

Interview Series Newsletter Issue 13

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How does the solar project contribute to your organization's mission?

ISA is working with the mission of contributing to SDG 13 (Universal energy access) and SDG 7 (Combating climate Change). This project is contributing to ISA mission of providing sustainable energy access to the remote areas and climate resilient agriculture. These actions lead to addressing the issues of food security and poverty alleviation also. The deployment of solar irrigation replaces the use of fossil fuels resulting in the reduction of carbon emissions. The knowledge generated from the project will be shared with ISA member countries to develop similar business models for scaling up solar irrigation projects in those countries.

Which aspects of the project interest you personally and why?

The aspect of searching for and developing a sustainable business model for deploying solar irrigation projects in a country so that these can be scaled up to enhance the deployment of solar irrigation projects for sustainable livelihoods of the populations interest me personally. Because the enhanced area under irrigation enhances the food security of the region.

What lessons has ISA drawn from this project, and how?

One of the learning is that the business model for implementation of solar irrigation projects is different for different countries. All countries need to formulate policies as per their local socio-economic conditions and requirements.

Which key policy relevant questions are you looking at in this project?

I am looking at how grid integration can be an effective way to increase the capacity utilization of pumps. But, how to address the issue of capacity utilisation in areas without grid and bigger issue of affordability of adoption of solar irrigation by small and poor farmers remains a challenge.