



SPIS training in Mozambique

Solar Irrigation training

A technical and financial training for all actors of the solar irrigation value chain

The market for solar irrigation solutions is developing fast in Sub-Saharan countries. However lack of knowledge or skills on technical, commercial and financial aspects, or misconceptions about the benefits and risks of Solar Powered Irrigation Systems (SPIS) is an obstacle to the development of the sector. Our practical training give a basic understanding of solar irrigation, to a wide range of actors in order to lead the development of solar systems in the right direction.

Background

For more than twenty years, we have worked in the irrigation sector, accompanying the development of solar solutions in various contexts. As we have seen the market evolving we also noticed the increased diversity of technologies and the technical, commercial and financial challenges related to the investment and use of solar irrigation systems.

Based on the lessons learnt from previous projects, and capitalising on the knowledge and experience we have accumulated over the years, we have developed a training for field agents and decision makers to better apprehend the design and market of Solar Powered Irrigation Systems.



Which target group?

We provide the training to different types of target group. Depending on their objectives and previous knowledge, different training tools and materials are available and can be used to facilitate their learning. Until now, we have provided a training on SPIS to **technicians, vocational teachers, finance advisors, government agents, extensionists, and NGO employees**, in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritania, and Mozambique. We have adapted, contextualised and improved our training materials and tools for each of the trainings depending on the participants and project's needs.



Technical curriculum

The general curriculum of the training (specialised for each type of target group) follows the design of a SPIS system, from the identification of the potential and feasibility of a plot, to the operation and maintenance of the system, via the search for technologies and finance solutions. Depending on the target group and their training needs, some topics are approached with more or less depth.

Water source
Feasibility
Technologies
Head
Finance mechanisms
Markets
Benefits vs risks
Operation & maintenance
Sustainability
Gender
Safety



Finance curriculum

The finance curriculum is meant for credit officers and managers. It helps this group understand the risks and opportunities of SPIS so they can design tailor-made finance products or portfolios for prospective clients. After the training finance experts can execute a comprehensive risk management framework, a project financial analysis and a credit check of SPIS clients.

Training tools

A training often involves a large number of learnings in a short amount of time. In order to enhance the learning process we believe it is essential to keep the training as dynamic and varied as possible. We make use of different sorts of training materials, we practice in the field and invite participants to engage, share their experience, and use their senses as much as possible.

Training booklet

Field and paper exercises

Field demonstrations

Decision-making tools

Serious games

Presentations

Energizers



A word from Néusia Michaque participant technicians training Mozambique, June 2022

"The practical and interactive approach of the training broadens the perspective regarding solar irrigation, highlighting potential opportunities for the future. Participating in this training has allowed me to network and learn from colleagues related to solar irrigation in different provinces in Mozambique."

Focus on practice

Our training specifically focusses on practice in the field. Participants do not only gain theoretical knowledge but also practical understanding of what irrigating with solar powered systems implies.

Depending on the target group, the approach is adapted to make a connection with the field of expertise of the participants. But the core concept of this training remains "stepping in the shoes of the farmers" to be able to provide more adapted technical, commercial, or financial solar solutions.

What is Practica ?

PRACTICA is a non-profit organization. We work in over 10 countries to support our partners like NGO's, governments, local entrepreneurs and farmer organisations with technical know-how on small scale technologies in the field of water, agriculture and sanitation.

We are not an implementing organization, but guide and train partners in the use, uptake and knowledge of various technologies. Research and development is a core part of our work at our head office in the Netherlands where we develop & test new products that could improve the lives of the poor. As an example, we have developed one of the first solar pumps on the African market, which is now being marketed by one of our partners Futurepump.



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