

INTRODUCTION OF GFAR SURVEY ON INNOVATION CARRIED OUT BY PROLINNOVA:



As a follow-up to the recently held survey on innovation among FAO staff and consultants, GFAR, in collaboration with ProInnova and in agreement with the Office of Innovation in FAO (OIN), decided to field its own survey, with a double purpose:

- i) better inform GFAR constituencies of the type of innovations (both products and processes) that exist where farmers are squarely placed at the center, with a view to better understand the implications for providing appropriate support to them as a key contribution to pro-poor transformation of agricultural innovation systems;
- ii) offer to the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (under making) up-to-date and hands-on information from the Global South on a particular, relevant area of farmer-centric innovation that may deserve consideration in the document.

The survey will be based on the following key questions (also used in the recently held FAO survey on innovation), namely:

- What is innovation;
- Why focus on innovation;
- Which actors play the most important role in innovation;
- What type of innovation for sustainable agri-food systems.

More in general the survey will collect information on how can innovation processes be strengthened and enriched from outside, considering the different definitions as well as the new emerging models of innovation, and particularly paying special attention to:

- A co-innovation model within multi-actors networks and platforms which enable collective learning and a pooling of resources, including knowledge, stimulating farmers' experimentation as a means of adaptation to the context and integration of information and stimuli available in the same context;
- Favoring approaches which facilitate the emergence of local solutions, built from the innovation practices of local actors rather than relying on exogenous models, hence corresponding to the indigenous decisional processes whereby farmers seek and find new avenues that correspond to their aspirations;

- Strengthening local innovation capacities and their continuous adaptation to the economic, natural and political environment. The innovation processes become social learning processes which help to strengthen the capacities of innovation and the knowledge basis of actors at the local, national and regional innovation systems levels.

Methodology:

The survey will not aim at reaching the same number of respondent to the FAO survey (ie around 4000), but to bring a diversified, ground-based perspective around innovation (what type, for what, for whom, by whom) targeting a typology of actors that represent the diverse constituencies of GFAR within the 800 members of the Prolinnova network. The responses would be differentiated according to the diversified professional affiliation of the respondent.

Prolinnova (Promote Local Innovation in ecologically oriented Agriculture and Natural resource management) is an NGO-led international multistakeholder network of people and organizations that recognize the innovative capacity of small scale farmers as the key to sustainable development. Network members are engaged in agricultural research and development and come from the same set of diverse organizations making up GFAR. The network and the platform for sharing, learning and capacity development of its members is now spanning in 19 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Prolinnova is involved as main coordinator of the initiative, in charge of:

- i) finalizing the questionnaire based on the same format of the FAO one, except a few questions specific to FAO role;
- ii) supervising and managing the collection of data;
- iii) compiling the global report and its analysis;
- iv) helping GFAR presenting it within its partners/members, OIN and beyond.

