



Week on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (WAIA): 25–31 May 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya

The EU-funded project **JOLISAA** (**JO**int Learning in Innovation Systems in **African Agriculture**) coordinated by CIRAD, France; the **PROLINNOVA** (**P**ROMoting **L**ocal **I**NNOVation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management) international network hosted by ETC Foundation, Netherlands; the CGIAR Research Program on **Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)** and the AusAID-funded project **Food System Innovation for Food Security (FSIFS)** are joining forces in exploring approaches to enhance knowledge-to-action linkages among actors in agricultural innovation systems in Africa. Together, they are celebrating a **Week on Agricultural Innovation in Africa (WAIA)** on 25–31 May 2013.

In an **International Workshop on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (AISA)**, experiences from various institutions and initiatives will be shared in order to increase understanding of multi-stakeholder innovation processes in agriculture. The focus will be on recognising the role of smallholder farmers – both men and women – in innovation. The workshop should lead to identification of priorities for research, practice and policy to strengthen innovation process in smallholder agriculture.

An **Eastern Africa Farmer Innovation Fair (EAFIF)** will set the scene for the international workshop and to put smallholders front and centre from the very beginning. The fair will showcase the achievements of individual and groups of smallholder farmers in improving their farming and livelihoods. The international workshop will be officially opened on the final afternoon of the fair.

To maximise synergies and minimise costs in terms of travel and time and ecological footprint, the annual **PROLINNOVA International Partners Workshop (IPW)**, the **PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) meeting** and the final **internal meeting of the JOLISAA Consortium** will be held back-to-back with the fair and workshop on agricultural innovation. Also the international coordination meetings of two PROLINNOVA initiatives – **LINEX-CCA (Local Innovation and Experimentation for Climate-Change Adaptation)** in Asia funded by Misereor and **CLIC-SR (Combining Local innovation Capacities with Scientific Research)** in eastern Africa funded by Rockefeller Foundation – will be included in this series of events.

These events will be coordinated by the **Kenya Agriculture Research Institute (KARI)**, which coordinates JOLISAA–Kenya and – together with World Neighbors – also PROLINNOVA–Kenya.

Also parallel to these events, the **International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)** and the CGIAR **Challenge Programme on Water and Food (CPWF)** will hold a writeshop on **Innovation Platforms (IP)** to bring together the experiences of various international research centres and programmes with this approach.

Schedule of events

Day / date / time	Activity / event	Activity / event	Activity / event
Sat 25 May	LINEX-CCA / CLIC-SR coordination meetings		
Sun 26 May	POG meeting	JOLISAA meeting	
Mon 27 May	PROLINNOVA IPW	JOLISAA meeting	ILRI/CPWF IP writeshop
Tues 28 May	PROLINNOVA IPW	EA Farmer Innovation Fair	ILRI/CPWF IP writeshop
Wed 29 May morning afternoon	Opening: AISA workshop	EA Farmer Innovation Fair	ILRI/CPWF IP writeshop
Thurs 30 May	AISA workshop		
Fri 31 May	AISA workshop		

Eastern African Farmer Innovation Fair

The fair will celebrate the creativity of Eastern African smallholder farmers – women and men – and give them public recognition. This colourful event with good media coverage will call attention to the importance of farmer innovation in agricultural development, bring policymakers and the general public in Kenya in contact with farmer innovators, and provide an opportunity for the international participants in the AISA workshop to meet and engage with the innovators. The fair will be hosted by PROLINNOVA–Kenya and co-organised with the Netherlands-supported AgriProFocus (APF) network and other organisations concerned with smallholder agricultural development. It will involve farmer innovators identified by the PROLINNOVA Country Platforms (CPs) and the APF networks in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

A call for identification of innovative farmers will be made in each of the four countries. Selection criteria will include:

- Farmers who have (co-) developed low-external input innovations relevant for small-scale agriculture and natural resource management
- Farmers who have interacted with other innovation actors (researchers, extension staff, university staff etc) in joint experimentation and innovation (PID)
- Farmers who have experience in managing Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs)
- Balance in terms of age & gender of farmers and agro-ecological zones where they work.

Translation from and to English for the farmers will be done by students from Kenyan universities and by PROLINNOVA CP or APF members who accompany farmers to Kenya.

International Workshop on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (AISA)

Various initiatives are underway in trying to apply the concept of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in Africa. The AISA workshop is designed to bring together recent experiences in promoting agricultural innovation in Africa, to analyse the approaches and methods and their strengths and weaknesses, and to draw lessons for the way forward in terms of policy, research and practice in promoting agricultural innovation.

The main objectives of the AISA workshop are:

- to learn jointly about agricultural innovation processes and systems in Africa
- to identify policy implications and develop policy messages
- to explore perspectives for collaborative action research on agricultural innovation.

Invited participants (\approx 80 persons): Researchers, development practitioners, policymakers (including FARA, ASARECA, RUFORUM) and a limited number of project/programme partners (JOLISAA, PROLINNOVA, CCAFS, FSIFS and other initiatives) from Africa and the “Global North” (including AusAID and World Bank).

Invited presentations: Balance from the different initiatives plus resource persons to give very brief inputs on key topics.

Proposed structure of workshop (29–31 May 2013):

1. Opening and facilitated participation in the Eastern Africa Farmer Innovation Fair
2. Reflecting on conceptual issues / frameworks for assessing innovation experiences
 - Keynote paper + brief reflection papers by JOLISAA, CCAFS–PROLINNOVA ... (tbc)
 - Buzz-group discussions
3. Sharing main results and lessons about innovation processes/cases
 - Posters / marketplace
 - About 8–10 oral papers in two parallel thematic sessions
 - Facilitated discussions (group and plenary sessions)
4. Policy implications and policy-dialogue strategy and messages
 - Facilitated dialogue among participants from major stakeholder groups (donors, policymakers, researchers, farmers-innovators and other innovation practitioners)
5. Exploring the way forward & perspectives for collaborative action research (World Café).

Expected outputs from workshop:

- Content to be shared instantaneously via electronic media before and during the workshop
- Printed synthesis of lessons learnt and recommendations for policy, research and development practice
- Electronic proceedings available online: with introduction, highlights of farmer innovator fair (including names and innovations of all farmers), keynote paper, papers from projects/programmes (possibly in more detail than presented during workshop), posters, synthesis of sessions (conceptual issues and learning framework, findings, lessons, policy agenda), general conclusions and way forward.

Organising committees

International Organising Committee for AISA workshop:

- Adewale Adekunle, FARA
- Alan Duncan, ILRI People, Livestock & Environment theme
- Ann Waters-Bayer, ETC Foundation, PROLINNOVA International Support Team
- Bernard Triomphe, CIRAD, JOLISAA coordinator (Provisional Chair)
- Geoffrey Kamau, KARI, JOLISAA–Kenya team coordinator
- Joseph Mureithi, KARI Deputy Director
- Laurens Klerkx, WUR Knowledge, Technology & Innovation Group / Cos-SIS / SOLINSA
- Luis Rodriguez, FSIFS/AusAid
- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Kenya (tbc)
- Patti Kristjanson, CCAFS Theme Leader Linking Knowledge with Action
- Riikka Rajalahti, World Bank Senior Agricultural Specialist
- Teresiah Ng’ang’a, JOLISAA–Kenya / PROLINNOVA–Kenya coordinator
- Wiebke Foerch, CCAFS Science Officer

Kenya-based Organising Committee for EAFIF:

- Amos Thiong'o, AgriProFocus (APF) Kenya
- Anne Murangiri, Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP)
- Eric Kisiangani, Practical Action
- Mainza Mugoya & Robert Langat, Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF)
- Pauline Mugendi, Land o' Lakes Innovation Engine
- Rahab Njoroge & Grace Kinyajui, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)
- Representative from CCAFS (tbc)
- Representative from Ministry of Agriculture (tbc)
- Righa Makonge, World Neighbors (WN)
- Teresiah Ng'ang'a, KARI / PROLINNOVA–Kenya (facilitator)

Pre-workshop meetings

JOLISAA Consortium final international meeting, 25–26 May 2013: The final international meeting of the EU-funded JOLISAA Consortium from Benin, Kenya, South Africa, France and the Netherlands will finalise outputs from the collaborative case assessments of AIS. The meeting will be co-organised by Bernard Triomphe (CIRAD) and Geoffrey Kamau (KARI).

LINEX–CCA coordination and co-learning meeting, 25 May 2013: The PROLINNOVA CPs in India, Cambodia and Nepal will hold a one-day regional project meeting on **LINEX–CCA (Local INnovation and EXperimentation: an entry point to Climate-Change Adaptation in Asia)** funded by Misereor, Germany. Suman Manandhar (LI-BIRD) will coordinate this with backstopping support from Chesha Wettasinha (ETC Foundation).

CLIC–SR coordination and co-learning meeting, 25 May 2013: The PROLINNOVA CPs in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda will hold a one-day regional project meeting on **CLIC–SR (Combining Local innovation Capacities with Scientific Research)** funded by Rockefeller Foundation, USA. Laurens van Veldhuizen (ETC Foundation) will coordinate this together with Makonge Righa (World Neighbors, PROLINNOVA–Kenya).

PROLINNOVA Oversight Group meeting, 26 May 2013: The governance body of the PROLINNOVA network will hold its annual face-to-face meeting to review accomplishments and challenges and to advise the network in moving forward. Co-chairs are Susan Kaaria (Ford Foundation) and Marise Espinelli (International Institute of Rural Reconstruction), with POG Secretariat support by Ann Waters-Bayer (ETC Foundation).

PROLINNOVA International Partners Workshop (IPW), 27–28 May 2013: The annual learning and planning meeting of PROLINNOVA partners will be hosted this year by PROLINNOVA–Kenya. A central topic of learning will be the experiences of the CPs and regional initiatives in strengthening community resilience to change (climate and other). This workshop will be co-ordinated by Laurens van Veldhuizen (ETC Foundation) and Teresiah Ng'ang'a (KARI).

ILRI/CPWF Innovation Platforms Writeshop, 27–29 May 2013: This will provide an opportunity for researchers in various international research centres and programmes to share and document their experiences with multi-stakeholder innovation platforms. The writeshop will be coordinated by Peter Ballantyne (ILRI), who will also arrange an interactive meeting between participants from JOLISAA, PROLINNOVA and the CGIAR.