DAY 2 - High Level Plenary Session 2

Time: 9:30 – 10:30 | **Venue**: Himalaya Ball Room, Hotel Himalaya

Title: Barriers and opportunities for financing and scaling technology and innovation for promoting solarized agri-food systems.

Description: The panel discussion aims to identify and address barriers hindering the financing and scaling of technology for solarized agri-food systems. It will explore financing mechanisms, assess technological innovations, and evaluate sustainability implications. The goal is to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders to promote scalable and efficient solar-powered solutions for agricultural sustainability and food security.

Moderator: Dr. Mohsin Hafeez, Country Representative, IWMI-Pakistan

Panelists:

- **Dr Ram P. Dhital,** Former Executive Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Center, Nepal
- **Engr. Ghazala Channar**, Deputy Chief, Water Resources Section, Ministry Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Pakistan
- **Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim**, Member Director, Livestock Division, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Bangladesh
- **Mr. Omrane Derhy,** R&D Electrical Engineer, Institute de Recherche en Énergie Solaire et Énergies Nouvelles (IRESEN), Morocco
- **Ms. Khusbu Bisen**, Executive at Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), India
- **Ms Cindy Shigoli**, Head of ESG, SunCulture, Kenya

Questions to the Panelists:

Round 1 (5 mins - total 35 mins)

Dr. Ram P. Dhital	Given our discussions yesterday on business models and scaling up, **how can public-private partnerships boost investment in solarized agri-food systems, and what role should government incentives play?**
Engr. Ghazala Channar	What are the long-term implications of Solar Irrigation Pumps (SIPs) on climate resilient agri-food systems? **Do you anticipate any threats to food security arising from scaling SIPs due to potential impacts on the availability of water resources?**
Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim	Solar has potential beyond only the agriculture sector. **What are the challenges and opportunities for integrating solar energy solutions into wider livestock and cultivation practices in Bangladesh?**
Mr. Omrane Derhy	Organisations like IRESEN work in different ways to identify and finance research and innovative projects in the field of green technologies. **Given your experience, what are your views on the most effective strategies for overcoming barriers in scaling of solar irrigation?**
Ms. Khusbu Bisen	Communities are the key drivers of change. **How can financial barriers to the adoption of SIPs for smallholder and women farmers through policy interventions be addressed? How do innovative models like pay-as-you-go solar solutions aid in scaling solarized agri-food systems and enhancing financing access, especially for women farmers?**
Ms Cindy Shigoli	**How can innovative solar irrigation solutions help smallholder farmers build resilience to climate variability and change. How can we best support these adaptation and resilience benefits in off-grid systems?**

Round 2 (common question to each participant):

What's the single most crucial intervention governments should adopt to finance and scale technology for solarized agri-food systems?