

Solar Pumping: Solar Pumping Irrigation System

Solar Irrigation The sun's energy at the service of your harvest.

The Solar Pump is a solar irrigation system that uses photovoltaic pumps operating on direct current (DC), without an inverter. Its capacity varies depending on the area being irrigated, the water requirements of the crops, and site conditions. For a plot of approximately 1 acre (0.4 ha), a 1.5 hp system with a flow rate of 5 to 8 m³/hour and a manometric height of 25 to 40 m, powered by three 400 W solar panels, can be used. The pump can be submersible or surface-mounted depending on the water source, and can irrigate approximately 0.1 ha at a time, covering several blocks per day.



International Water Management Institute
Adebayo Oke

Commodities

All Crops

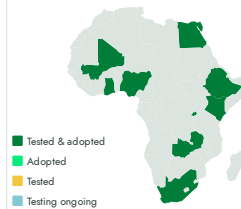
Sustainable Development Goals



Categories

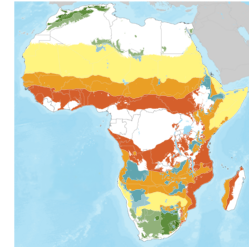
Production, Equipment, Irrigation

Tested/adopted in



Where it can be used

This technology can be used in the colored agro-ecological zones.



Target groups

Farmers, Cooperatives and Agribusinesses

This technology is **pre-validated**.

9-9

Scaling readiness: idea maturity 9/9; level of use 9/9

Inclusion assessment **5**

Climate impact **6**

Problem

- **Lack of affordable energy for irrigation:** Limited access to reliable energy reduces the productivity of small farms.
- **Costly dependence on fossil fuels:** Fuel-powered pumps increase costs and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Untapped solar potential:** In sub-Saharan Africa, financial constraints are slowing the adoption of solar pumps.

Solution

- **Efficient irrigation:** Provides reliable water to improve crop productivity.
- **Solar autonomy:** Independent of fuel and the power grid, reducing costs.
- **Lower emissions:** Replaces fuel-powered pumps, limiting greenhouse gases.
- **Suitable for smallholders:** Irrigates multiple plots per day.
- **Harnessing solar potential:** Exploits the high levels of sunshine in sub-Saharan Africa for sustainable irrigation.

Key points to design your project

The Solar Pump offers sustainable solar irrigation, increasing crop productivity while reducing costs and emissions associated with fuel pumps.

Key points:

- **Cost:** Depending on area and needs.
- **Supply:** Choose reliable suppliers, plan for transportation and possible imports.
- **Training:** Install, use, and maintain correctly to ensure performance.
- **Awareness:** Inform producers via brochures, videos, or local radio stations.
- **Installation:** Adapt the pump (submersible or surface) to the water source and plot.

The Solar Pump enables smallholders to irrigate efficiently and sustainably while harnessing local solar potential.

7500 USD
Cost per hectare

12300 USD
Revenue per hectare

4800 USD
Net income per hectare

64 %
ROI Per Year



Open source / open access

