

Solar technology saves water, fertiliser costs

Many smallholder farmers across Kenya and Africa as a whole face many challenges including: unreliable rainfall, low crop yields, high energy costs, lack of access to modern farming technology and insufficient access to capital.

An unpredictable rainfall pattern has led farmers to incur huge losses in their crops and livestock production life. But with the new SunCulture AgroSolar irrigation system it will be easier and cheaper for farmers to grow high quality crops and increase their yields by more than 300 per cent while saving water.

Unreliable rainfall means farmers are limited to two production seasons per year but with irrigation, farmers are able to ensure maximum production all year round.

Benson Maina, a sales associate at SunCulture, says farmers can save up to KShs 20,000 (Shs600,000) or more monthly on fuel costs by using the included solar pump instead of a petrol or electric water pump in addition to earning up to KShs1m (Shs30m) per acre, per season by growing capsicum, tomatoes, onions, and cabbages for the market.

"We give these gadgets to farmers only on recommendation from agronomists," says Benson.

Source Farmbiz

