>

² Further information about the project is available at: https://leap.iamb.it/?page_id=313

<p><i>national, regional and international level) and management of Local Innovation Support Funds/ Facilities (LISFs & other forms of supporting local innovators)</i></p>	<p>i) A consortium concept note was developed involving: A Growing Culture (AGC), Environmental Alert C/o Prolinnova Uganda CP and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). The concept was titled, <i>'Innovation and Climate Adaptation: Women Smallholder Farmers Lead the Way,'</i> with activities/outputs targeted for implementation in Uganda and Kenya. The proposed project is for 2 years with a total budget of 600,000 USD. AGC as the lead partner is marketing this concept to potential development partners. The fate of this concept is yet to be shared by the AGC.</p> <p>ii) A consortium proposal that involved 21 research, academic and civil society organizations in Europe and East Africa (i.e. Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania) was prepared as response the European Union Horizon 2020 call published in 2019. The proposal is titled, <i>'Traditional Ecological & Indigenous Knowledge based Bio-Solutions & Business Models to Diversify Revenues in East African Rural Communities (TEKBioMEs).'</i> 3 Prolinnova Uganda CP members (i.e. <i>Environmental Alert, Makerere University and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARO) – Kawanda</i>) were involved in the preparation of the proposal and are partners in the research consortium led & coordinated by LEIBNIZ-ZENTRUM FUER AGRARLANDSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (ZALF) e.V. based in Germany. The proposed project is for 5 years with a total budget of 68,970,000 Euros. The proposal was submitted and waiting for decision to inform the next steps.</p> <p>On another note, the Prolinnova Uganda CP Secretariat pursued strategic engagements, which provide the framework for future collaboration there building into fundraising and development of the Country Program activities. This included the following:</p> <p>i) Review of the Prolinnova International network 5 year strategic plan, 2016-20. The agreed actions in this respect as derived from the IPW meeting held in Senegal were implemented during the reporting period. Thus, the feedback and comments on the strategic plan provided by the participants during the IPW meeting were integrated into the draft revised/new strategic plan for the Prolinnova International network for the period 2021-2025. Thus, the advanced draft is available for final inputs. This was done a Task Team that comprised of: <i>Kordam Minong, Joshua Zake, Chantheang Tong, Wettasinha Chesha, Ann Waters-Bayer.</i> The team was coordinated by <i>Joshua Zake.</i></p> <p>ii) Development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with strategic partners. Thus, MoUs with the following strategic partners were initiated:</p> <p>a) PELUM-Uganda</p> <p>A 5 years MoU was endorsed between Environmental Alert (the host for the Prolinnova-Uganda CP Secretariat) and PELUM-Uganda. This MoU provides an overarching framework for collaboration and partnership between Environmental Alert and towards achievement of the shared goals and aspirations in the agriculture; environment and natural resources; and land management subsectors based on their respective institutional mandates. Thus, this MoU provides the framework for the two institutions to work jointly in partnership and collaboration to contribute towards addressing the following common concerns/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Escalating land degradation and soil fertility depletion;</i> • <i>Climate change and variability impacts;</i> • <i>Limited consideration of concerns and issues of smallholder farmers and or land/natural resource users during policy formulation and implementation at different scales;</i> • <i>Limited investment in innovation and technology development for sustainable utilization and management of the land, environment and natural resources;</i>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Limited budget and related investments in the land, environment and agricultural sectors;</i> • <i>Inadequate implementation of existing policies and laws in the land, environment and agricultural sectors.</i> <p>b) Makerere University, School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences (SFECS).</p> <p>The Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat held a meeting with the Dean of SFECS at Makerere University, during which an agreement was reached to develop a MoU between SFECS and Environmental Alert, the host for the Prolinnova Uganda CP, targeted at developing a framework for structured collaboration for advancing farmer innovation in Uganda. A draft MoU in this respect was developed and is under review by both parties.</p>
<p>D) Governance of Prolinnova–Uganda Country Platform</p>	<p>During the reporting period, the Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat organized a steering committee³ meeting on 18th December 2019. The meeting provided opportunity for sharing updates from program implementation and information sharing & exchange, key challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>For instance, steering committee was informed about the following strategic engagements, which are going on in the sector:</p> <p><i>i) The review of the National Science and technology policy for Uganda. This initiative is Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (MoSTI);</i></p> <p><i>ii) Uganda Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) for climate change adaptation targeting Forestry, Agriculture, Water & Energy sectors. This initiative is coordinated by the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation; and Uganda National Council of Science & Technology - with financial support from the Global Environment Facility and executed by UN Environment, in collaboration with the UN Environment DTU (Technical University of Denmark) Partnership Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development (UDP). This is a Strategic Program on technology transfer, designed to support countries to carry out TNAs within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and under the Paris Agreement – to avert the risks and impacts of climate change and to reduce national Green House Gases emissions. TNAs present an opportunity to track evolving needs for equipment, techniques, innovations, practical knowledge and skills which are necessary to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and/or reduce vulnerability of sectors and livelihoods to the adverse impacts of climate change. The TNA process is country driven; aligned to national development objectives and heavily dependent on engagement with relevant stakeholders. In August 2018, stakeholders identified 4 priority sectors, namely: Agriculture, Forestry, Water and Energy for the TNA process in Uganda. National experts were since engaged to identify potential technologies for prioritisation in the respective sectors.</i></p> <p><i>iii) The Uganda Organic Agriculture Policy was approved by Cabinet. Its due for official launching by thr MAAIF and Partners on a date, which will be communicated in the future.</i></p> <p>The detailed in the report prepared and presented by the Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat. The detailed presentation is available at: http://envalert.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Prolinnova-Uganda-CP-Progress-Updates-18-December-</p>

³ The Prolinnova Steering committee is composed on 9 members. Further details about the composition of the steering committee is available at: <https://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>

	<p>2019.pdf</p> <p>The steering committee also approved new member’s application to join the Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat. Thus, in this respect the application by Horizont 3000⁴ was approved.</p> <p>Some of the agreed actions as guided by the steering committee included:</p> <p><i>i) Persuance of structured collaboration with strategic partners such as: Makerere University; Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF); Mukono Agricultural Zonal Research (MUZARDI), Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST), PELUM Uganda, MoSTI.</i></p> <p><i>ii) Participation of Prolinnova Uganda CP members in the ongoing policy reviews e.g. science and technology policy – that is coordinated by MoSTI.</i></p> <p>On another note, the Prolinnova-Uganda CP Secretariat engaged the Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE) to appoint another Focal point staff for her representation on the Steering committee as the current chairs. This was based on the fact that the earlier focal staff i.e. Ms. Christine Nakato is no longer staff at UNFFE. In this context, Mr. Ssentogo Daudi was appointed by UNFFE as their focal point staff to represent them on the Prolinnova Uganda CP steering committee engagements.</p>
<p>E) Membership coordination, servicing, and mobilisation</p>	<p>i) The members of the Prolinnova–Uganda CP are informed about what is 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.</p> <p>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.*

⁴ 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 specialty in monitoring and implementation of projects as well as provision of experts in developing countries. Horizont 3000 promotes farmer innovation through the Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI) approach. Further information about Horizont 3000 and the ERI approach is available at: <http://www.horizont3000.at/en/> and <http://www.horizont3000.at/en/eastafrica/projects/eri>, respectively.

- ii. Delayed disbursement of funds by the MoSTI to support implementation of activities/outputs under leadership of Environmental Alert and the National Agricultural Research Laboratories, Kawanda. This has subsequently delayed implementation of the planned activities/outputs under the STEP-UP project in Uganda.
- iii. *The COVID 19 global pandemic has greatly affected implementation of activities especially during the months of March 2020.* This is largely because the Government of Uganda issued several directives limiting public engagements for purposes of upholding public health safety and related control of the pandemic.

4. Self-assessment of network functioning

Overall the Prolinnova–Uganda CP is functional, as its governance structures – especially the Steering Committee and Secretariat are still actively pursuing their roles and responsibilities. Thus, a steering committee meeting was held during which members were updated about what going on and the related emerging issues for the network at the country and global level. Through this engagement, the CP secretariat received strategic guidance on how address the emerging issues. Furthermore, CP Secretariat actively pursued 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 opportunities for fundraising as part of programme development through collaboration with various strategic partners at national and international levels. 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 steering committee members, members, partners and stakeholders at the local, national and international levels. Some of 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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