PROLINNOVA

PROmoting Local INNOVAtion

in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

ENHANCING CAPACITY TO INNOVATE: KEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PROLINNOVA strategy

2021–25

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Acronyms

ARD	agricultural research and/in development
AU	African Union
CP	Country Platform
CLIC–SR	Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research
CSO	civil society organisation
DGIS	Directorate General for International Cooperation (Netherlands)
DURAS	French acronym for "Promoting sustainable development in southern agricultural research systems"
ESA	Eastern & Southern Africa
EU	European Union
FAIR	Farmer Access to Innovation Resources
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FaReNe	Farmer-led Research Networks
FIF	Farmer Innovation Fair
FLD	farmer-led documentation
FO	farmer organisation
GALID	Gender Analysis for Local Innovation Development
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation
GFRAS	Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services
HAPID	HIV/AIDS and PID
ICT	information and communication technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IST	International Support Team
KIT	Royal Tropical Institute (*Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen*)
LINEX–CCA	Local Innovation & Experimentation for Climate-Change Adaptation
LISF	Local Innovation Support Facility/Fund
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MSP	multistakeholder partnership
NFP	Northern Focal Point
NGO	nongovernmental organisation
NRM	natural resource management
NSC	National Steering Committee
Nuffic	Dutch organisation for internationalisation in education
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
Proli-GEAFaSa	French acronym for "Promoting local innovation in water management by family farmers in the Sahel"
Proli-FaNS	Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security
PROLINNOVA	Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM
PTD	Participatory Technology Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRC	Subregional Coordinator
SULCI-FaNS	Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security
WCA	West & Central Africa

1. Introduction

The process of developing a PROLINNOVA strategy for the period 2021–25 began in 2019. One session in the International Partners Workshop (IPW) in May 2019 was dedicated to kicking off the process. The participants reflected on achievements and challenges during the strategy period 2016–20 and then brainstormed on the period 2021–25. The brainstorming was framed around two main sets of questions: i) How has the context changed in the agricultural development sector, and how do we ensure that our network is still relevant? Ii) What should be our focus in the new strategic plan and the building blocks (content and structure) and who will move this process further? This discussion formed the basis for developing the strategy for 2021–25. A small team with members from the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG), Country Platforms (CPs) and the International Support Team (IST) was given the task of facilitating further discussion on the future direction and activities of the network and for drafting a strategy paper for the period 2021–25.

PROLINNOVA (**PRO**moting **L**ocal **INNOVA**tion in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management) is an international multistakeholder network of people and organisations that recognise the innovative capacity of small-scale farmers[1] as the key to sustainable development. Network members are engaged in Agricultural Research in Development (ARD)[2] and come from diverse organisations, including governmental research and advisory services, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), educational institutions, community-based organisations, farmer organisations (FOs) and the private sector. They seek to support and promote the creativity and innovation capacity of small-scale farmers, as individuals and in groups and communities.

Why focus on small-scale farmers?

The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development envisions a world without hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in any of its forms. However, FAO's 2019 report "The state of food security and nutrition in the world" presents a gloomy picture: more than 820 million people in the world will still be hungry in 2020, underscoring the immense challenge of achieving the Zero Hunger target by 2030. Hunger is rising in almost all parts of Africa and, to a lesser extent, in Latin America and Western Asia. The FAO report also states that about 2 billion people in the world experience moderate or severe food insecurity. It emphasises the need for pro-poor and inclusive structural transformation focusing on people and placing communities at the centre to reduce vulnerabilities so as to get on track to ending hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition while "leaving no one behind".

Small-scale farmers play a vital and indispensable role in ensuring food production. According to FAO (2013), about 2.5 billion people – more than one third of the world's population – derive their living from the agriculture and food sector. More than 90% of the *circa* 570 million farms worldwide rely mainly on family labour on less than 2 ha per household plus access to communal pasture and forest. Such farms occupy over half the world's agricultural land and produce about 80% of its food. In Africa and Asia, small-scale farmers produce over 90% of the locally consumed food. The Global Report on Agriculture (IAASTD 2009) revealed that small-scale farming makes a huge contribution to the global agricultural economy. Not only is it the livelihood basis of millions of families; it also generates many additional jobs within local economies, often in the informal sector. It is also a repository of immense

[1] Within PROLINNOVA, the term "small-scale farmers" is used to refer to resource-poor crop-based and mixed crop-livestock farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and forest users, as well as artisans operating at local level who are involved in activities related to food processing, storage and marketing.

[2] Agricultural Research in Development is a term used deliberately instead of Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) in order to stress that agricultural research and development are inextricably intertwined, i.e. that research is not carried out for a subsequent and separate activity of development but rather in the process of development.

local knowledge and experimental capacity to generate and continue to develop context-appropriate forms of agriculture and food production with relatively little capital.

Small-scale farming is low cost, uses few or no external inputs and has a low ecological footprint. It is often more productive per unit area than are large commercial farms. The farmers maintain a variety of plant and animal species in order to cover their dietary needs and reduce risk. This high agrobiodiversity is key for food security and environmental sustainability. Small-scale farming is a source of resilience for families and communities; this becomes particularly crucial during unstable conditions, such as war or the collapse of state institutions, and in the face of climate change.

In past decades, small-scale farming was regarded as a problem, and attempts were made to bring about a "Green Revolution" by "modernising" agriculture using high levels of external inputs. In many parts of Africa and Asia, this had negative effects in environmental and socio-economic terms, and led to increased disparities between a small number of rich farmers and a burgeoning number of poor ones. These problems and their repercussions are becoming increasingly visible. Now, international agencies regard small-scale farming as part of the solution to achieve sustainable development (e.g. FAO 2014, 2019).

Supporting small-scale farming needs to be central in efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs; https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300), above all to:

SDG 1: End poverty
SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security & improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing
SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women & girls
SDG 8: Promote inclusive & sustainable economic growth, employment & decent work
SDG 12: Reduce inequalities within & among countries
SDG 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt & reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss
SDG 13: Climate action.

Small-scale farmers and agricultural research and innovation

For centuries, small-scale farmers have done their own informal agricultural research and innovation, developing new and better ways of doing things in order to sustain their farms, families and communities. They have developed, refined and adapted crop varieties, livestock breeds, farming techniques and systems of natural resource management (NRM) suited to different agroecological conditions, including highly efficient systems of using very scarce vegetation and water in dry areas for livestock production.

Most formal agricultural research is oriented to medium- and large-scale "modern" farmers producing for markets, often overseas. Many technologies developed through conventional research have not been suitable for small-scale farms, as they disregard the huge differences in access to resources – above all, to land, water and capital to purchase external inputs. Formal researchers have focused primarily on economic impact and have given little attention to social impacts of technological development (e.g. gender issues, inequity, input dependence, indebtedness).

In formal research, small-scale farmers' creativity and innovative capacity are rarely acknowledged. The disconnect between formal research and the farmers' own research and innovation processes means that scientists and farmers are not benefiting from each other's complementary knowledge and expertise.

The PROLINNOVA network recognises the innovativeness of small-scale farmers in finding better ways to use locally available resources to improve their farming. It stimulates collaboration among farmers

and between farmers and other actors in ARD, so that farmers can adapt more quickly to changing conditions and continue to produce sufficient safe and nutritious food in a socially just and environmentally sound way.

In the past two decades, partly because PROLINNOVA and like-minded initiatives led by civil society highlighted the importance of enhancing the innovative capacities of small-scale farmers, increasing attention is being given to tapping this energy and engaging with farmers also in some formal research and development activities. However, despite the numerous workshops, conferences and publications about innovation and transformative learning in agriculture, most research and development activities on the ground still focus on transferring so-called improved technologies from elsewhere to farmers working under conditions often not suitable for these technologies. Thus, although there has been some change of thinking within formal institutions of ARD, it remains a challenge to translate this into practice. Moreover, even in the case of scientists who have become interested in farmer innovation, their tendency is to focus on the innovations as end products rather than the innovation processes, and to try to "validate" and standardise the innovations, transform them into intellectual property and scale them up in ways that betray the ethos of farmer-led development.

Therefore, it was heartening that FAO organised an international symposium on agricultural innovation for family farmers in November 2018. It opened with recognition of small-scale farmers as innovators, and several longstanding proponents of farmer innovation were invited to the event. Ann Waters-Bayer, founder member of PROLINNOVA, participated in a panel on "putting farmers in the centre" and emphasised the importance of facilitating innovation processes not only for but also with and by family farmers, including pastoralists. Despite the push from several symposium participants to include "promotion of farmer-led innovation" in the proceedings, FAO dropped this aspect in the final summary.

Added value of the PROLINNOVA network

As a unique "community of practice" that recognises farmers' innovative capacities and promotes farmer-led participatory approaches in ARD, PROLINNOVA is a learning platform that is supported by and involves multiple actors at different levels (local to international). The partners have strong track records in facilitating and implementing participatory ARD in ways that bring in different perspectives on local innovation. At national level, each PROLINNOVA CP is a multistakeholder platform, in which the activities are facilitated in most cases by organisations that are primarily focused on development but also understand and have capacities and experience in research and other forms of knowledge production through action, i.e. in development processes.

The PROLINNOVA network now encompasses an international virtual network of over 800 persons (prolinnova@googlegroups.com) and of multistakeholder groups in 22 countries (Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, South India, Sudan, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Uganda, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe) that work at different levels of intensity, using mainly their own resources. After core funding from the Netherlands Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS) ended in 2011, the network was determined to continue. It therefore drew up and implemented its 2011–15 strategy and subsequently its 2016–20 strategy. It also came to an agreement on minimum commitments of the CPs, IST and POG to the network. During the 2019 IPW (PROLINNOVA 2019), a review of the achievements during the past strategy periods revealed that much stronger efforts must be made to scale up PROLINNOVA concepts and approaches[3] at national and international level,

[3] It needs to be emphasised again and again that the PROLINNOVA network is not focused on scaling up specific technologies.

using innovative ways of generating resources to achieve this goal. The feedback and comments from this review have been integrated into the strategy document for the period 2021–25. It is meant to serve as a planning tool for the network, reconfirming the vision and mission and seeking new opportunities to face the continuing challenge of promoting farmer-led research and innovation[4]. It is also meant to stimulate further discussion within the network so as to bring together network members' thinking and commitment to action to pursue the mission of PROLINNOVA.

2. Background: development and achievements of the PROLINNOVA network

How the network developed over time

PROLINNOVA was conceived in late 1999 when Southern and Northern NGOs – supported by what was then called the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)[5], the CGIAR NGO Committee and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs – met in Rambouillet, France, to see how participatory approaches to research, based on local initiatives, could be scaled up. Participants asked ETC Foundation, a Netherlands-based NGO, to help launch a GFAR "Global Partnership Programme" on local innovation. NGOs in Africa and Asia facilitated multistakeholder design of country-level programmes (CPs[6]), which then designed international activities to reinforce their own. This led to the emergence of PROLINNOVA as an international learning network that aims to promote local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM.

In 2003, key stakeholder organisations in ARD in Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda, supported by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), collected and shared in-country experiences in recognising local innovation and promoting participatory technology/innovation development (PTD/PID). They held workshops to analyse their experiences and made plans to scale up such approaches. At the first PROLINNOVA IPW in March 2004 held in Ethiopia, the participants developed strategies and a roadmap for the international PROLINNOVA programme.

Starting in 2005, DGIS co-funded nine CPs (in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nepal, Niger, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) to realise their plans. In 2006, a francophone programme called PROFEIS (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel) was launched in West Africa with partners in Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso; and an Andes programme was launched by organisations in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. In 2007, small multistakeholder groups in Mozambique and Kenya initiated PROLINNOVA CPs. In 2009, a group in central Nigeria joined the international network. In the period 2011–13, further groups in Cameroon, India (Uttarkhand) and the Philippines joined the network as CPs.

The network's strategy for the period 2015–20 had envisaged regionalisation of the network, with diminishing responsibilities for the International Secretariat hosted by ETC Foundation in Leusden in the Netherlands. However, in 2015, a turn of events required ETC Foundation to close down and the hosting of the International Secretariat was moved on an interim basis to the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam. In 2016, Misereor funded the 3-year "Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security" (Proli-FaNS) project under the German Government's "One World No Hunger" initiative. The project was implemented in five CPs in anglophone and francophone Africa, namely

[4] The PROLINNOVA network uses the term "farmer research" for informal research that farmers do on their own, without direct involvement of other actors such as scientists or agricultural advisors. It uses the term "farmer-led research" to refer to multi-actor research processes, i.e. involving also non-farmers, in which farmers take the lead. Other forms of "participatory research" that are not farmer-led often involve farmers in a subordinate role. Farmer-led research is a focus of the network, which seeks to bring different knowledge systems together in such ways that farmers play a leading role.

[5] Now called the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation.

[6] Later renamed Country Platforms (CPs).

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya. The project also set in process the regionalisation of the network in Africa. In 2017, two part-time Subregional Coordinators (SRCs) were hired to support CPs in the two subregions in Africa – Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) and West & Central Africa (WCA). For the first time since the inception of the network, the IPW did not take place in 2018; instead, the first PROLINNOVA African Regional Partners Workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Interest of multistakeholder groups in other countries to join the network continued – a group in Timor Leste joined in 2017, one in Zimbabwe in 2019, and groups in South India and the UK in 2020. Meanwhile, the POG declared "inactive" the three CPs that had not met the minimum commitments agreed in 2011, and their CP webpages were relegated to the archives on the PROLINNOVA website.

Another intention in the 2015–20 strategy was to move the International Secretariat to the Global South. However, initial attempts to find an NGO in the South willing to host the International Secretariat were not successful, largely because external funding for this had not been acquired. The POG reconsidered the situation and concluded that the functions of the International Secretariat could be handled by the IST and the (sub)regional platforms. Hence, the International Secretariat that had been hosted by KIT ceased to exist in 2019. As the network partners wanted to have a Northern Focal Point in Europe, the POG asked the Agrecol Association for AgriCulture & Ecology, based in Germany, to take on this task, and it agreed to do so.

Box 1: Building the PROLINNOVA network – a timeline

1999	Meeting in Rambouillet: conception of PROLINNOVA idea
2003	IFAD funded the sharing of PTD/PID experiences in Ethiopia, Ghana & Uganda PROLINNOVA Yahoogroup and website set up
2004	First PROLINNOVA IPW held in Ethiopia; PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) set up
2005	DGIS funded 9 CPs (Ethiopia, Cambodia, Ghana, Nepal, Niger, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda)* DURAS co-funded FAIR (Farmer Access to Innovation Resources) project Phase 1
2006	PROFEIS (Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal) and PROLINNOVA–Andes initiated (Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru)
2007	PROLINNOVA–Kenya and PROLINNOVA–Mozambique initiated
2008	Rockefeller Foundation co-funded FAIR Phase II (involving 8 CPs in Africa & Asia)
2009	PROLINNOVA–Nigeria initiated
2010	European Commission funded JOLISAA (Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture) project
2011	PROLINNOVA–Cameroon initiated; PROLINNOVA Facebook page set up
2012	PROLINNOVA–India (Uttarkhand) initiated; Misereor funded LINEX–CCA (Local Innovation & Experimentation for Climate-Change Adaptation) project in Cambodia, India & Nepal
2013	Rockefeller Foundation funded CLIC–SR (Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research) project in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania & Uganda; PROLINNOVA–Philippines initiated
2015	International Secretariat moved to KIT on interim basis after ETC Foundation closed down McKnight Foundation funded Farmer-led Research Networks (FaReNe) project in Burkina Faso & Mali
2016	Misereor funded Proli-FaNS project in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana & Kenya PROLINNOVA regionalisation started in Africa with two subregions: Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) and West & Central Africa (WCA)
2017	Two part-time subregional coordinators (SRCs) for ESA and WCA hired as part of IST PROLINNOVA–Timor Leste initiated
2018	First PROLINNOVA African Regional Partners workshop in Nairobi, Kenya
2019	PROLINNOVA–Peru became an independent CP; PROLINNOVA–Zimbabwe initiated Misereor funded SULCI-FaNS (Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security) project in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana & Kenya
2020	International Secretariat ceased to exist; Agrecol Association, Germany, became Northern Focal Point PROLINNOVA–South India and PROLINNOVA–UK initiated Misereor funded Proli-GEAFaSa (Promoting local innovation in water management by family farmers in the Sahel) project in Burkina Faso & Senegal PROLINNOVA Yahoogroup transferred to Googlegroup, now with over 800 members

**In this table, only major externally funded projects of several years' duration and involving multiple CPs are included.*

Main achievements and challenges

In its two decades of existence, the PROLINNOVA network has had an interesting journey, navigating many ups and downs, but remaining adaptive and resilient. The donor landscape changed quite significantly, but the network has managed to find resources to continue moving towards realising its vision. Some of the network's main achievements and challenges are described below.

Multistakeholder platforms built and continued

The network grew from three CPs in 2003 to 22 CPs in 2020 through demand and initiative of country-level partners. In each country, the coordinating organisation (usually an NGO) provided a good foundation for joint activities and mobilised several like-minded organisations from different stakeholder groups around a shared agenda to promote local innovation and farmer-led joint research. Decentralised planning by country-level partners has led to strong ownership at CP level.

In the past five years, it has been a great achievement that most CPs continued to function and carry out work on the ground and at policy level, some with very limited or even no external funding. This was due to the commitment of individuals within the partner organisations to collaborate and to do PROLINNOVA activities as part of their organisations' ongoing work. The IST and the CPs managed to access a few larger and a mosaic of small sources of funding at a time when there was a general cutback in funds for development and when donor priorities tended increasingly to support market-driven strategies and were quickly changing. In this situation, most CPs could not involve more organisations in the activities beyond the core team in each country. Moreover, the negative changes in the political conditions for civil society organisations (CSOs) in some countries threatened their very existence. Nevertheless, some CPs were able to continue their activities by sharing own resources, often using project funds not explicitly meant for PROLINNOVA but intended for similar goals. Other CPs went into "hibernation" until funds could be found to allow them to resume their jointly planned activities.

Innovative methodologies developed

Over the past two decades, the network developed methodologies for and documented evidence on:

- identifying and screening local innovations;
- farmer-led joint experimentation (> 400 joint experiments mentioned in reports from the CPs);
- setting up Local Innovation Support Funds/Facilities (LISFs), piloted in eight countries using a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tool that allowed both learning and documentation of results, including country-specific manuals for handling LISFs; setting up LISFs continued (e.g. in the Proli-FaNS and FaReNe projects) as an integral part of the PID approach to support local innovators carrying out farmer-led research;
- organising farmer innovation fairs (FIFs) at subnational and national (at least 25) and at subregional level (one in Eastern and one in West Africa);
- farmer-led documentation (FLD) of local innovations and PID, including guidelines for supporting this activity;
- piloting of PID in HIV/AIDS-affected communities (HAPID);
- PID to strengthen community resilience and adaptation to climatic and other change and for food and nutrition security;
- mainstreaming PID in agricultural research and development institutions;
- integrating PID concepts and practice into institutions of higher education; and
- gender analysis for local innovation development (GALID).

It has also developed PID training modules in French, PID guidelines in Spanish and FIF guidelines in English, French and Spanish; numerous publications on experiences with identifying local innovation, supporting farmer-led research, working with LISFs and facilitating multistakeholder partnerships; and a joint publication with Misereor and McKnight Foundation on small-scale farmer innovation (in English, French and German). These methodologies and publications have attracted the interest of research and development projects and organisations at national and international level.

Capacities built

Since the network was created, the International Support Team (IST)[7] has conducted several international and national training courses for PID facilitators as well as thematic workshops (on gender, M&E, policy dialogue and FLD) and provided backstopping to partners through over 150 face-to-face visits in addition to Skype, phone and email communication. External evaluators (Adams & Fernando 2009) assessed the training as being of high standard; it was well received by participants and partners and produced a cadre of qualified facilitators in most of the CPs who can support country-level PID training and implementation. In the last five years, PID training has been done through the ongoing projects and specific capacity-building projects funded by Nuffic (Dutch organisation for internationalisation of education). At least 85% of the persons trained in the international courses have conducted in-country PID training and developed country-specific training materials (also in local languages). Well over 7000 persons from agricultural research, advisory and education organisations have been trained in PID (almost a third of these were women). An estimated 5000 men and women farmers have been trained in PID and involved in related workshops and other sharing events. The focus has been on opening the eyes of non-farming actors in ARD to the creativity and achievements of small-scale farmers and how to support their initiatives.

A key mechanism for mutual learning within the network is the annual IPW. In the last ten years, about one third of the costs for the IPWs were covered by the participants themselves, using their own personal or organisational resources. The other two thirds came from budget lines in PROLINNOVA projects at national or regional level and from other funds sourced by the IST.

Because of high staff turnover in partner organisations, continuous training and mentoring is needed to maintain PID capacity within the CPs. Still, a positive spinoff of this turnover is that those who leave a partner organisation take the concepts and skills with them to new organisations and projects. In the last five years, there seems to be more freedom for trained staff to identify and promote local innovation and to engage in PID as part of their regular work.

PID applied in new fields

Network members, together with the IST, have developed concepts and acquired funds for various thematic initiatives under the umbrella of or linked to PROLINNOVA: Farmer Access to Innovation Resources (FAIR) to pilot community-managed LISFs for local experimentation, learning and innovation; JOLISAA (Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture); SCI–SLM (Stimulating Community Initiatives in Sustainable Land Management); INSARD (Including Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development); FLD (Farmer-Led Documentation); HAPID (HIV/AIDS and PID); CLIC–SR (Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research); LINEX–CCA (Local Innovation and Experimentation for Climate-Change Adaptation), FaReNe (Farmer-led Research Networks); Proli-FaNS (Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security); making

[7] In 2016, at the beginning of the current strategy period, the PROLINNOVA International Support Team (IST) comprised several staff members from ETC Foundation who had transferred to KIT and the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR). At the end of the strategy period (2020), it comprised one person with KIT (Netherlands), one with Agrecol (Germany), one with the Institute of Natural Resources (South Africa), one with IIRR (Philippines) and the two African SRCs based in Senegal and Kenya.

videos on farmer innovation to adapt to climate change, SULCI-FaNS (Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security, GALID (Gender Analysis for Local Innovation Development) and Proli-GEAFaSa (French acronym for "Promoting local innovation in water management by family farmers in the Sahel"). Most of these initiatives were conceived at the annual IPWs and helped to broaden the application of PID.

Diverse funding sources tapped

These initiatives have been supported by a range of funding sources that include Agrecol Association, CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation), the French DURAS (Promoting sustainable development in southern agricultural research systems), European Commission, FAO, Ford Foundation, Global Environmental Facility (GEF), McKnight Foundation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Misereor, Nuffic, Rockefeller Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The network has also demonstrated efficiency gains by leveraging funds and knowledge of partners in support of CP initiatives. These involved multi-CP thematic activities (e.g. LISF piloting, FLD, FaReNe, HAPID, Proli-FaNS, SULCI-FaNS, Proli-GEAFaSa) and came from diverse international, regional and in-country funding sources. Attracting numerous donors to contribute to supporting events such as the international conferences and the regional FIFs generated not only resources to carry out the activities but also interest among the various donor organisations in the concept and approach of promoting local innovation and farmer-led research and development.

Increased recognition of small-scale farmer innovation

The PROLINNOVA network has produced over 500 publications (books, journal articles, conference papers, policy briefs, innovation catalogues, films, methodology guides, case studies etc). Network members, with support from the IST, have continuously updated the PROLINNOVA website and the Facebook page with news items and reports, and shared 15–20 messages per month via the PROLINNOVA Yahoogroup (now Googlegroup) over the last 18 years. The network has collaborated with international agricultural research organisations in organising several international events (Innovation Africa Symposium in Uganda in 2006, Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium in Nepal in 2009, Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa workshop in Nairobi in 2013, Workshop on Farmer-led Research in francophone Africa in Ouagadougou in 2015). Members of the POG, IST and CPs – including small-scale farmers – have taken part in over 500 events related to ARD as keynote speakers, panellists, paper or poster presenters, session chairs or participants.

These publications and the frequent participation in international events raised the international profile of PROLINNOVA and drew increased attention to the creativity and achievements of small-scale farmer innovators. Especially the inventories of innovations compiled by the CPs and the exposure to farmer innovators created via various exhibitions, fairs, workshops at national and subnational level and the annual celebration of International Farmer Innovation Day (every 29 November, starting in 2012) led to greater appreciation of the importance of involving small-scale farmer innovators in agricultural research and advisory work. Several good examples of joint research and development processes involving farmer innovators, agricultural advisors, scientists and other stakeholders have been documented in recent years.

Mainstreaming and institutionalisation

Already in 2009, external evaluators (Adams & Fernando 2009) found evidence of mainstreaming of PROLINNOVA principles and methodologies through multistakeholder engagement, especially at national and subnational level. The strategy to bring government partners on board in the National Steering Committees has been most successful in countries where government support to research for small-scale farming and NRM is strong (e.g. Cambodia, Ethiopia, Niger and Tanzania). The

evaluators also found some success in working with universities and colleges to integrate concepts and principles of PID into coursework and curricula for students of agriculture and NRM (e.g. in Nepal, Cambodia and Ethiopia).

In the last five years, mentions of farmer innovation (and PROLINNOVA) in international publications have increased, and there is higher demand for network members to collaborate in ARD work with national and international organisations in South and North. For example, the PROLINNOVA network was invited to collaborate in research and social-learning activities by the CGIAR Research Programs on Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS) and on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and McKnight Foundation's Collaborative Crop Research Program (CCRP). Such requests show that these organisations recognise that building on local innovation may be a key to sustainable development.

However, the network must generate more evidence of longer-term impacts of PID in enhancing innovative capacities and thus improving livelihoods of small-scale family farmers. For policy dialogue and sustainable integration of farmer-led innovation approaches into formal institutions of agricultural research, advisory services and education, such evidence is still needed. Particularly the progress in integrating PID into institutions of higher learning has been slower than hoped. Many of the CPs have also been fairly restricted in their outreach and inclusiveness, and could benefit from joining forces with a larger number of like-minded initiatives in the same country so as to have stronger influence in policy dialogue.

Moving towards Regional Platforms

Regional Platforms were planned in the 2011–15 strategy to increase CP-to-CP sharing and learning and to allow creation of multi-CP programmes within regions. Groups of CPs set up regional programmes: LINEX–CCA in Southeast Asia and CLIC–SR in Eastern Africa. At annual project meetings prior to each IPW, the CPs involved in these projects shared findings and learned from each other in their regional groups. The strategy for 2016–20 placed more emphasis on the need to set up regional platforms under the PROLINNOVA umbrella. The proposal for the Proli-FaNS project incorporated an objective on regionalisation of the network in Africa and included a small budget to hire two part-time subregional coordinators for ESA and WCA. In each subregion, a taskforce was set up consisting of one representative from each active CP. Work on drafting charters to guide the subregional platforms was started, but took longer than expected; these are to be finalised in early 2021.

The CPs in Asia opted to work together in multi-CP projects before starting to set up a regional platform. Unfortunately, despite several attempts to draw up a proposal for regional activities, such a project has not yet materialised. However, the CPs stay in touch with each other virtually and, when possible, the interim regional coordinator has met up with partners in CPs in the region.

The CPs in Peru and Bolivia are in contact with each other but have not yet formed a regional platform. They are focusing on strengthening their national networks but are, at the same time, seeking ways to collaborate and expand the network in the region.

Increased South–South backstopping

In the 2011–15 strategy document, it had been foreseen that people in Southern-based organisations would be more systematically involved in backstopping activities. However, South–South backstopping gained momentum only in the period 2016–20. The externally funded projects had dedicated budget lines for individuals from one CP to visit and support another CP. Also the SRCs were able to visit several CPs in their subregions. Whenever possible, partners from one CP who travelled to another country that has a CP arranged a short visit to it. South–South backstopping also created new ideas of collaboration, which – in some cases – were turned into multi-CP proposals.

Effective network coordination

In 2016–20, network coordination was handled by the International Secretariat up to 2019 and by the IST throughout. The functioning of the IST continues to be appreciated by the CPs. The POG has actively provided direction to the network. The POG members, especially the African co-chair Chris Macoloo, has played a vital role in guiding the regionalisation process that started in Africa. The POG has convened regularly and carried out its tasks diligently. Face-to-face POG meetings have taken place a day or two ahead of each IPW/Regional Partners Workshop, allowing for the POG members to communicate directly with CP members and to discuss important issues with them. Virtual POG meetings by Skype or Zoom are held in between the face-to-face meetings.

Conditions influencing PROLINNOVA's strategy development at this point

External conditions

Many Northern donors increasingly favour market- and business-centred approaches, with decreasing attention to issues of equity and inclusion in development. At the same time, concern for the latter issues has intensified in civil society, and many CSOs are taking action into their own hands in the opposite direction taken by their governments and Northern donors. Especially through the Internet, new pathways are opening up for concerned citizens to support activities that they regard as meaningful. Civil society movements in favour of family farming, food sovereignty, agroecology and community development have become stronger platforms with which the work of PROLINNOVA has a strong affinity. Initiatives such as PROLINNOVA, which are committed to promoting people's science and decentralised farmer-led research and innovation processes, can therefore recognise new opportunities opening up for both moral and financial support.

Formal research organisations receiving public funds are coming under greater pressure to produce results that have a positive impact in development. They have increasingly recognised that agricultural research approaches with an innovation systems perspective, in which innovation can come from various sources (not only formal research) and involves multistakeholder interaction, can have a wider and more lasting positive impact than can conventional research approaches. The negotiations around the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and then the SDGs led to increased attention to food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. In this light, there appears to be growing interest in Europe in farmer-led multistakeholder approaches to ARD both at home and abroad. Formal research institutions and programmes are therefore seeking partnerships with organisations working with innovating and experimenting farmers (e.g. the UNDP programme for innovator accelerator labs). As the PROLINNOVA network has become fairly well known in international research circles for its work along these lines, there is increasing demand to collaborate with PROLINNOVA member organisations and CPs.

Other opportunities include the following:

a) the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–28), which is overseen by FAO and IFAD and promoted through the World Rural Forum (WRF) on behalf of civil society;
b) greater use of information and communication technology (ICT) for development;
c) African Union (AU)–European Union (EU) collaboration in ARD ("co-creation of knowledge")
d) growing interest in farmer-led multistakeholder approaches to ARD in Europe.

The final year of PROLINNOVA's current strategy period – 2020 – was unprecedented, as Covid-19 was declared a pandemic, leading to unexpected consequences. With global value chains being disrupted, large numbers of people losing their employment and many becoming food insecure, the important role of small-scale family farming in ensuring local food supply suddenly became obvious to many

more people. Also the effects of climate change and the locust infestations in large swathes of Asia and Africa revealed the vulnerability of (export) market-oriented policies and often monocropping-focused approaches to agriculture that have been driven by multinational conglomerations. Greater attention is now being given to biodiversity and agroecology, which not only CSOs but also international organisations such as FAO had been promoting in recent years as being central to sustainable agriculture. In its Agroecology Knowledge Hub set up for sharing and learning across countries and continents (http://www.fao.org/agroecology/home/en/), FAO stresses the importance of co-creation of knowledge in agroecology.

Internal conditions

In 2015, ETC Foundation closed down and the members of the IST who had been based there in the International Secretariat moved to KIT, also in the Netherlands. In 2019, in the process of regionalisation of the PROLINNOVA network, the tasks of the International Secretariat were taken over by the IST (including the SRCs) and a Northern Focal Point for the network was identified. More about this transition and the current situation is found in Section 6 below.

Donor agencies – both governmental and private (including philanthropists) – prefer to allocate funds directly to organisations in the South. Moreover, in view of differences in cost of living and therefore salaries, operating a (virtual or physical) network secretariat in the South would be much less costly than in the North. Now, over 20 years after the CSOs who gathered in France to design PROLINNOVA gave the mandate to ETC Foundation to set up the network and to acquire funds for it, the main work of fundraising has gradually shifted to the South, with the IST members in Europe playing a supporting role. This shift is visible in the multi-CP projects that have been acquired in the past 3–4 years, with the two SRCs in Africa and members of the CPs taking the lead in fundraising. At the IPW in April 2019, the POG, the IST and partners from several CPs reviewed accomplishments and weaknesses of the PROLINNOVA network over the past decade and discussed possibilities to restructure the network and arrangements for international coordination and backstopping. The outcomes of this discussion laid the basis for the current strategy document.

3. Concepts, aims and principles

Main concepts

"Farmers"

Within PROLINNOVA, the term "small-scale farmers" (hereafter: "farmers") is used to refer to low-income crop-based and mixed crop-livestock farmers, pastoralists, fishers and forest users, and includes artisans and small-scale processors operating at local level who are involved in activities related to food processing, storage and marketing.

"Local innovation"

Local innovation (without "s") is the process by which people develop new and better ways of doing things in their locality – using own resources and on their own initiative. They may be exploring new possibilities simply out of curiosity, or may be responding and adapting to changes in the condition of natural resources, availability of assets, markets and other socio-economic and institutional contexts brought about by demographic trends, higher-level policies, disasters, climate change and other external influences, positive or negative. Local innovation often occurs in the face of new challenges or opportunities and often involves informal experimentation by the resource users.

The outcomes or products of this innovation process are local innovations (with "s") that have been developed by individuals or groups or communities and are understood and owned by local people.

The innovations may be changes in behaviour, new farming techniques or new ways of organising farming or other NRM activities (production, harvesting, processing, distribution, marketing and financial mechanisms etc). They may be technical and socio-institutional innovations**,** including policy change at local level, e.g. bylaws for using natural resources. A successful process of local innovation leads to local innovations that improve the lives of many people in the area. In the case of PROLINNOVA, emphasis is given to innovations relevant for disadvantaged people such as the very poor and marginalised – a segment of the local population that, in many societies, includes women and youth.

The PROLINNOVA network identifies, documents and supports farmer-led innovation processes and the resulting innovations. It raises awareness of the relevance of local innovativeness for meeting the needs of farming families and communities. It encourages development agents and scientists to recognise local innovation as an entry point for identifying questions of mutual interest that they can explore jointly with farmers, so as to improve agriculture and NRM in a sustainable way through PID.

"Participatory innovation development" (PID)

PID is an approach to ARD that is based on farmers' motivations and ideas about how to face a local challenge or capture an opportunity to improve livelihoods. It involves partnership between farmers, development agents and – wherever possible – scientists. It includes not only "hard" technologies but also "soft" socio-institutional and cultural innovations such as changes in gender roles (e.g. women taking on ploughing responsibilities). At the heart of PID is farmer-led participatory research or joint experimentation, in which farmers together with other stakeholders investigate possible ways to improve the livelihoods of local people.

Identifying local innovation is an entry point to PID. "Outsiders" (e.g. development workers, scientists) start by looking at how farmers are already trying to solve problems or grasp opportunities they perceive. These concrete local examples allow a situation analysis with farmer innovators and other community members, leading into planning of joint research and development activities. The local community and the "outsiders" jointly assess the current and likely future impacts of an innovation, in order to judge whether it will indeed be beneficial for a large number of families in the area, particularly for the poorer or otherwise disadvantaged ones, and that it will not lead to negative environmental or social consequences. PID is an approach to research, advisory work and – above all – development.

"Multistakeholder partnerships" (MSPs)

In PROLINNOVA, MSPs comprise three or more types of actors who have an interest (stake) in improving local livelihoods through innovation in agroecology and NRM. They include the primary stakeholders – women and men farmers – as well as researchers, agricultural advisors, educators, policymakers, private entrepreneurs and consumers. "Partnership" refers to the process whereby the actors jointly plan and implement activities in order to achieve a shared goal or objective. To be able to collaborate, they mobilise and share resources and agree on how these will be managed. The MSPs often operate as a "platform": a mechanism for periodic sharing and negotiation among partners that enables dialogue to take place and agreements to be reached about action to be taken, as well as self-assessment of the successes and challenges. MSPs can be at different levels (local to international) throughout the PROLINNOVA network and for different purposes.

Vision, mission, goal and objectives

The participants in the 2019 IPW agreed that the basic elements of the PROLINNOVA strategy for 2016–20 remain valid, and the network needs to continue to pursue them in the period 2021–25.

Vision

A world in which women and men farmers play decisive roles in agroecology and NRM innovation processes for sustainable livelihoods.

Mission

To stimulate a culture of mutual learning and synergy among diverse stakeholder groups to actively support and promote local innovation processes in agroecology and NRM.

Goal

To contribute to equitable and inclusive development of resilient and sustainable farming communities.

Objectives

- To develop new methods and approaches to enhance local capacities to innovate in agriculture and NRM and provide evidence of the effectiveness of these methods and approaches
- To strengthen the capacities of ARD actors to support local innovation and farmer-led joint experimentation
- To scale up and mainstream participatory approaches to agroecological innovation in ways that enhance local innovative capacities
- To strengthen MSPs in promoting local innovation and farmer-led participatory research
- To 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, by actors along value chains of agricultural and nature-resource products
- To communicate PID evidence and knowledge products locally and internationally.

Core values and principles of the PROLINNOVA network

Core values

- **Social equity & respect.** In our network, all actors in agricultural practice, research and development have the same status and receive the same recognition in terms of the value of their knowledge and expertise and their equal rights and opportunities to engage in decision-making. We respect all actors and uphold the value of diversity. We strive to be fair and free of bias regarding sex, religion, ethnic origin, political orientation, position of power, wealth or social class. We seek to ensure that women and men receive equal attention and benefit equally. Yet we realise that historically disadvantaged actors need more support to gain the capacity and space to become equal partners – therefore our emphasis on equity.
- **Commitment.** Members of the network realise that social change towards inclusive development is a slow process and that they cannot expect long-term funding to cover all the efforts needed. Hence, we commit ourselves to contribute time and energy to keeping the network and the partnerships functioning at national and international level regardless of the level of external funding available to our network.
- **Transparency & accountability.** We uphold the value of open sharing of information about content (strategy, plans and progress, including both successes and failures) and finances so that all partners have equal access to the bases for decision-making about network development.
- **Sustainability.** We promote types of innovation and development that meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own

needs. We try to minimise or completely avoid any negative effect of our network's activities on social, economic and environmental sustainability.

- **Partnership.** We believe in partnership as inclusive participation of all stakeholders in the practice, research and development of agroecology and NRM as well as in the related decisions that affect our lives. We believe in developing strong relations of mutual trust and respect for long-term collaboration, reinforced by respectful communication, and sharing responsibilities and recognition. We give central attention to strengthening the confidence and capacities of farmers and farmer organisations in multistakeholder innovation and development processes in ways that the farmers become equally empowered partners in determining our common future.

Core principles

- **Integration:** We recognise that activities to promote local innovation and facilitate PID should be nested within other community development initiatives / activities.
- **Shared learning:** We engage with wider communities of practice in sharing and learning around innovation, PID and other participatory approaches to research and development at national and international levels.
- **Good governance:** At national and international level within the network, we have entities that oversee the transparency and accountability within the network to promote inclusive participation, to mediate differing interests to find a broad consensus, and to ensure that the strategy and processes within the network make the best use of resources in working toward the PROLINNOVA mission and vision.
- **Ownership:** The different organisations and individuals that are members of the network take responsibility for planning and implementing the activities and show active and enthusiastic commitment to this responsibility.
- **Open-source innovation ("copyleft"):** Anyone may use the innovations identified and described by the PROLINNOVA network and may modify or develop them further, provided that the modified or further developed innovations or any follow-up ones, of which the described innovation is an element, are likewise freely available and any description of them includes the "copyleft" proviso and acknowledges the source of information (see www.prolinnova.net/content/prolinnova-guidelines).

4. Outcomes sought, strategy components and activities

Outcomes sought

Some of the outcomes that the PROLINNOVA network seeks to achieve in order to contribute to equitable and inclusive development of resilient and sustainable farming communities include:

- Farmer innovators are supported by all relevant stakeholders (including social entrepreneurs and agri-food businesses) in PID activities.
- A growing proportion of youth (under 35 years of age) are involved in PID activities related to agroecology and agri-food enterprises.
- More women innovators are recognised and become actively involved in agroecological farming to increase food and nutrition security of communities.
- Farmer-led joint research processes lead to establishment of social enterprises that ensure social solidarity and benefit sharing within communities and thereby increase community resilience.

- LISFs are more widely used to support farmer innovators' activities.
- Policies are changed to include PID and other farmer-led approaches to research and innovation and to ensure sustainability of LISFs.
- Diverse partners share resources, responsibilities and recognition in effective MSPs operating at various levels: subnational, national, subregional, regional and global.
- Capacity of CPs and (sub)regional platforms is built in openness, inclusiveness, fundraising, networking, applying PID methodologies and influencing policy in ARD.
- Approaches to promoting local innovation and PID are integrated into agricultural research institutions and rural advisory services at different levels from district/county to international.
- All partner institutions promote participatory approaches and use PID-related materials in their work, with particular emphasis on institutions of higher education.
- Information about local innovation and PID is shared with a wider audience, including consumers, through focused communication strategies using modern (e.g. social, mass) media as well as conventional methods of communication.

Strategy components and associated activities

These strategy components will enable the network to achieve its mission and expected outcomes:

Box 2: Strategy components

i. Promote farmer-led participatory research and development approaches (in particular PID) in ways that enhance local capacity to innovate
ii. Create an enabling policy environment for local innovation and PID through structured and targeted policy engagement at local, national and international levels
iii. Strengthen and expand existing national multistakeholder platforms (CPs) to promote PID
iv. Build capacity and facilitate joint learning in local innovation and PID at different levels
v. Mainstream PID & other farmer-led participatory approaches into key stakeholder institutions
vi. Facilitate learning and sharing at regional level about farmer-led innovation processes
vii. Promote innovation by youth in agroecology and local agri-food enterprises
viii. Use modern and conventional communication tools for sharing and learning
ix. Produce better evidence through increased attention to monitoring and evaluation

The following key activities will be undertaken to achieve these strategy components:

i. Promote farmer-led participatory research and development approaches

- Identify, document and assess/understand local innovators, innovation processes and innovations, particularly those that support the changing roles of women in development
- Though public recognition, networking and technical/financial support, encourage farmers to see themselves as experimenters and knowledge producers
- Facilitate and engage in farmer-led joint research to strengthen local innovation processes and social entrepreneurship
- Promote the mainstreaming of LISFs as a mechanism to enhance small-scale farmers' governance over agricultural research and development
- Make experiences in and findings from farmer-led research and innovation more widely accessible far beyond those directly involved, using appropriate media

- Give recognition to local innovators and encourage them to act as resource persons for advocacy, sharing and capacity building, with particular attention to young farmers and agri-food entrepreneurs
- Diversify and demonstrate approaches, methods and tools that promote local innovation processes, including their documentation
- Collect evidence and assess impact of local innovation and PID processes on livelihoods and the environment to contribute to learning, sharing and institutionalisation.

ii. Create an enabling policy environment for local innovation and PID

- Demonstrate through evidence the potential of alternative funding and service-delivery mechanisms that facilitate and stimulate local innovation processes
- Promote and support ARD frameworks, programmes, stakeholders and practices that build on and strengthen local innovation processes through PID
- Pursue evidence-based policy advocacy and engage in policy dialogue with agricultural/rural development agents and policymakers about alternative approaches to ARD
- Support and document local policy practice – the way farmer groups, organisations and networks generate their own norms/rules that promote innovation.

iii. Strengthen and expand existing[8] national multistakeholder platforms (CPs) to promote PID

- Sustain active involvement of all current members of the CPs
- Assess the coordination of individual CPs as a source of learning about how best to facilitate and strengthen MSPs
- Strengthen capacities of CPs to resource their programmes and to be financially sustainable
- Identify and actively pursue the involvement of additional relevant organisations and individuals from key, diverse stakeholder groups (including FOs and the private sector) in the CPs in order to support PID and associated policy dialogue.

iv. Build capacity and facilitate joint learning in local innovation and PID at different levels

- Facilitate learning by all stakeholders through practice-based interaction and experience-sharing by means of joint research, workshops, FIFs, exchange visits, documentaries, publications etc
- Facilitate joint learning by documenting successes and failures in using various approaches and tools for farmer-led research and innovation, highlighting issues of gender and social inclusion
- Provide “coaching/mentoring” support to participants in training / learning processes
- As staff turnover is inevitable, encourage CPs to enhance the capacity of PID trainers in each country who can train new staff members in their own and other member organisations in the CP
- Explore the possibility of supporting the capacity-building process through electronic means, such as through online courses to reach a large number of interested staff in national institutes and CSOs.

v. Mainstream PID & other farmer-led participatory approaches into key stakeholder institutions

- Integrate concepts of local innovation and PID into curricula offered at universities, colleges and other tertiary-level training institutions in order to capacitate agricultural graduates; this will include involving students in practical work with experimenting farmers and supporting

[8] The network is open to multistakeholder groups wanting to form CPs in new countries, but increasing the number of CPs will not be a major focus of the network as long as additional funding is not available to ensure good advisory support to new CPs.

development agents and researchers engaged in PID, as well as visits between universities (South–South and South–North) for cross-learning about curriculum development;

- Share, interact and promote good practices of local innovation processes with wider agricultural research, advisory and development communities
- Help institutions concerned with agricultural research, advisory work and education to better understand and accept the role that local innovation and PID can play in rural development by linking field-level action-based learning with institutional development and policy
- Forge strategic alliances with organisations committed to fostering local innovation processes and with their constituencies, at national and international level
- Gather, package appropriately and share the evidence needed to influence policy and stimulate institutionalisation of farmer-led participatory approaches
- As a step toward achieving this, facilitate joint analysis and cross-learning by CPs so as to understand good practices in mainstreaming, as some CPs are moving more quickly in this direction than are others.

vi. Facilitate learning and sharing at regional level about farmer-led innovation processes

- Strengthen multi-CP collaboration through South–South backstopping and networking and through building (sub)regional programmes
- Promote sharing of experiences and expertise at subregional and regional level and create or strengthen links with (sub)regional ARD fora
- Manage information and knowledge generated within the CPs so that it is available for effective sharing and learning by other CPs and (sub)regional fora; this will be done in partnership with organisations that specialise in knowledge management with and for small-scale farmers.

vii. Promote innovation by youth in agroecology and local agri-food enterprises

- Facilitate participation of youth in decision-making processes, e.g. about research, in managing LISFs to support experimentation and innovation by youth in ecological farming, food processing and marketing, and in establishing agri-based social enterprises
- Encourage inclusion of youth (male and female) among farmers selected for exchange visits, farmer innovation fairs, etc, including possibly some events purely for young people
- Feature young innovators in media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, video, posters etc), including involvement of youth in documenting youth's innovation in agroecology & agri-food enterprises
- Incorporate modules about local innovation and PID into primary and secondary schools, showing the dynamism of small-scale farming and especially featuring the innovativeness of young farmers as individuals and groups; this would also encourage recognition of farming as a noble and essential occupation and contribute to changing the often "negative" mindsets of students towards farming
- Identify and seek collaboration with networks, organisations and programmes in agroecology and NRM that target youth in their activities.

viii. Use modern and conventional communication tools for sharing and learning

- Make farmer-led research and innovation more widely known through social media, radio (community and commercial), video and mobile phone, also between farming communities
- Compile travelling photo exhibits on farmer-led research and innovation aimed at stakeholders in ARD and the general public

- Continue to publish books, booklets, working papers, journal and magazine articles, policy briefs, innovation catalogues, guidelines and other printed materials on local innovation and PID.

ix. Produce better evidence through increased attention to monitoring and evaluation

- In addition to using M&E for mutual learning, give more attention to providing evidence of change and impact of PROLINNOVA activities, encompassing capacity building, facilitating PID, strengthening MSPs, managing knowledge and influencing policy, including institutionalising support to farmer-led research and innovation
- Develop cost- and time-effective ways to measure change and assess impact
- Facilitate CPs to adapt the existing M&E framework in developing their own more detailed M&E systems suited to their specific contexts
- Arrange external evaluation of specific types of activity and of the network as a whole.

The PROLINNOVA network will continue to enhance its procedures and tools for M&E. The M&E focal points of the CPs will work closely with the M&E coordinator in the IST, who will strengthen the focal points' skills and competence and give them technical guidance in M&E. The current M&E framework, which is based on MSExcel, will continue to be used and improved through feedback from CP partners. Some of the open-source, online M&E resources and mobile applications such as Kobotoolbox, Coco, Open Data Kit will be tried out on small scale to find out whether and how they can be adapted to the specifics of PROLINNOVA, particularly the process aspects of the PID approach. To the extent that funding allows, there will be refresher training after assisting each CP in systematically identifying its learning needs related to M&E. Identification of a learning focus by each CP should lead to more focused data collection, analysis, documentation and sharing.

The self-evaluation of CPs and the international network that was done annually with support from IIRR (International Institute of Rural Reconstruction) had to be abandoned when the IST member for M&E based at IIRR left. Elements of self-evaluation were integrated into the annual reporting for CPs and into the IPWs. This facilitates data collection and analysis by each CP. Joint analysis of the data within the network should inform the achievement or non-achievement of the goals of each CP, which then individually and in the network can draw lessons for improvement.

5. Thematic focus areas

PROLINNOVA focuses on joint innovation processes in the context of agriculture and NRM and thus includes both:

- ***Ecological agriculture*** for secure and healthy food production and marketing systems related to field crops, vegetables, fruits, herbs and spices, seed systems, livestock, apiculture, edible insects, aquaculture, agroforestry and integrated farming systems; and
- ***Sustainable NRM*** through management and careful use of soil, water, grazing land and forest resources, including non-timber forest products.

In the context of agroecology and NRM, the focus will be on the following thematic areas:

- ***Innovative methodologies:*** PROLINNOVA will continue to develop, experiment with and learn from experiences with new and better methodologies to promote local innovation and PID, as it has done with LISFs, FIFs, HAPID, FLD, GALID etc.
- ***Resilience, land degradation and climate change:*** Local innovation enables communities to adapt to and/or mitigate the impacts of externally driven change, including climate change. PID involving interaction of diverse stakeholders will be facilitated in farming communities in order to enhance collective resilience to change, which will also strengthen collective capacity to deal

with land degradation and climate change. The criteria for assessment of local innovations, i.e. Technical effectiveness, Economic validity, Environmental friendliness and Social acceptability (TEES), will include consideration of the innovation's contributions to adaptation to and/or mitigation of climate-change impacts.

- ***Nutrition and health:*** Local innovation in agroecology and NRM can improve nutrition and food safety and help prevent and mitigate the impact of human diseases. In the coming years, PROLINNOVA will give more attention to recognising and facilitating this type of innovation based on the experience of the SULCI-FaNS and other projects in addressing nutrition security.
- ***Urban/peri-urban agriculture:*** Local innovation in agroecology and agri-food enterprises in and around cities and towns offers opportunities to strengthen local food systems, especially for poor urban producers and consumers. This deserves more attention with growing urbanisation.
- ***Gender issues in innovation processes:*** Gender relations affect how women engage in farmer-led research and innovation processes in agricultural, NRM and food systems. Gender gaps continue to constrain the agricultural and economic productivity of women and their ability to tap into new opportunities. PROLINNOVA will give more focused attention to gender issues in innovation, also innovation in local organisational and sociocultural terms with a positive impact on women's roles. The GALID guidelines will be integrated into PID training to provide field practitioners with hands-on skills to mainstream gender within PID processes.
- ***Youth innovation in agri-food systems:*** Although the above-mentioned thematic areas include attention to youth, focused attention will be given to recognising and promoting innovation by youth in agroecology and agri-food enterprises, e.g. processing, distribution and marketing of agricultural and natural-resource products, in order to ensure future vibrant agri-food systems. Social entrepreneurship will be encouraged as a means of building agri-based small businesses that are anchored in social solidarity principles. Youth will also be encouraged to use ICT to document local innovation and farmer-led research and development.
- ***Small-scale farmer involvement in local value chains:*** More attention will be paid to PID in market-oriented agriculture and use of natural resources to help small-scale farmers increase income through greater added value and better market access, for instance, PID in organising producer groups, cooperatives and social enterprises, and facilitation of marketing through branding of produce (e.g. origin, organic, environmentally friendly, produced by women). This will include recognition of validated and documented local innovations through creating awareness and linkages with responsible regulation and enforcement bodies so that innovators can access greater benefits from their innovations, e.g. funding sources, certification.

6. Organisational structure and roles

In the period 2021–25, the PROLINNOVA network will maintain and expand the most important elements of its structure: the Country Platforms (CPs). During the 2016–20 period, some progress was made in building up subregional or regional groupings of CPs. After the POG decided not to pursue the earlier idea of setting up an International Secretariat in the Global South, it focused on strengthening the subregional and regional platforms – especially their coordinators and taskforces – to facilitate the collaboration, learning and advocacy activities within and between (sub)regions, with a small linkage role being played by a focal point in the North.

Country Platforms (CPs) / National Contact Persons

In each country, a local organisation – usually an NGO – convenes the key stakeholders in ARD. It serves as secretariat for the ***Country Platform*** and is governed by a National Steering Committee

(NSC) made up of people from NGOs; government organisations of research, advisory work and education; farmer groups/ organisations; the agriculture-related private sector; and sometimes other relevant stakeholder groups such as women, youth or consumers. The NSC defines the scope of CP activities, gives strategic guidance, helps mobilise resources and is the national apex structure[9] for accountability. A smaller "core team" or "working group" coordinates the implementation of the CP's activities. The type of organisational structures established at national level is decided by the NSC and varies between CPs; some devolve certain roles and responsibilities to structures that operate at provincial or district/county level. CPs will continue to experiment with and assess different ways of organising themselves and share with each other what they have learned from these experiments.

In late 2013, the CP in Kenya experimented with registering itself as a legal entity. During the current strategy period, this initiative was analysed within Kenya and by other CPs as well as the POG, and it was agreed that the legal registration did not add value in helping the CP achieve the vision, mission, goal and objectives of PROLINNOVA – and also did not help in raising funds for the CP's activities. The POG strongly recommended deregistration of PK as a company and advised the CPs to remain as loose networks and not to seek registration in any form, thus complying with the principles of PROLINNOVA (see minutes of POG meeting, 14–15 May 2016). The CP in Kenya therefore deregistered itself as a company subsequently.

Already in 2011, after funding from DGIS ended, the PROLINNOVA partners expressed commitment to keep the network functioning at national and international level with minimal or no external funds. Based on the discussions during IPW 2011 and on guidance and suggestions from the POG, Guidelines No. 8 (see www.prolinnova.net/content/prolinnova-guidelines) outlined the minimum activities and outputs that the network members agreed to undertake, even without specific funding for them. The POG's periodic reviews of activities and outputs revealed that a few CPs were not meeting these standards. The POG retains as CPs only those that fulfil the minimum commitments.

In those countries where the partners have not been sufficiently active to merit continued recognition as CPs, an individual in an organisation in the country may volunteer as the ***National Contact Person*** for any other individuals or organisations in that country wanting to learn more about and/or collaborate with others in promoting farmer-led participatory research and innovation. Volunteer contact persons may also become active in countries where no CPs have been officially set up thus far.

Regional and Subregional Platforms

Since 2006, attempts were made to operate regional programmes or platforms in West Africa (PROFEIS) and the Andes (PROLINNOVA–Andes), but the individual CPs tended to operate on their own. Also some donors played a constraining role by regarding the activities in each country as being discrete projects, rather than funding programmes involving several CPs in a (sub)region.

Regional Platforms were planned already in the 2011–15 strategy, but only very slow progress had been made in that direction by 2015, except that CPs in three regions (Asia, Eastern Africa and West Africa) agreed on focal persons for interactions with the regional fora on agricultural research (under the GFAR banner) and advisory services (under the GFRAS[10] banner). Despite the slow progress, the CPs represented at the IPW 2015 confirmed their intention to set up and operate such platforms, with a "virtual" secretariat in each region.

[9] As explained in Prolinnova Guidelines No. 1, in very large countries, it is also possible that a "CP" covers only part of a country, e.g. South India.

[10] GFRAS: Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services

During the 2016–20 strategy period, more progress was made in building up (sub)regional platforms, consisting of CPs that engaged in joint planning and learning and – to a more limited extent – policy dialogue at subregional or regional level. Because a funding opportunity arose through Misereor, it became possible in late 2016 to start setting up two subregional platforms in Africa – one in Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) and one in West & Central Africa (WCA) – and to hire two part-time subregional coordinators (SRCs). Each SRC is assisted by a taskforce made up of one representative from each CP in the subregion. The SRC stimulates and supports CPs and organisations in the region to design (sub)regional projects and other multi-CP initiatives such as farmer innovation fairs and (sub)regional workshops for training, sharing and learning.

The African SRCs have drawn the current structure of the PROLINNOVA network as shown in **Annex 1**.

In 2016–20, an interim coordinator of the Asian CPs facilitated electronic communication between them, but lack of funding made it impossible to hold face-to-face meetings. The two CPs in the Andes focused on activities at national level. They tried to develop a joint project, which was not funded.

In the period 2021–25, the process of building and strengthening the subregional platforms of CPs in ESA and in WCA and the regional platforms of CPs in Asia and in the Andes will be continued. An effort will be made to set up a regional grouping also in Europe, which may have a different structure than the regional platforms in the Global South. The European platform may be composed of different stakeholder organisations in several different countries in Europe that decide to interact for mutual benefit (learning, awareness raising and policy advocacy). The Prolinnova network in the UK established in 2020 together with the Northern Focal Point and IST members based in Europe will play a key role in this.

Thus, the international PROLINNOVA network will have a decentralised structure of smaller and larger (sub)regional groupings that maintain links with each other primarily through Web-based communication technology – website, Facebook, Skype, Zoom, WhatsApp – and annual or biennial face-to-face meetings. The subregional and regional groupings will operate with virtual secretariats and support teams of experienced PROLINNOVA members in different countries in the respective subregions and regions.

The CPs in each (sub)region will decide how they will structure the network and carry out the activities in the (sub)region. However, the IPW 2019 participants already agreed that the (sub)regional taskforces will assist the SRCs in setting up an oversight body for each (sub)region as well as in identifying members of a virtual (sub)regional support team that will increasingly take responsibility for CP backstopping, capacity strengthening, and facilitating sharing and learning. The (sub)regional taskforces may even transform themselves into such support teams. Coordinators or partners from more mature CPs within the (sub)regional platforms will mentor younger and newly starting CPs in the (sub)region.

Most of the processes of sharing and learning will be organised at regional or subregional level, which will be possible at lower costs than, e.g. organising multi-regional events. Interregional networking will be primarily virtual (using ICT) and will focus on issues identified by the (sub)regional platforms as being of common concern. The (sub)regional platforms will decide on allocation of responsibilities for managing the different aspects of this networking. Interregional meetings may be organised every 2–3 years – if possible, piggybacked on another international event that people from several CPs will be attending. International networking via the Googlegroup and the PROLINNOVA website will continue.

The (sub)regional platforms will put mechanisms in place to ensure that PID approaches gain more visibility and credibility in (sub)regional fora related to agricultural research, advisory services and development. The SRC will arrange that s/he or another representative from the region prepares for

and takes part in regional and subregional consultations under FARA (Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa), ASARECA (Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa), CORAF/WECARD (West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development), CCARDESA (Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa), FORAGRO (Forum of the Americas for Agricultural Research and Technological Development), APAARI (Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions) and the corresponding regional fora on rural advisory services under GFRAS.

To finance the work of the (sub)regional coordinators, budget lines for these costs will be integrated into individual CP and multi-CP project budgets. The SRCs will report to the coordinators of these projects, as well as to the POG and the CPs in the (sub)region concerned.

International Support Team (IST)

The IST supports PROLINNOVA partners at national and (sub)regional level through fundraising, capacity strengthening, web-based knowledge management, policy dialogue and other activities to raise the profile of the network and to inform the world about approaches and outcomes in promoting local innovation and supporting PID. The IST currently comprises individuals associated with KIT (Netherlands), Agrecol Association (Germany), Institute of Natural Resources (South Africa) and IIRR (Philippines), who work for a fraction of their time for PROLINNOVA, as well as the SRCs in Africa (currently based in Kenya and Senegal).

The IST provides backstopping/mentoring about PID approaches and international policy-dialogue and publishing activities. It advises CPs and multi-CP projects in organising capacity-strengthening activities and encourages them to include experienced trainers in the South. The IST and experienced CP partners provide support in writing proposals, generating and managing funds, handling administrative and financial procedures, and M&E managed by the CPs and (sub)regional platforms or multi-CP projects. This includes providing information about relevant training offered by other organisations. The IST will also advise the (sub)regional platforms in designing mechanisms and procedures for interregional networking, learning and policy influence at global level.

The roles of IST members based in the North have been increasingly taken over by the coordinators of the (sub)regional platforms; this shifting in responsibilities will continue until at latest 2025, when it is envisaged that the network will have set up a sustainable mechanism of mutual support between CPs and (sub)regions. IIRR in the Philippines will continue to handle the PROLINNOVA website. An IST person in Europe has become focal person in providing support for M&E.

In the period 2021–25, payments needed for time inputs and travel costs of IST members will be written into the project proposals of the CPs and (sub)regional platforms. The IST members will report to the coordinators of these projects and will also inform the POG, the CPs, the (sub)regional coordinators and the Agrecol Board about their activities.

Northern Focal Point (NFP)

The network decided to dismantle its International Secretariat in the North for the following reasons:

- The PROLINNOVA partner organisations have the capacity to handle the administrative and financial management of projects receiving external funding. It is not necessary to have an International Secretariat in the North playing this role. It is also not attractive to most development funders to have a secretariat in the North.
- An International Secretariat was justified only for the phase of setting up the PROLINNOVA network and building the needed capacities and structures, as originally proposed by the organisations from South and North that met in 1999 in Rambouillet to develop the idea of PROLINNOVA.

- With rapid advances in ICT, it is no longer necessary to have a base in the North in order to have good communication between CPs and (sub)regional platforms and with other organisations.
- It is too costly, especially in terms of staff, to operate a physical secretariat in the North.
- In 2015, KIT had agreed to host the International Secretariat on an interim basis, on the understanding that the responsibilities – also of the IST members based at KIT – would be shifted to the South. KIT cannot support International Secretariat functions from its own resources, the staff members in KIT are under pressure to meet financial targets in terms of paid days and there is very external little funding for the PROLINNOVA International Secretariat work.

Initially, the network had planned to shift its coordination from an International Secretariat in the North to a host organisation in the South. The interest of some potential host organisations was explored. These were ranked according to criteria developed and agreed during international meetings of the CPs and the POG. However, the selected host based in Asia (IIRR) was not in a position to take on the responsibility.

Setting up an International Secretariat in the South also faced the challenge that creating a central base in only one country in one continent could generate issues between the regions arising from different contexts, "local" orientation and language, and thus weaken the sense of transcontinental ownership and network coherence. The POG therefore opted for a ***decentralised regionalised structure*** with strong internal linkages. It encourages the CPs to set up (sub)regional platforms with coordinators, taskforces and virtual "secretariats" that are in close communication with each other, coordinate external linkages with new partners, and plan and implement policy-dialogue activities.

The network still wants to retain some presence in the North so as to have closer links with donor organisations based there. It also hopes to be able to include CPs and/or a regional grouping of like-minded organisations in Europe. It therefore sought and found an organisation willing to serve as NFP: Agrecol Association for AgriCulture & Ecology, a German membership-based NGO that does not have a physical office. The two current IST members based in Europe (Germany and the Netherlands), working as a virtual team, cultivate links with potential donors in the North as well as with European partners (NGOs, universities, research organisations, private sector etc) for funding proposals that require such partners. These North-based IST members also help the POG keep an overview of network activities and help the (sub)regional platforms link with each other across continents.

When necessary, the SRCs communicate with the NFP to facilitate contact with potential North-based partners in ARD and with donor organisations based in the North.

PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG)

The POG serves as governance mechanism to ensure accountability of the PROLINNOVA network entities to the CPs, their constituencies and donors. The POG is currently made up of four people from CPs who are elected on a (sub)regional basis, one from the IST and four independent persons, all elected by the CPs and the IST to serve two-year terms. In the period 2021–25, the POG – in consultation with the wider network – will re-think its composition, responsibilities, tasks, terms of office and procedures in the context of the changes occurring within the PROLINNOVA network, especially as (sub)regional oversight groups are set up.

The POG will continue to guide the network, advise on network strategy, and monitor and assure the integrity and quality of work under the umbrella of PROLINNOVA, e.g. through facilitating development of guidelines by the network and giving final approval to these guidelines. Together with the "Friends of PROLINNOVA", the POG will support efforts to generate funds from diverse sources for the functioning of the CPs, the (sub)regional platforms and – if this should prove necessary – the NFP.

(Thus far, Agrecol Association is carrying out this role free of charge.) Particularly the (sub)regionally based POG members will play a role in supporting the (sub)regional platforms in fundraising.

Friends of PROLINNOVA

To reinforce the guidance and support it gives to the PROLINNOVA network, the POG has set up a group called "Friends of PROLINNOVA". This comprises people who have been associated with the network in the past and are prepared to continue to add value to it. Their roles include: mentoring in selected areas of PROLINNOVA work in which they have expertise; assisting in network strategy development; helping improve the quality of proposals by CPs and (sub)regional platforms; linking with new partners and funders; and helping improve PROLINNOVA products and disseminating them more widely. Together with the POG, the Friends of PROLINNOVA play an important role in creating strategic policy-level visibility of the network and increasing its influence in international debates.

The group members communicate by electronic means. Their time inputs depend on their readiness to create time to contribute ideas and to respond to requests from the network. Unless individual Friends prefer to have direct contact, the communication between them and the CPs and (sub)regional platforms and coordinators are made through the IST.

The Friends of PROLINNOVA currently comprises fifteen persons. The POG and the IST jointly select the individuals to be invited to join the group, starting with former members of the POG and other contacts suggested by the CPs. The IST informs all the CPs about new Friends of PROLINNOVA and their expertise.

Current CP coordinators and IST members are not eligible to become part of this group, but could be asked to join it later, e.g. after they have stepped down from these positions in the network.

Sharing of roles and responsibilities

Table 1 summarises the roles and responsibilities of the components of the PROLINNOVA network as of 2020. These roles may shift over time as the (sub)regional platforms gain in strength. In 2021–25, more capacity-strengthening activities will be undertaken to create, develop and utilise Southern expertise. The CPs – the "building blocks" of PROLINNOVA – will become more active in communicating with other CPs in the international network and also beyond it. Overall, a culture of shared responsibilities across the network will be nurtured.

Table 1: Roles & responsibilities of components of the PROLINNOVA network 2020

Role & responsibilities	Country Platform (CP)	(Sub)Regional Platform/ Coordinator (SRC)	International Support Team (IST)	Northern Focal Point (NFP)	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG)	Friends of PROLINNOVA
Fundraising	√	√	√	√	√	√
Backstopping & coaching	√	√	√			
Implementing PID activities	√					
Fund management	√	√	√			
Policy advocacy	√	√	√	√	√	√
Monitoring and evaluation	√	√	√		√	
Strategy development	√	√	√		√	√
Sharing and dissemination, including publications	√	√	√	√	√	√
Institutionalisation	√	√	√			
Capacity building	√	√	√			

7. Resource mobilisation

In the network's operational budget, cost allocation needs to take into consideration the different types of activities undertaken at different levels of the network (national, regional and international), including allocation for management and coordination at all levels. The network is committed to supporting sustainable processes and partnerships at the lowest possible cost. To this end, the capacity of the CPs to generate the required resources from diverse sources (and to economise on use of funds, e.g. through virtual meetings) will be strengthened through coaching and mutual learning between CPs, with support from the IST, the POG and the Friends of PROLINNOVA.

Strategies for resource mobilisation will include:

- Raising the profile and increasing the visibility of the PROLINNOVA network and its accomplishments
- Sourcing funds through (sub)regional platforms that seek funding opportunities, identify individuals who will approach specific donors on their behalf, and coordinate development of multi-CP proposals
- Entering into strategic alliances at international – including regional – level that could attract funding
- Joint collaborative proposal development with other partners to tap into opportunities provided by AU–EU collaboration in ARD as well as opportunities brought by the Decade of Family Farming
- Diversifying the resource base and exploring alternative (new) donors such as corporate funds or philanthropic organisations and new funding mechanisms, e.g. crowdsourcing
- CPs drawing up and implementing plans to identify sources of funds and in-kind contributions at national and subnational (e.g. district, county) level
- CPs contributing to the cost of (sub)regional coordination, including international-level activities such as participation in regional training workshops and international meetings and conferences as well as for networking and backstopping (increasingly South–South)
- Taking advantage of fundraising support through the Friends of PROLINNOVA
- Attracting a high-profile "ambassador" (well-known person who is passionate about farmer-led research) who would promote PROLINNOVA
- Seeking philanthropists who would be keen to invest in PROLINNOVA.

8. Conclusion

The idea for the international multistakeholder network known as PROLINNOVA was conceived by CSOs, with catalytic support from the GFAR, and presented at the first GFAR meeting in Germany in the year 2000. It struggled to acquire funds to start up activities, made rapid advances during a period of core funding (2005–11) from the Netherlands Government and continued to function after the end of DGIS funding. The network has persisted to this day because it is, in essence, a social movement carried by people (not only in CSOs) committed to ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM who seek to enhance local innovative capacities of small-scale farmers. Now that the PROLINNOVA network has proven that it is much more than a project funded for a limited term, it needs to join forces with similar movements to make concerted efforts to influence policy and framework conditions for farmer-led approaches to agricultural research and innovation. It needs to establish closer links with a wider community of practice that engages in and promotes participatory action research in ways that build capacity to promote local innovation and to themselves innovate

at all levels in agricultural, NRM and agri-food systems. An important move in this direction is the collaboration with the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL) in transdisciplinary research on women's innovation in using local resources to improve the nutrition of small children. This started at the very end of the current strategy period, in December 2020.

It is timely and important that PROLINNOVA members and CPs pursue efforts for consolidation and operationalisation of the (sub)regional platforms to deliver on the aspiration for the regionalisation of the network in the coming five years of this strategic plan.

The PROLINNOVA network is convinced that, if it succeeds in implementing this strategy in 2021–25, it will be able to make an important contribution to embedding farmer-led participatory approaches to ARD within strengthened agricultural, NRM and agri-food innovation systems.

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Annex 1: Structure of the PROLINNOVA network from the perspective of the African SRCs