

You are invited to participate in:

**Farmer-led documentation:  
Local knowledge sharing in an agricultural context**  
An exchange meeting organised and facilitated by PROLINNOVA

This meeting is planned during the E-Agriculture week  
"Knowledge Sharing for Development"  
Rome, Italy - September 2007

Date	Thursday, 27 September 2007
Time	9:30-12:30
Organisers :	PROLINNOVA, ETC EcoCulture, IAALD
Contact person:	Dorine Ruter - d.ruter AT etcnl.nl (PROLINNOVA)
Facilitation:	Miranda Verburg - m.verburg AT etcnl.nl (PROLINNOVA) Peter Ballantyne - peter.ballantyne AT iaald.org (IAALD)

NOTE: At this moment, PROLINNOVA is actively soliciting the participation of a few key participants. If you're interested in taking part in this meeting, please let us know before 17 August 2007. If there is too little interest, the meeting will be cancelled and you will be informed of this on 20 August at the latest.

## Introduction

Farmer-led documentation (FLD) is defined as an empowering process in which local communities take the lead role in the documentation process. The results are used by community members for purposes of internal learning (within the community) and exchange between communities (horizontal sharing) and communities, development agents and policymakers (vertical).

There is a growing interest by development agents in FLD. However there is little known about the best designs of such documentation processes or about the available and appropriate media and their use, including but by no means confined to those making use of modern ICTs. Another set of important questions relate to the impacts of FLD; how farmer-documentation has led to knowledge spread, a wider development process and ultimately to livelihoods improvements.

A 5-day workshop (Nov 2006, Uganda), organized by PELUM-Uganda and PROLINNOVA and supported by Oxfam Novib, provided a participatory space for participants and the three organizing partners to jointly start answering these questions. Participants (27) came from Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mexico, The Netherlands, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

## Aim and objective

Prolinnova, ETC EcoCulture and IAALD would like to use the opportunity provided by FAO, to organise an interactive exchange meeting of half a day. During this meeting, organizations involved in agricultural development are invited to share their views on farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing, specifically on FLD. This meeting should help organisations that work on the intersection of agriculture and knowledge sharing to get a better picture of current developments in this specific area and to forge links between similar initiatives. The organisers also propose to jointly identify needs for further learning and networking and possibilities for collaboration.

NOTE: This meeting will not be focused on the promotion of the use of ICTs in farmer knowledge sharing. ICTs can be useful in this context, but there are other means as well that can be effective and feasible in local settings.

### Proposed Agenda

9:30-10:00	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> Introduction to the topic of farmer-led documentation (FLD), the purpose and set-up of this meeting. Time for participants to briefly introduce themselves.
10:00-11:00	<b>CASE EXAMPLES</b> PROLINNOVA and some participants (see below under Your Contribution) will share some practical examples of FLD activities. Per case there will be a 5-minute presentation and some time for questions and comments from other participants.
11:00-11:15	Break
11:15-12:15	<b>DISCUSSION</b> A discussion in break-out groups (5-10 people per group) will provide participants with the opportunity to share more examples and ongoing activities and to discuss the challenges of FLD and how these could be dealt with.
12:15-12:30	<b>RECOMMENDED ACTIONS</b> The meeting will end with a plenary session during which all groups reconvene and share their ideas about what actions should be taken to further develop thinking and skills on FLD. This will also provide space for suggestions on if and how this group (and others that are interested in / working with FLD) could stay in touch and learn from each other in the future.

### Signing up

If you are interested in taking part in this meeting, please sign up before Friday, 17 August 2007. You can sign up via Dorine Ruter, email d.ruter AT etcnl.nl (replace AT with the @ sign). Note: no more than 30 participants will be able to join. Sign up in time!

### Your contribution

The meeting is proposed to be interactive and aimed at sharing and networking among participants. To help focus the sharing and networking, the organisers invite those that are interested to join this meeting to indicate if they have a case of FLD they would like to share and write a few lines about the case. Three of the participants will be asked to prepare a short case presentation (5 minutes) to share at the meeting. These presentations should specifically address good practices, concrete challenges, opportunities envisioned and questions unanswered. More detailed guidelines and support for the preparation of such a presentation will be provided by the organisers.

All participants are invited to bring material (articles, brochures, DVDs) with information about their activities in this context, so that these can be distributed or shared (display copies) with other participants.

### Funding

Unfortunately, no funding is available to support participants who lack the resources to join this meeting.