

SoLAR Innovation Fund Grantee SwitchON's Mini Solar Pumps for Women Farmers

Under the project titled '*Mini Solar Pumps for Women Farmers*' or MSP4WF, SwitchON Foundation aims to increase the uptake and adoption of small pumps among small and marginal women farmers. A Revolving Guarantee Fund (RGF) has been set up with RBL Bank to negate plausible risks and give guarantees to banks on behalf of 'unbankable' customers, especially women who do not possess lands in their names. Fourteen sensitization programmes and exposure visits have been conducted with 140 women farmers to increase awareness of solar pumps. In these exposure visits, the women farmers witnessed real-life changes after adopting solar pumps among other farmers.

To date, ten women farmers got loans through the Guarantee Fund to set up small pumps in Purba Medinipur, Nadia, Paschim Bardhaman and the North 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal. Although ten solar pumps have been established under this project, thirty-two women farmers have access to reliable and clean irrigation sources through the Water Users Group system.

