

## A telephonic survey in Pakistan to understand the water use pattern of SIP farmers

A telephonic survey with SIP farmers was conducted between November and December 2020 to assess water use patterns among SIP farmers in Punjab, Pakistan. The target areas included fifteen tehsils across five randomly selected districts, viz, Chakwal, Jehlum, Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh and Lodhran. This survey was conducted as an identification strategy for selecting comparable SIP and diesel pump farmers for a later, more extensive survey.

The respondents were asked questions on their existing cropping patterns and irrigation practices. Questions on irrigation practices included information on the source of irrigation water, types of pumps used and sources of water for SIPs, etc.

We interviewed a total of 127 farmers over the telephone, out of which 69 farmers were found using SIP in combination with diesel or electric pumps or both. Thirty-five farmers were using only SIP, and the remaining 23 farmers were dependent upon diesel or electric or both but were not using SIP. It can be concluded that even if farmers were using SIP, the overall shift towards solar energy has been slow. It is to be noted that SIP farmers are not exclusively dependent upon groundwater for their irrigation needs either. In districts with access to canal water, farmers use canal water to fill up storage ponds and then use SIPs to lift that water for irrigation at their convenience. In addition, we also found that SIP farmers devoted a larger share of their farms to growing orchard crops. The results of this preliminary survey, combined with other rapid assessments, will be used to design a rigorous study to understand the impact of SIPs on groundwater pumping in the region.