

PRESS RELEASE

## India Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA) Launched

*IAA will integrate India's progress on solar energy and agriculture for positive socio-economic and climate impact.*

*National Solar Energy Federation of India will serve as the secretariat of the alliance, which is comprised on 12 organisations and supported by the India Climate Collaborative and Bloomberg Philanthropies*



The India Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA) was launched, during the first India Agrivoltaics Summit held on 30<sup>th</sup> October, by Joint Secretary of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Shri Lalit Bohra ji. Supported by the India Climate Collaborative (ICC) and Bloomberg Philanthropies, IAA brings together organisations across the entire agriculture and solar value chains. This alliance will be steered by 12 organisations including – National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI), Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), International Water

Management Institute (IWMI), Indian Society of Agricultural Engineering (ISAE), Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF), Skill Council for Green Jobs (SCGJ), Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP) Japan, and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, with the secretariat of the alliance hosted by NSEFI. IAA will forge strong collaborations with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA), Government of India, to drive the harmonious synergy of renewables and agriculture.



India's current renewable energy goals will require access to large areas of land. At the same time, India is heavily dependent on agriculture, with 60% of its land area farmed. Agrivoltaics can address this unique challenge by optimising land usage, through the co-location of solar panels with agriculture, or where solar panels can be placed alongside crops and pastoral lands, for growing crops as well as generating solar energy. Co-locating solar panels with agricultural farms is also vital to prepare farmers to survive climate-induced extreme weather, by laying a strong foundation for climate-resilient agriculture and doubling farmers' incomes.

Recognising this opportunity, the IAA has been created to better champion the entire spectrum of agrivoltaics, by bringing together all stakeholders across the value chain in



the solar and agricultural sectors, including industry associations, research institutes, financial institutions like NBFCs, policy think tanks, civil society organisations, and FPOs. The alliance will work towards developing effective business models and financial instruments for agrivoltaics, study the socio-economic impact of agrivoltaics on India's agricultural scenario, and strive for the inclusion of women and youth communities of India in the emerging field of agrivoltaics.

The alliance was launched by Shri Lalit Bohra Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India. Speaking at the launch Mr. Bohra emphasized that Agrivoltaics is an instrument to popularize Distributed renewable energy adoption and sensitizing the public at large for adopting RE. Agrivoltaics will also serve as a triple advantage offering for saving water, doubling farmers income and making the power sector financially viable, without compromising on the food security. Agrivoltaics will help make India's Agriculture sector sustainable while using clean electricity and promoting energy efficiency. Shri Lalit Bohra also interacted with farmers across the country who have been beneficiaries of agrivoltaics. Farmers described their experiences and how their economic conditions have been positively impacted by the adoption of agrivoltaics.

Shri Deepak Gupta, Honourable Director General, NSEFI who led the National Solar Mission as the Secretary, MNRE said "The launch of the India Agrivoltaics Alliance is a pivotal moment in our nation's journey towards sustainable energy. Agrivoltaics is not just a technology; it's a commitment to harmonizing agriculture and solar energy for a greener, more resilient future. This alliance will be instrumental in achieving this harmony, fostering innovation, and driving the transition towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy landscape in India."





Talking about the potential of the IAA, Shloka Nath, CEO of the India Climate Collaborative, said, “As India propels itself towards a renewable energy revolution, it is critical that we align this momentum with economic progress in climate-vulnerable sectors like agriculture. Our climate ambition must be mindful of India's development aspirations – and the India Agrivoltaics Alliance is a huge step forward. This will cultivate deep collaborative relationships among diverse actors for solar and agricultural progress, unlocking green outcomes that support farmers' livelihoods and improve sustainable land use.”

“Agrivoltaic system is the key factor for achieving several national targets and goals in India since it integrates several subsystems across different sectors example Agriculture, Energy, Water, Electricity, Environment, Climate Change etc and to name few near-future achievable goals through successful implementation of Agrivoltaic system are land degradation neutrality in drylands, National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture, PM-KUSUM, Doubling farmers’ income etc” said Dr Priyabrata Santra,



Principal Scientist and Head of Division, ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur.

"With solar energy being a land-intensive technology, agrivoltaics is gaining momentum across renewable energy-rich economics. It offers a unique opportunity to co-locate solar projects on agricultural lands while ensuring no decline in agriculture outputs. The India Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA) is a timely initiative that will play a catalytic role in making agrivoltaics the next frontier in India's ambition to reach 500 GW of non-fossil-based power generation. The diverse applications of agrivoltaics will further support economic prosperity and energy transition to wider geographies and vulnerable communities" said Neeraj Kuldeep, Senior Program Lead, CEEW – The Council on Energy, Environment and Water.

"Evidence from the recent past suggests that climate change and associated phenomena are adversely affecting the agricultural sector in India. Financial losses for impoverished farmers and threats to food security are burning issues arising from the impact of climate change in the sector. On the other hand, several states are witnessing steadily increasing electricity demand and subsequent supply shortages. Agrivoltaics provides a pathway and an opportunity to alleviate these concerns. It has the potential to contribute to climate-resilient agriculture and higher renewable energy penetration in India's energy mix. The India Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA) is an ambitious initiative aiming to bring together a complex set of stakeholders involved in this food–energy nexus narrative. The Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) is grateful and excited to be an integral part of IAA and play a meaningful part in developing holistic frameworks for sustainable agrivoltaics implementation roadmaps in India" said Saptak Ghosh, Senior Policy Specialist, CSTEP- Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy.

The success of India's solar energy progress, as well its international efforts through the International Solar Alliance, demonstrate the country's leadership on sustainable development and green growth," said Priya Shankar, who leads India climate and environment programs at Bloomberg Philanthropies. She added that "Agrivoltaics have the potential to be a key application of renewable energy and can bring benefits for both livelihoods and clean energy development. India's experience will also offer lessons for other countries, especially in the global South.