

# SoLAR-IN PMC Meeting

**Date** 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Venue** IWMI-Anand

	ATTENDED	COULD NOT ATTEND
<b>Members</b>	Alok Sikka (Chair; on Skype) Tushaar Shah (IWMI) Aditi Mukherji (IWMI; on Skype) Shilp Verma (IWMI) Karan Patel (GERMI; for Akhilesh Magal) Gyan P. Rai (IWMI-Tata; Invited) Md. Faiz Alam (IWMI; Invited)	Divya Kashyap (SDC) Akhilesh Magal (GERMI) R.J. Vala (GUVNL)

The first meeting of the SDC-IWMI SoLAR India Project Management Committee (SoLAR-IN PMC) was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at IWMI, Anand office. Akhilesh Magal and R.J. Vala were unable to attend as they were called at the last minute for a meeting with the Energy Minister in Gandhinagar. Akhilesh deputed Karan Patel (GERMI) to attend on his behalf. Divya Kashyap was unable to join via Skype due to connectivity issues. The following points on the agenda were discussed:

## 1. SoLAR-IN PMC Composition and Year-01 Activities

Shilp Verma presented the initial composition of the SoLAR-IN PMC and outlined its role and activities. He also presented an overview of the planned project activities in India in year-01. The committee is composed of two sets of members – Core Members and Invited Members. Core members include:

1. Chair: Alok Sikka [IWMI-India Representative]
2. R.J. Vala [GUVNL – Partner Organization]
3. Akhilesh Magal [GERMI – Partner Organization]
4. Divya Kashyap [SDC Project Manager]
5. Aditi Mukherji [IWMI; Regional Project Lead]
6. Tushaar Shah [IWMI; Special Advisor]
7. Member Secretary: Shilp Verma [IWMI; National Project Lead]

In addition to the above, the Core Members may invite 5-7 members to specific SoLAR-IN PMC meetings. It was suggested and agreed that some more members will be invited to join the SoLAR-IN-PMC as core members. The following names were proposed: J.K. Jethani (MNRE); Himanshu Kulkarni (ACWADAM); R.C. Jain (Government of Gujarat) and Nilanjan Ghose (GIZ). The committee may also invite representatives from industry (Karan Dangayach, Shashwat Cleantech; or Dinesh Patidar, Shakti Pumps) for specific inputs.

During the discussion on research design pertaining to the scale pilot in Gujarat, it was proposed that Soumya Balasubramanya, Marie-Charlotte Buisson, Aditi Mukherji and the SoLAR-IN team will plan a field trip in Gujarat after the IWMI Annual Research Meet / last week of March. This would also coincide with WLE-CCAFS SPaRC Outcome Evaluation.

## 2. Groundwater Studies in Gujarat

Alok Sikka and Md. Faiz Alam presented the plan for a comprehensive study to understand and quantify the groundwater implications of large-scale SKY implementation in Gujarat. The study will be undertaken in central Gujarat (alluvial aquifers) and Saurashtra (hard-rock aquifers). Within the larger sample of 30 feeders chosen for survey in the Gujarat scale pilot, the groundwater study will identify a smaller sub-sample and install water meters in a few locations to establish a relationship between energy use and groundwater

pumped. Faiz and Alok will consult with Dinesh Patidar (Shakti Pumps) to explore if a specific model of VFDs that they use can be used to understand, calibrate and establish a robust energy-groundwater relationship. It was also agreed that the groundwater team will also join the planned field trip in March 2020.

### 3. Regional Training Event

Aditi Mukherji shared the idea of a three-day regional training program proposed for government officials from energy and groundwater sectors. The plan is to dedicate one day to groundwater (IWMI, ACWADAM, ATREE), one day for key energy and RE issues (GERMI, IDCOL...) and keep a day for field visits – for example to solar cooperatives in Gujarat. Both Akhilesh and Karan (GERMI) have indicated willingness for GERMI to host such a regional training program. However, the key challenge of organizing such a program in India is the logistics of getting participants from Pakistan (and the troubles of getting Visa). Several options were discussed, including partnering with IRENA and host the program in neutral locations like Kathmandu or Abu Dhabi. The downside is that doing this takes away the option of undertaking relevant field trips. Aditi will follow up with IRENA to explore if they would be interested. Another option is to see if SAARC can help facilitate such events; Karan Patel (GERMI) offered and agreed to explore this opportunity with the SAARC office in Gandhinagar.

### 4. IWMI-GERMI-GUVNL Partnership on Supporting SKY

As also discussed during the SoLAR Inception meeting in Colombo (Jan. 2020), IWMI-GERMI-GUVNL will collaborate to undertake analyses of secondary data from SKY (and SKY<sub>SPICE</sub>) feeders. In consultation with Mr. R.J. Vala (GUVNL), IWMI and GERMI will prepare a formal letter for GUVNL to propose a joint IWMI-GERMI-GUVNL output / report on field lessons from Phase I of SKY implementation. Gyan (IWMI) and Karan (GERMI) briefly shared the kind of data that is available at the feeder level. It was discussed that some of this data can also be useful for finalizing the sample feeders for understanding SKY impacts.

### 5. IWMI-GIZ-IN Project: Solar Irrigation Expansion in India

Shilp has shared with the members a one-page summary note on the IWMI-GIZ-IN project on '*Solar Irrigation Expansion in India*'. The 24-month (Sep. 2019 – Aug. 2021) project represents Phase II of an on-going partnership between GIZ-IN and the CGIAR. Phase I of the project was led by CIMMYT / CCAFS; IWMI is leading Phase II. The overall goal of the project is to facilitate better decision making in the process of scaling and mainstreaming of solar irrigation promotion in India, specifically the Government of India's KUSUM initiative and associated policies in different states. The project aims to achieve this through systematic assessment of different models of solar irrigation promotion, with a view to fitting promotion strategies with local biophysical, socio-economic, institutional and policy contexts. Members discussed and agreed that IWMI should facilitate interaction between the GIZ and SDC projects. One way of doing this would be to invite GIZ-IN representatives to join the SoLAR-IN PMC. Another idea discussed was to plan the next SoLAR-IN PMC meeting along with an 'Advisory Committee' meeting of the GIZ-IN-Solar project.

### 6. Any Other Business

While briefly discussing project activities in other project countries, Aditi Mukherji mentioned that IDCOL is collecting useful information on selected solar irrigation pumps in Bangladesh. Karan Patel (GERMI) enquired whether this data can be shared with GERMI and other partners. Aditi will share some of the data that IWMI has already collected.