

Inauguration of Solar Irrigation Pump Project of IDCOL at Dhamrai

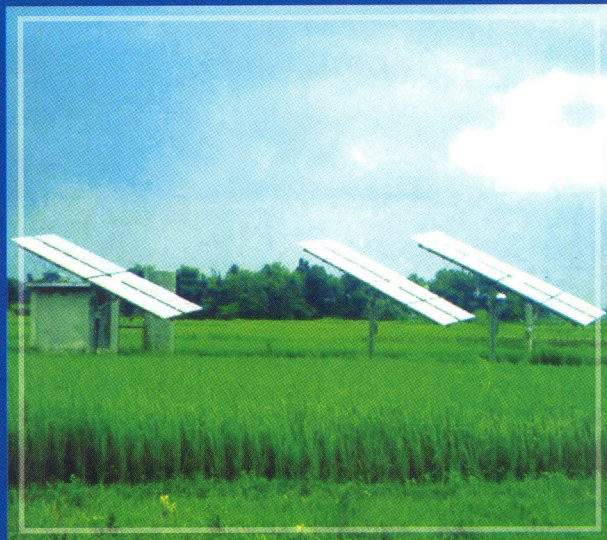
Bangladesh, generally, is an agrarian economy with majority of its population being involved in agriculture. Introduction of irrigation systems has significantly contributed in increasing country's agricultural products. As a result, the country now has become almost food surplus. However, irrigation is creating a huge strain on both electricity and diesel. It is estimated that about 266,000 grid connected water pumps consume around 1,300 MW electricity to irrigate 1.7 million hectares of land. In addition, 1.3 million diesel-run pumps used in the peak seasons also consume about 900,000 tons of diesel to irrigate further 3.4 million hectares. With a view to curbing problems of power shortage and soaring diesel prices as well as reducing carbon emission, the Government has taken initiatives to harness solar energy to generate the required electricity for running irrigation pumps.

To complement the efforts of the Government, Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), has undertaken Off-grid Solar Irrigation Pumps Program. With support from the KfW Development Cooperation, Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund, JICA and the World Bank, IDCOL will provide financial and technical supports to eligible sponsors to install 1,500 solar irrigation pumps by 2016. This will replace 5,100 tons of diesel consumption per year, saving foreign exchange equivalent of BDT 41 crore.

As of January 2013, IDCOL has approved 39 solar irrigation projects and disbursed BDT 16.12 million (BDT 9.51 million grant and BDT 6.61 million concessionary loan) under its solar irrigation pump program. On 5 February 2013, His Excellency, **Dr. Albrecht Conze**, German Ambassador to Bangladesh will inaugurate the Project implemented by NUSRA at Dhamrai. **Mr. Abul Kalam Azad**, Secretary, Economic Relations Division and Chairman, IDCOL will chair the event.

Dhamrai Irrigation Project at a glance

- Project location : Dhamrai, Savar
- Pump capacity : 384,000 liters per day
- Solar PV capacity : 8.4 kWp
- Area coverage : 66 bighas for paddy cultivation; and 54 bighas for vegetables cultivation
- Number of farmers : 15
- Total project cost : BDT 3,500,000
- Debt: grant: equity : 30: 40: 30
- Loan : BDT 1,050,000 (sourced from the World Bank)
- Grant : BDT 1,400,000 (sourced from KfW)
- Implementer : Network for Universal Services and Rural Advancement (NUSRA)
- Financier : Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL)



Implemented by:

KfW

