The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) has entered into a 9-month contract with the Gujarat-based Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) as a part of its SDC-SolAR project. IRMA Water Centre (WC) will carry out a quick assessment of the Chief Minister’s Saur Krishi Vahini Program in Maharashtra. The IRMA-WC will look at:

- Actual progress in physical and financial terms in implementing the CM Saur Krishi Vahini Program.
- Management models for O&M of tail-end solar plants.
- Experience of farmers benefitting from solar feeders.
- Benefits in terms of improved cropping patterns, cropping intensity and crop yields.
- Understanding distribution losses of solar feeders.
- Effectiveness of solar pumps for lift irrigation
- Sustainability of utilisation of groundwater.

A comprehensive report would be produced by incorporating a variety of methodologies, viz., secondary data collection, discussions with government/DISCOM officials, tail-end operators, surveys/Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) involving around 200 farmers in 4 solar feeders.

More information about IRMA can be found here.

IWMI’s Corporate Services Director, Syon Niyogi and RBI Chair Professor, Dr Uday Shankar Saha of IRMA, signed the contract on 26 September 2021.