

International Solar Alliance

‘Institutionalisation of Backward & Forward Linkages of Solar Irrigation’

16:30 – 18:00 HRS (IST) 27 Jan, 2022

Solar technology offers a variety of solutions in agricultural sector. Solar-powered Irrigation is a particularly successful solution among many others in providing reliable and affordable energy to agriculture practitioners around the globe, especially in rural areas, where cost of diesel fuel is high or where reliable access to the electricity grid is lacking. It potentially reduces the energy-cost for irrigation, and also overcomes the frequently occurring energy shortages that cause disruption of supply needed for irrigation.

Over the past decade, solar-powered irrigation pumps have established themselves as a viable and effective means for expanding access to irrigation. Early instances of large-scale adoption have been seen in South Asia – particularly India and Bangladesh – but solar pumps also have tremendous potential in rest of the world, particularly Sub Saharan Africa where irrigation coverage is limited.

Solar irrigation sector inherits the limitations and challenges of its constituting sectors i.e. agriculture, irrigation and solar energy. Their respective value chains along with the institutional and policy landscape hugely determines the adoption and expansion of solar irrigation. Therefore, it would be useful to identify and understand the backward and forward linkages of solar irrigation sector which would comprise of, but would not be limited to, its constituting sectors. It would be useful for practitioners, policy makers and financial institutions from ISA Member Countries to understand these linkages, not only to effectively design their programs and schemes but to make better decisions going forward for sustainably scaling solar irrigation in their respective regions.

Keeping the imperative for green irrigation expansion amidst climate change in mind, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) are conducting a webinar on “**Institutionalisation of Backward and Forward linkages of Solar Irrigation**”. The objective of the webinar is to bring relevant stakeholders from ISA Member Countries to visualise and take a stock of the importance of these linkages which will encompass the direct and indirect benefits of “Solar Irrigation”.

The webinar will highlight the opportunities existing across the value chain of solar irrigation which can be leveraged for improving the financial viability of solar irrigation, leading to improved adoption and expansion of solar irrigation in Sub Saharan Africa. The discussion will focus on different techno-commercial aspects of setting up Solar Water Pumping projects with following linkages :

- Potential for development of Agri based industries
- Value addition in the Agri products
- Potential of development of efficient irrigation techniques like drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation etc.

- Growth in the Agri economics
- Conservation of fossil fuel
- Avoiding carbon mission
- Option of utilising the excess green energy from Solar Pumps
- Potential of decentralised community irrigation
- Integration of decentralised solar cold storage for better income of farmers/stakeholders
- Development of infrastructure and opportunities for marketing of agriculture produce
- Contract farming

The webinar will bring together expert speakers from key development stakeholders including government, international financial institutions, academia and civil society to share their vision for a conducive ‘solar irrigation ecosystem’ that can help effectively, sustainably and profitably deliver the benefit of Solar Irrigation to the largest number of agricultural practitioners around the world.

Provisional Agenda*

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27 January 2022 at 16:30-18:00 HRS, IST

Mode: Virtual

16:30 – 16:45 HRS.	Welcome Remarks	Mr. Amit Kaushik, Chief of Unit, PPIC, International Solar Alliance
16:45 – 17:00HRS.	Context Setting & Opening Remarks	Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance
17:00- 17:10 HRS.	Dr. Petra Schmitter, Senior Irrigation Specialist, World Bank	
17:10- 17:20 HRS.	Dr. Minh Thai, Senior Researcher, Innovation Scaling, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	
17:20- 17:30 HRS.	Mr. Abdoulaye Robil NASSOMA, Director General, AT2R & NFP Togo	
17:30- 17:40 HRS.	Dr. Frehiwot Woldehanna, Energy Sector Advisor & NFP Ethiopia	
17:40 – 17:50 HRS.	Concluding Remarks	Mr. Shilp Verma, Senior Researcher, Water-Energy-Food Policies, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
17:50 – 18:00 HRS.	Summarization of the Webinar & Vote of Thanks	Mr. Arun Misra, Senior Advisor, International Solar Alliance (ISA)

***Subject to Confirmation**

