

Pakistan holds 2nd Country Project Management Committee (C-PMC) meeting: where does access to solar irrigation stand?

Stakeholders from IWMI, Federal Water Management Cell (FWMC), Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), On Farm Water Management (OFWM) and Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology (KFUEIT) convened the second C-PMC meeting on the 17th of December 2020. The purpose was to seek feedback from the C-PMC 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 Pakistan's solar irrigation programmes.

The areas in focus included the districts of Chakwal, Jehlum, Jhang and Gujranwala. The Solar Irrigation Pump (SIP) technology is slowly gaining popularity in many parts of Central Punjab. Solar pumps coupled with drip irrigation, the potential of precision surface irrigation coupled with solar, comparison of the efficiency of SIP and diesel-based pumps, assessment of farmers' behaviour in groundwater extraction were some of the topics deliberated throughout the meeting.

It was proposed that IWMI should work closely with FWMC to generate evidence for the impact of SIPs on groundwater. Furthermore, it was mutually agreed by the officials that there should be a procedure to understand and analyse the SIPs installed by the farmers in areas where they are using surface water and groundwater for their irrigation needs.

A glimpse from C-PMC meeting in Pakistan, December 2020

