

| 8<sup>th</sup> Nigeria Energy Forum 2023 | 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 |

# Harvesting the Sun for smallholders in Africa and Asia

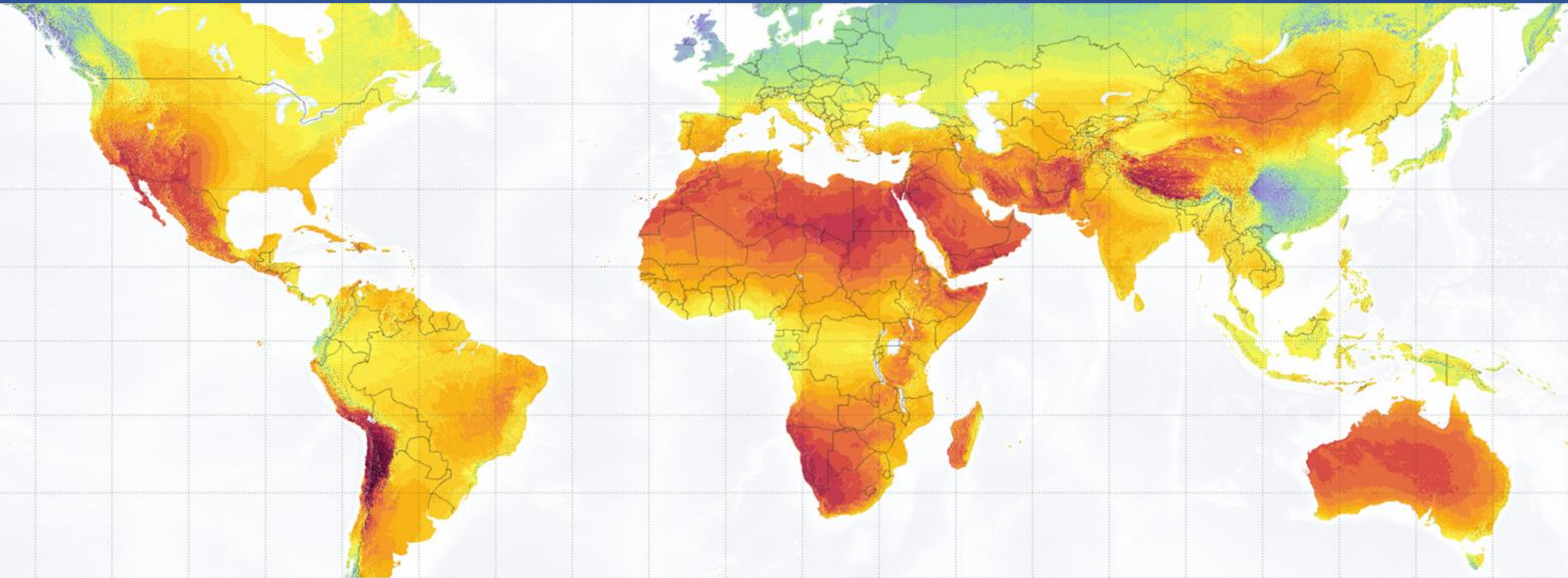
Opportunities for South-South  
*Learning and Cooperation*

Shilp Verma | Senior Researcher, IWMI

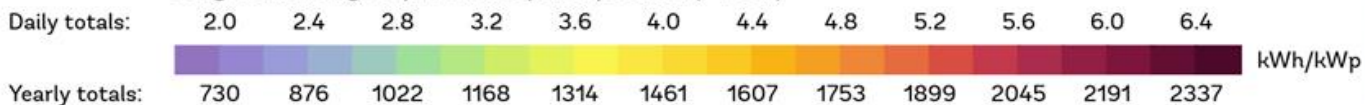


# Brighter Sun: Plentiful Solar Resource

Much of the 'Developing World' can harvest 1,400 – 2,000 peak-hour equivalent of sunshine to (conservatively) generate 3.8 – 5.6 kWh of energy per kWp of installed capacity



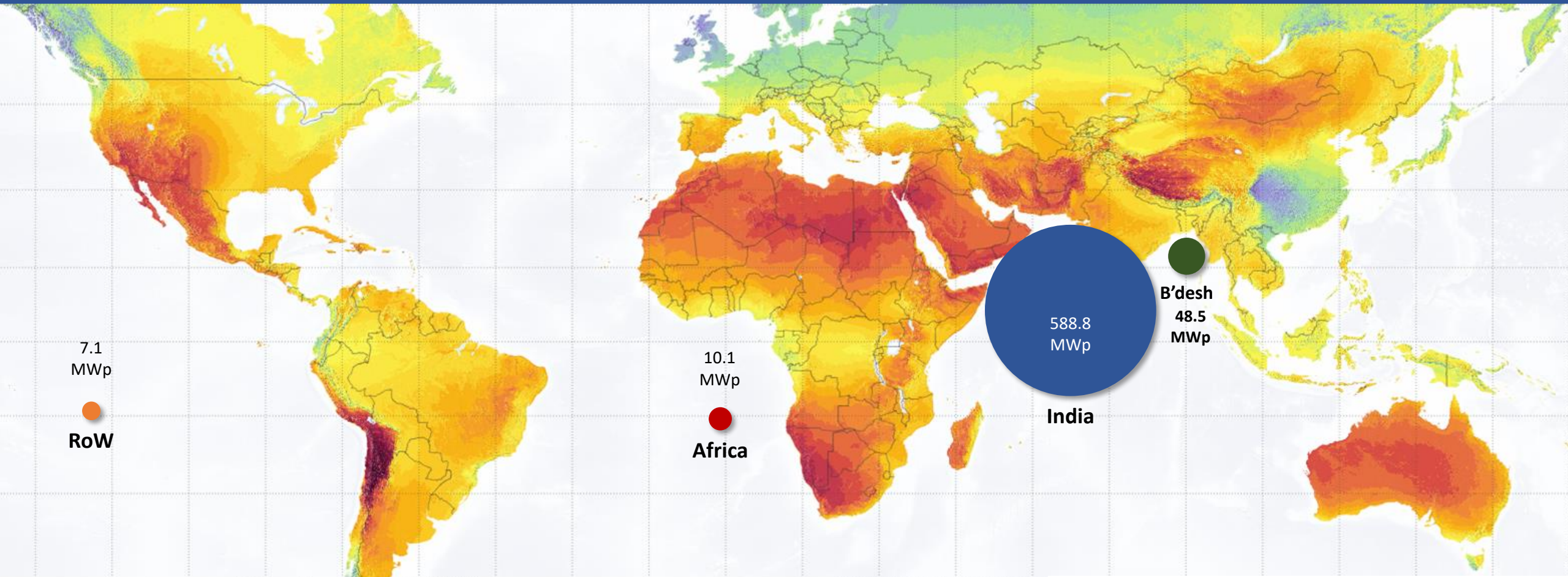
Long-term average of photovoltaic power potential (PVOU)



Source: Global Solar Atlas 2.0  
| <http://globalsolaratlas.info> |

# Solarization of Agriculture: Global Overview

Bulk of the 'early investments' have been made in South Asia | Tremendous untapped potential in Africa



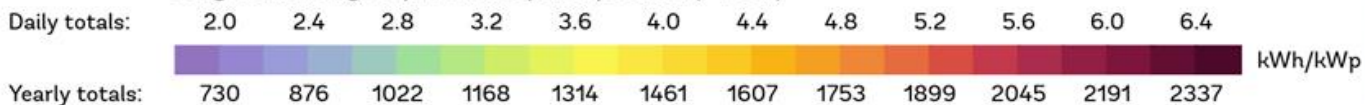
7.1  
MWp  
RoW

10.1  
MWp  
Africa

588.8  
MWp  
India

48.5  
MWp  
B'desh

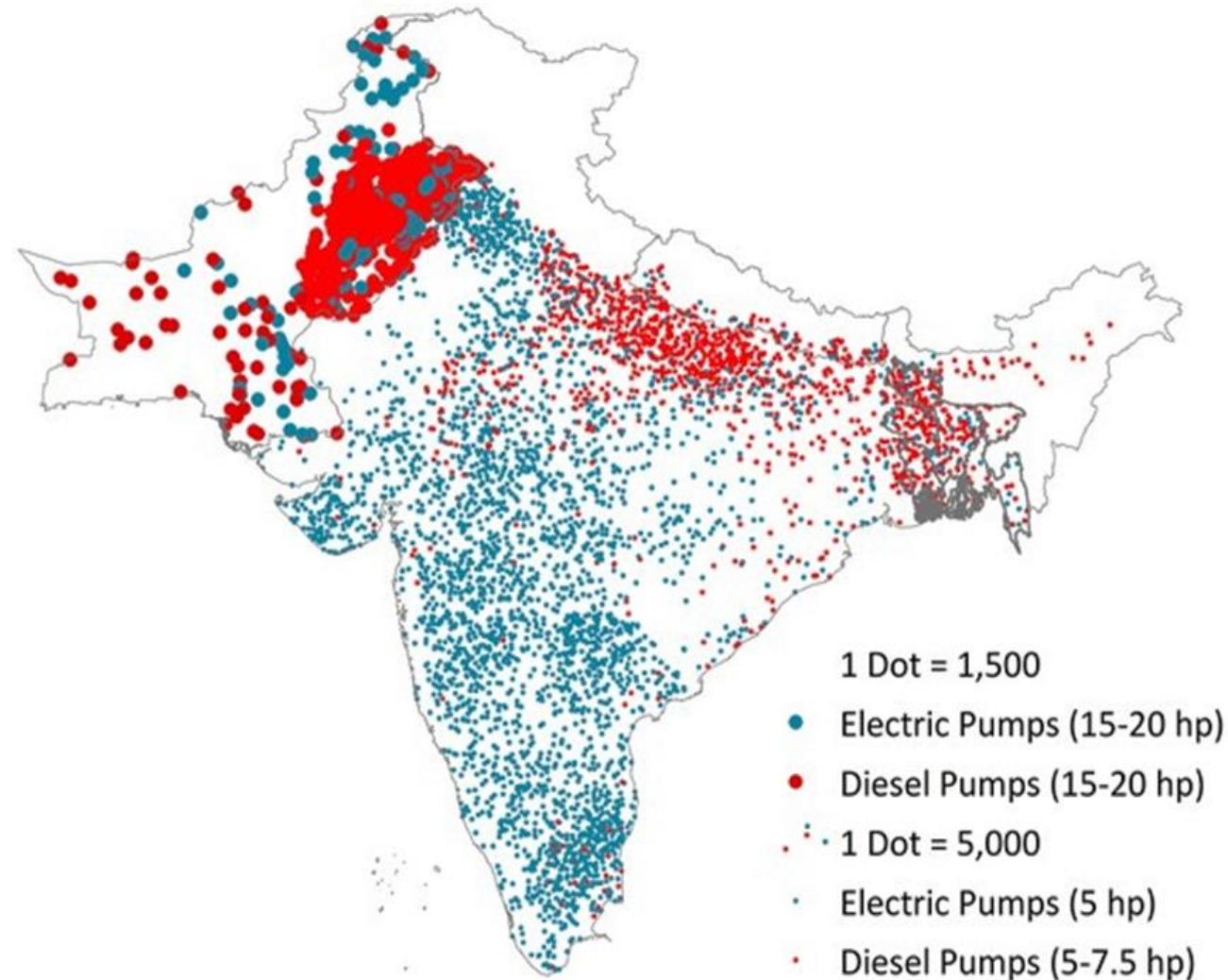
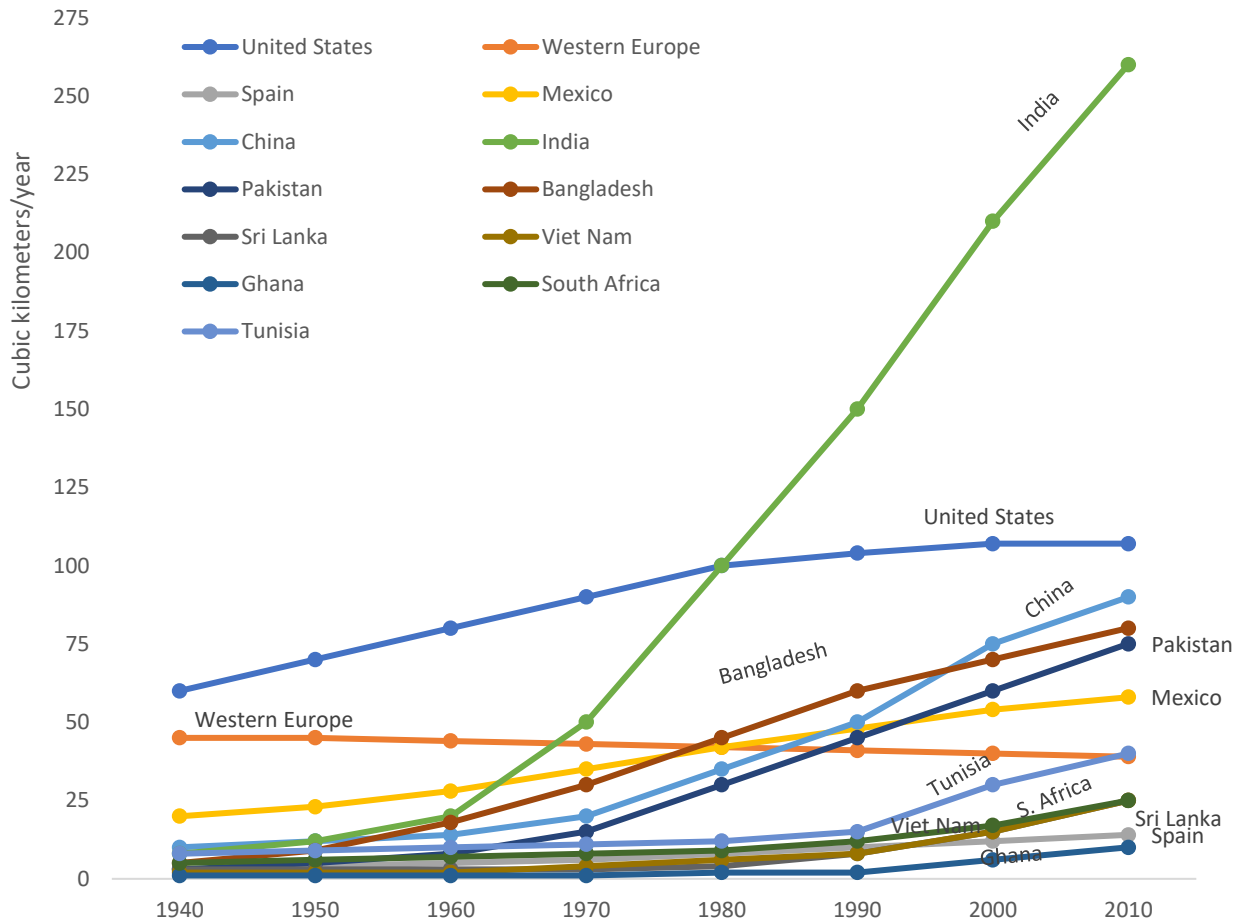
Long-term average of photovoltaic power potential (PVOU)



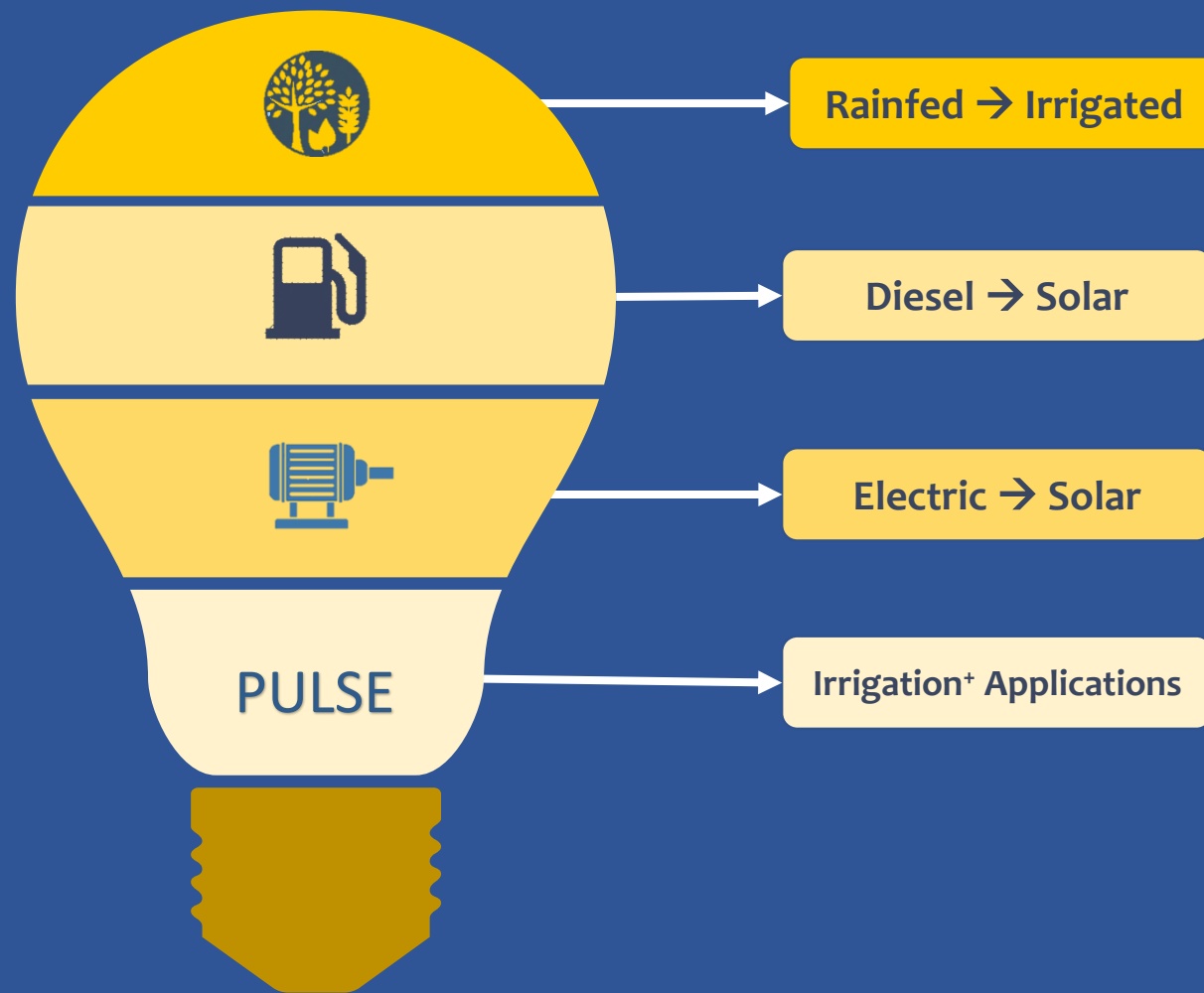
Source: IRENA Off-grid RE Statistics 2022  
<https://www.irena.org/Publications/2022/Dec/Off-grid-renewable-energy-statistics-2022>

# South Asia is 'Ground Zero' for 'Pump Irrigation'

The region has >30 million wells and tubewells with ~1-2m new pumps added each year  
IN has more electric pumps; NP, PK and BD rely heavily on diesel pumps



# Solar-led Food System Transformation Trajectories



# Solar Irrigation Business Models and Deployment Strategies



# Solar Irrigation Business Models

Individual, Off-grid SIPs dominate... but other models critical to scaling



## Individual | Off-grid

- Mainstream
- Equity | Targeting
- High CapEx
- Surplus Capacity
- Perverse Incentives



## SPaRC: Solar Power as Remunerative Crop

- Full Utilization
- Right Incentives
- IWMI experiment
- Scaling in India
- Replication: NP, BD



## Solar Irrigation Service Providers

- Farmer ISPs
- Diesel replacement
- Fragmented land holdings
- Intensive Irrigation



## Solar Enterprises

- Village-scale
- Diesel replacement
- Fragmented land holdings
- Intensive Irrigation



## Feeder Tail-end Solar Plants for Agriculture

- Piloted in Mah. (IN)
- Private sector driven
- Fixing incentives

# Some Emerging Business Models

Canal-top | Flotovoltaics | AgriPV | Mobile SIPs



- + Land, evaporation, energy generation
- Significantly higher costs

*Do the benefits outweigh the additional cost? Will 'floating solar' crowd this out?*

- + Land, crop productivity
- Significantly higher costs; energy-led

*Need farmer-centric business models...*



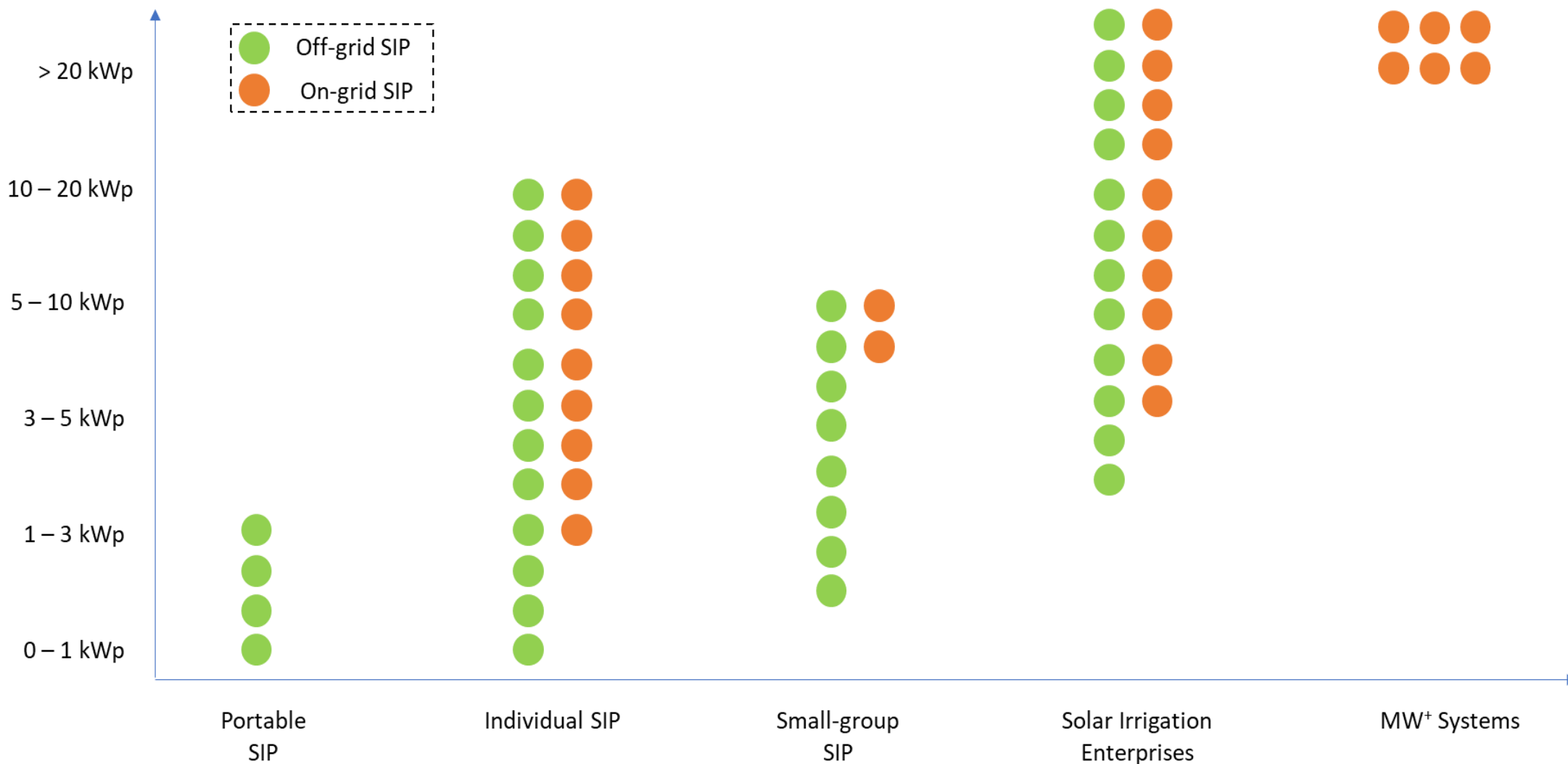
- + Mobility
- + Couples well with drip
- Higher unit costs
- Time to irrigate

*Technological and design improvements will spur deployment*



# Techno-Economic and Techno-Managerial Configurations

*Solar Pumps come in all shapes and sizes*



# Decision Support Tools for Boosting Solar Irrigation



# Solar Irrigation Pump (SIP) Sizing Tool

IWMI-ICAR-BISA Beta Version for India | SE4RL-NG Scaling to Nepal

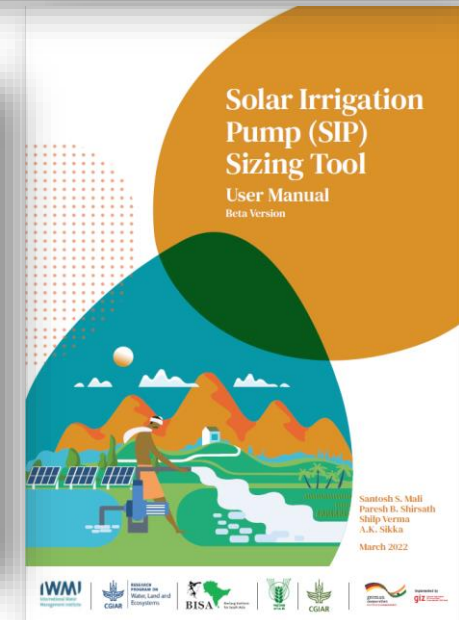
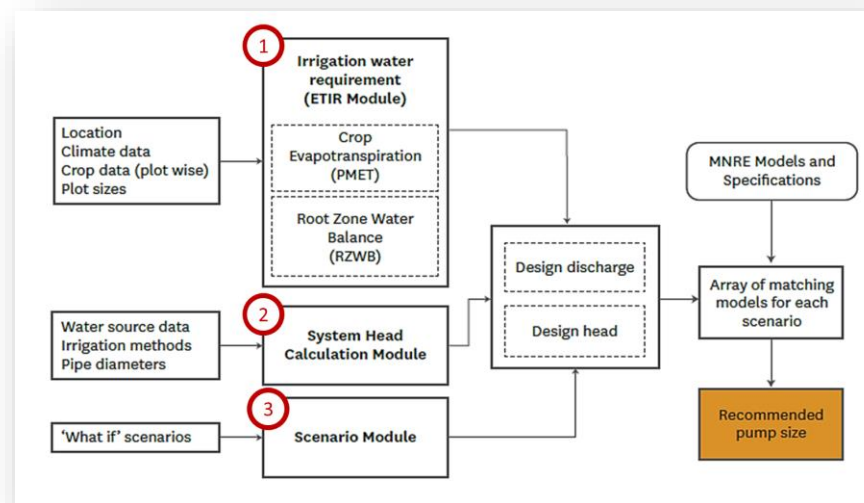
## KEY FEATURES

- Built in **MS Excel** for easy inter-operability
- Fully functional in **offline** mode
- Most user **inputs pre-loaded** using secondary data
- Users free to **over-ride default** options
- Suitable for **data-poor** as well as **data-rich** environments



## TOOL MODULES

- Irrigation **Water** Requirement Module
- System **Head** Calculation Module
- **Scenario** Module
- **Result** / Recommendation Module



# Key Takeaways for Scaling Solar Irrigation

*Lessons from a decade of  
experiments and experiences*



# Top Ten Ingredients for Scale...

1. Promotion mode Subsidy-led | Market-led
2. Cost per watt-peak of installed capacity
3. Financing Subsidy-Loan-Contribution
4. Design Ground-mounted | Floatovoltaics | AgriPV
5. Utilization Sizing | Grid-connected | Off-grid
6. Use Irrigation | Irrigation++ | MUS
7. Ownership Individual | Group | Enterprises
8. Equity in access
9. Sustainable resource use
10. Sourcing Domestic | Imported



*Solarization of Agriculture is NOT a choice,  
only its pace might be...*

