

The first Bangladesh Country Level Project Management Committee (C-PMC) meeting organized— a step towards developing a coordinated approach for promoting solar irrigation pumps in the country

IWMI and Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) organized the first Bangladesh C-PMC meeting on the 20th October 2020. The purpose was to seek feedback from the CPMC members on planned activities under the Solar Irrigation for Agricultural Resilience (SoLAR) project supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), so that the project activities are aligned with the larger priorities of the Government of Bangladesh's solar irrigation programs. IDCOL is currently the largest financier for renewable energy projects in Bangladesh and is a core project partner.

“C-PMC provides a platform to discuss and develop a co-ordinated approach for promotion of solar irrigation pumps (SIPs) in Bangladesh, incorporating the best features from all the SIP projects under different organisations”, shared Mr. S.M Monirul Islam, Deputy CEO of IDCOL, and the Chair of C-PMC. Dr. Aditi Mukherji, the Regional Project Leader from IWMI, highlighted the role of solar irrigation in climate mitigation and adaptation.

Various government organizations, such as Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA), Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) are members of the C-PMC. CPMC members advised the project team to include surface water based solar irrigation models, and financial and institutional models promoted by various organisations in their study design. They also emphasized the need for alternative uses of SIPs, given that irrigation requirements were seasonal, and the pumps remain idle for a major part of the year. While grid connection is an option for using this idle energy capacity, other options must also be explored, emphasized the SREDA officials.

Glimpses from C- PMC Meeting in Bangladesh, October 2020

Recording

The context of South Asia

- Over 22 million wells and tubewells (12 million electric, 10 million diesel) together extract over 250 km³ of groundwater. Almost 10-20% of agricultural emissions are contributed by groundwater pumping.
- Replacing diesel and "dirty" electricity pumps with solar irrigation pumps (SIP) is a viable climate action for South Asian countries.
- ~ 200,000 SIPs already installed in the region (most of these in India) – and there is a growing body of evidence on first-generation questions such as appropriate financing, subsidy delivery mechanisms, appropriate forms of ownership etc.
- Second generation questions on groundwater sustainability and gender, equity and social inclusion are emerging.

Pallavi.S

International Water Management Institute

Aditi Mukherji

Ashok Biswas, PD, Solar D...

IWM International Water Management Institute

A grid of 15 video conference participants. The participants are arranged in three rows and five columns. The names and affiliations of the participants are as follows:

International Water Manage...	Pallavi.S	nazmun nahar	Aditi Mukherji	Ashok Biswas PD Solar D...
Md. Ahasan Habib, NGO ...	Mofazzal Hossain, IDCOL	Monir, IDCOL	Belal Siddiqui	Yashodha, IWM
Md. Sakil Ibne Sayeed, P...	Md Abdullah Al Matin (I...	Divya Kashyap, SDC	Kazi Ahsan Uddin	Md. Shamsul Hu...