

SELF's Solar Market Gardens

Using the sun to empower women farmers



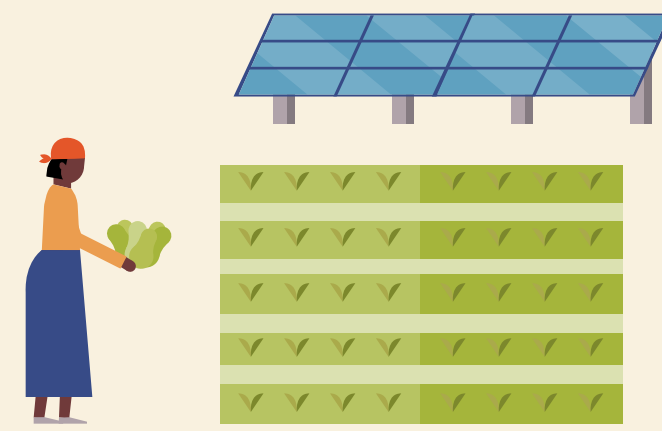
United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



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What is SELF's Solar Market Gardens?



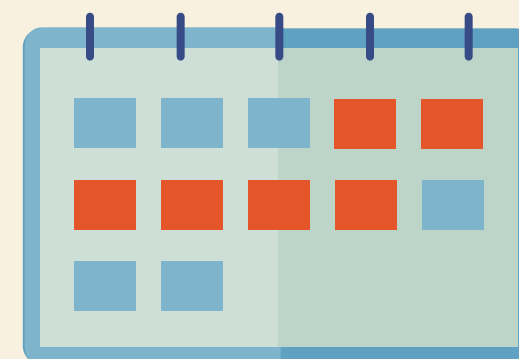
11 solar market gardens

installed in 10 villages in northeast Benin.

SELF's Solar Market Gardens combines solar-powered pumps with drip irrigation systems to provide a cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to pump water for irrigation from nearby rivers and underground aquifers. The Solar Market Garden system provides reliable, year-round production of high-value, nutritious produce, allowing girls and women to reallocate their time to educational and economic pursuits, rather than having to haul water long distances. It also empowers them to become entrepreneurs and leaders in their communities.

The problem

During the dry season in Benin's northeast district of Kalalé, there is precious little rainfall, and the land is parched.



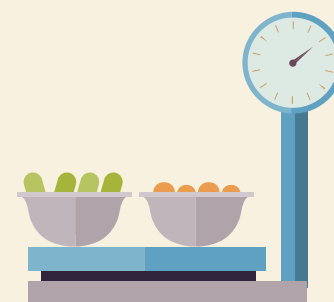
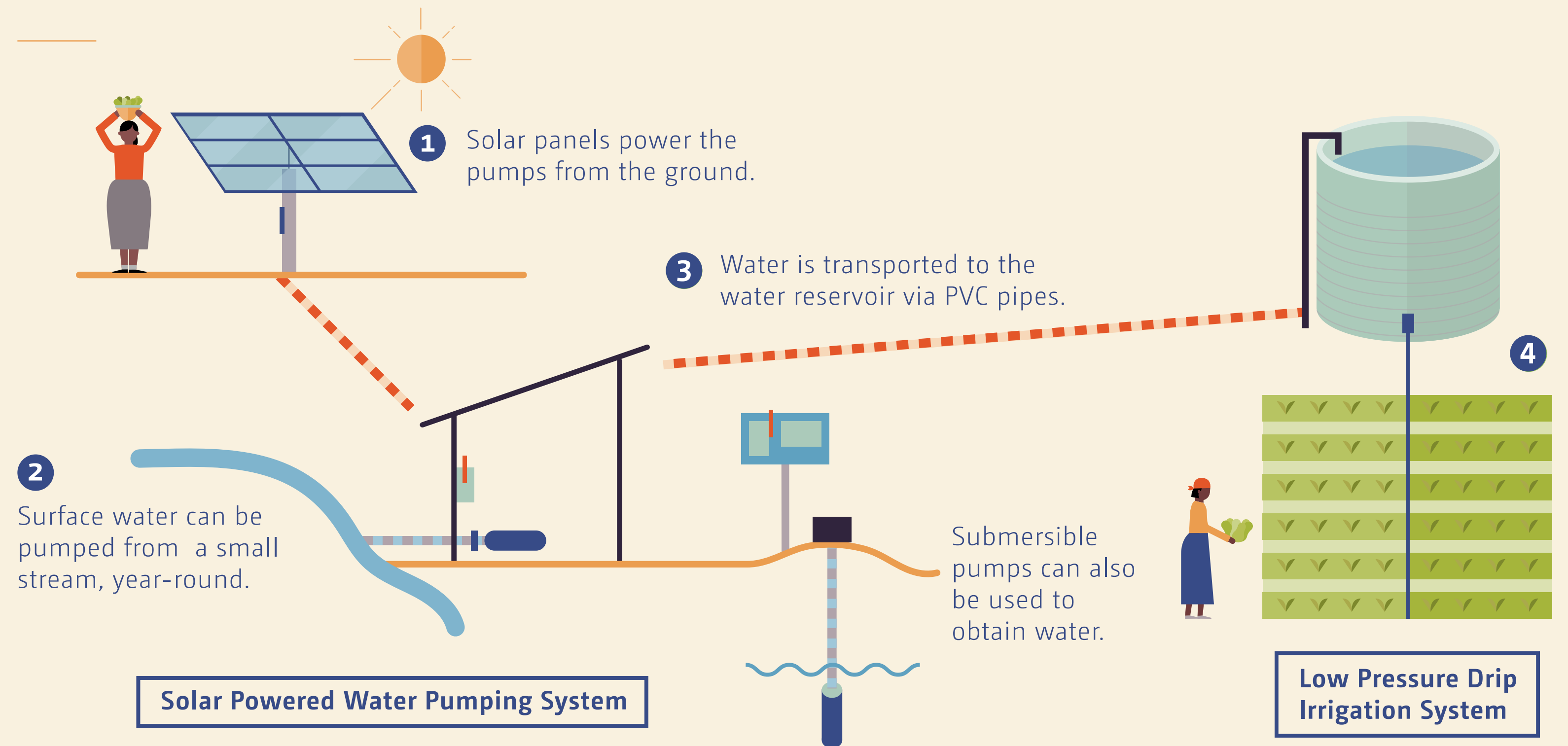
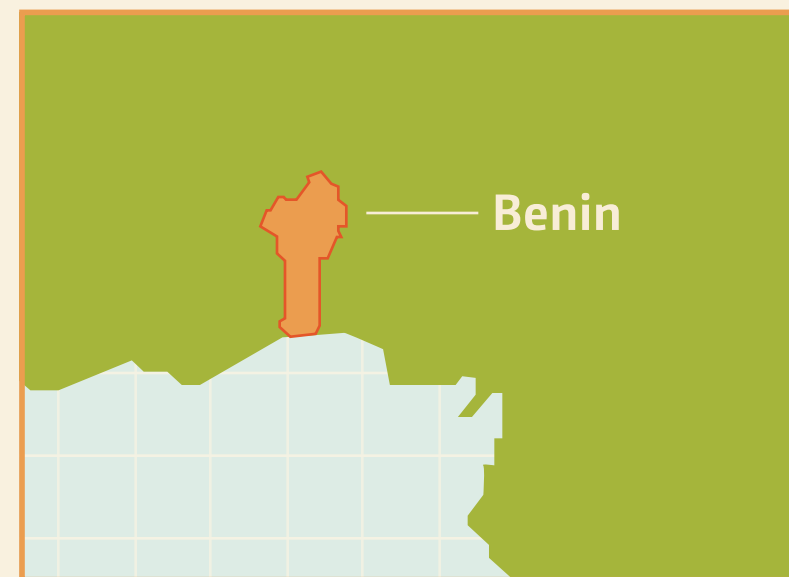
6 month dry season

makes it nearly impossible to grow food. Women farmers and their families were trapped for years in a cycle of poverty and poor health.

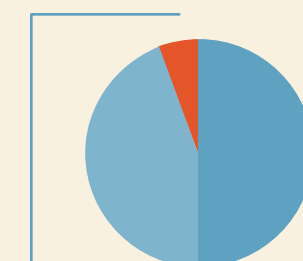
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The solution



27.7 metric tonnes of fruits and vegetables has been yielded from the solar market gardens.



20% of produce is for home consumption. The balance is sold.



USD 7.50 is what each woman vendor takes home weekly. This money helps pay for their children's school fees and healthcare.



An all-female board coordinates the women's farming collective activities. They have become community leaders and savvy entrepreneurs.

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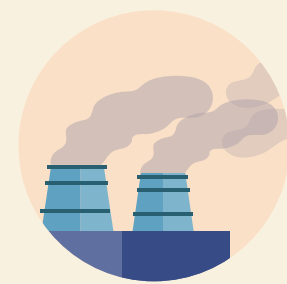
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Helping the planet and helping people



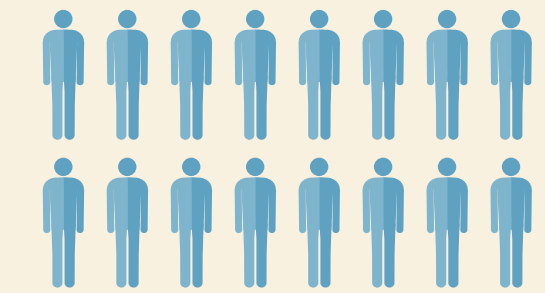
In the next 15 years

141.9 tonnes of carbon emissions will be avoided.



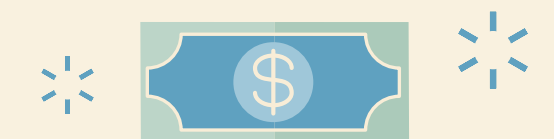
Almost 9.5 tonnes of carbon emissions

are avoided per year because of solar market gardens.



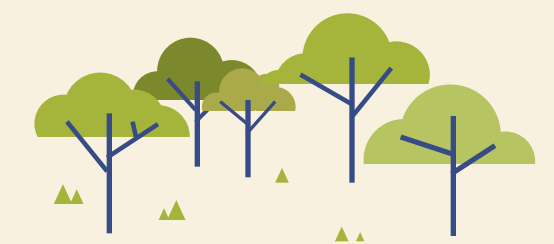
66,000 people

have access to fresh fruits and vegetables grown throughout the year.



USD 40,000

is the value of the solar market gardens yielded 27.7 metric tonnes of produce.



2,000 trees

are planted in the gardens and will sequester more than 46 metric tonnes of CO₂ per year.