



Solar-Powered Irrigation and Its Influence on Cropping Patterns and Farmer Income Stability in Senegal: An Ethnographic Exploration

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Abstract

Solar-powered irrigation has become a significant development tool in Senegal's agricultural sector, particularly for smallholder farmers. An ethnographic study was conducted involving participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions with local farmers in different regions of Senegal. Farmers reported a significant increase (30%) in the number of crops they were able to cultivate using solar-powered irrigation systems compared to those without access. The study underscores the crucial role of solar-powered irrigation in enhancing agricultural productivity and income stability for smallholder farmers in Senegal. Government agencies should consider implementing more solar-powered irrigation projects to support rural development initiatives.

Keywords: *African geography, rural sociology, ethnography, agroecology, development studies, smallholder farming, community engagement*

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