



VISION FOR BIHAR

AGRIVOLTAIC

INNOVATIVE PATHWAYS TO NET ZERO



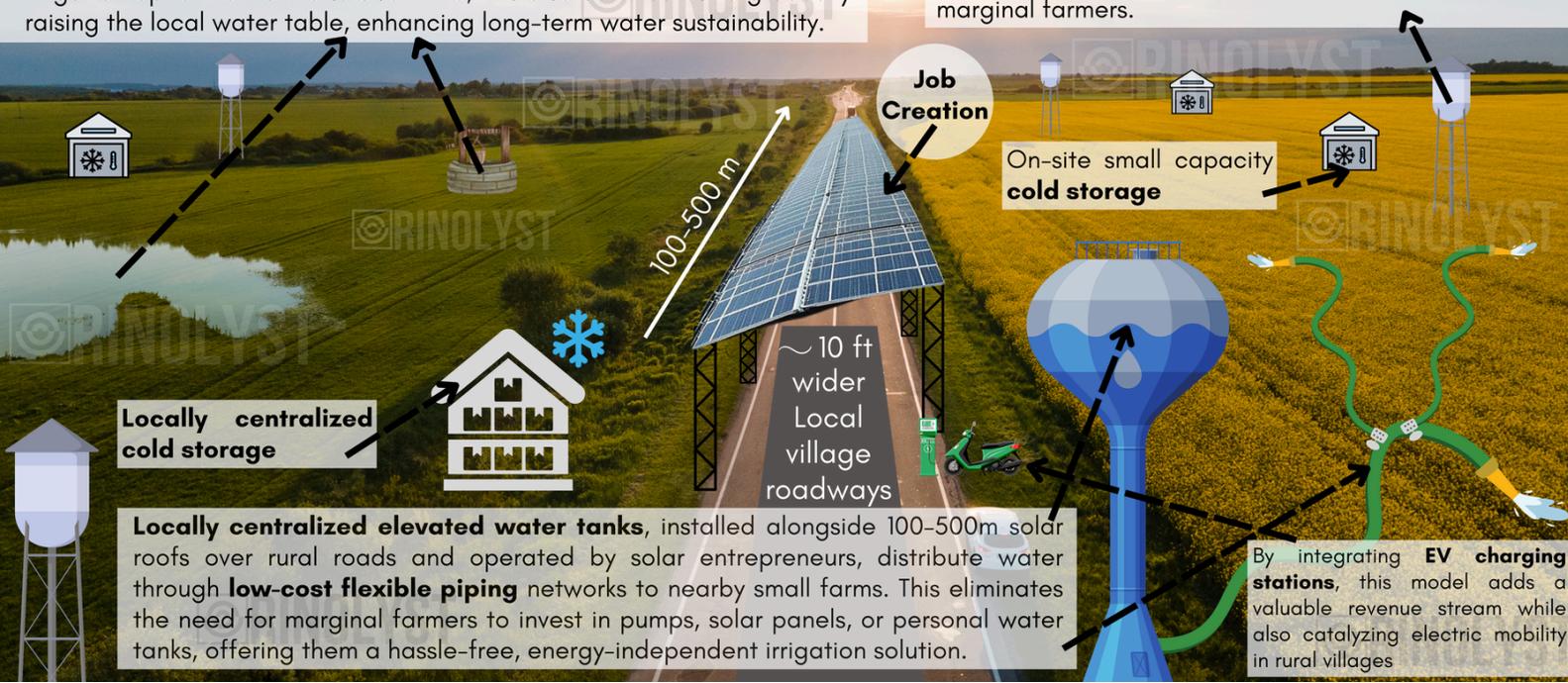
REIMAGINING AGRIVOLTAICS FOR FARMERS IN BIHAR

Bihar's agriculture faces significant challenges. Nearly 90% of farming households are marginal, operating on small landholdings with limited capital. Farmers contend with unreliable energy access and a heavy dependence on deep groundwater extraction, often from depths of 25 to 60 feet, for energy-intensive pumping, which drives a major share of the state's net electricity consumption. Moreover, many farmers are still awaiting reliable electricity connections for agricultural activities. In light of these land, economic, and water management constraints, it is critical to adopt a sustainable, renewable approach that meets Bihar's pressing needs. While traditional agrivoltaic models combine solar energy with agriculture, they often demand dedicated farmland, significant upfront investment, and reliance on on-grid connectivity or battery backups. Although these systems can be effective in some contexts, their viability is limited for smallholder farmers due to stringent land and financial constraints. RINOLYST introduces a pilot-scale conceptual model that is contextually adaptive, operationally effective, and economically accessible, particularly attractive to marginal farmers in Bihar and other regions of the Indo-Gangetic Plain. Our solution leverages elevated solar structures installed over underutilized rural roadways and similar spaces, thereby preserving valuable farmland and enabling scalable private and local ownership. Rather than continuously relying on deep groundwater extraction, our system harnesses surplus solar energy during peak sunlight to recharge locally installed elevated water tanks, both as distributed networks and centralized units. The stored water then replenishes nearby hydrological bodies, whether drawn from groundwater or adjacent canals, creating a natural energy buffer that functions like a battery. This innovative approach significantly reduces pumping costs and carbon emissions, simplifies operations and maintenance, eliminates the need for expensive chemical battery storage, and ensures consistent, low-power irrigation during off-peak hours and cloudy days. The modular design features automated, rail-based solar panel movement for enhanced longevity and reduced maintenance, while simplified interfaces empower local operators, sparing farmers from technical burdens. Beyond irrigation, our model integrates rural on-site cold storage, EV charging, and eventually aqua-farming to unlock multiple revenue streams and foster a circular rural economy. Technically robust and economically sound, this transformative solution is tailored to Bihar's unique agricultural ecosystem.

RINOLYST LAB'S PILOT AGRIVOLTAIC MODEL FOR BIHAR: A FULLY RENEWABLE, SELF-SUSTAINING FARMING SOLUTION

Instead of relying on deep groundwater, often 25-60 feet below ground and requiring high-power pumps, excess solar energy is used during peak sunlight hours to recharge **nearby ponds and wells**. This stored water can then be accessed using low-power pumps during off-peak hours or cloudy days, offering a more energy-efficient, low-cost irrigation option for farmers. Over time, this also contributes to gradually raising the local water table, enhancing long-term water sustainability.

By integrating a network of slightly elevated, small-capacity **water-tanks** fed by continuous solar-powered flow, the system replaces costly battery storage and high-power pumps, delivering a low-maintenance, decentralized irrigation solution ideal for marginal farmers.



Locally centralized elevated water tanks, installed alongside 100-500m solar roofs over rural roads and operated by solar entrepreneurs, distribute water through **low-cost flexible piping** networks to nearby small farms. This eliminates the need for marginal farmers to invest in pumps, solar panels, or personal water tanks, offering them a hassle-free, energy-independent irrigation solution.

By integrating **EV charging stations**, this model adds a valuable revenue stream while also catalyzing electric mobility in rural villages

Traditional Model	RINOLYST's Model – Key Highlights
<p>High Land & Capital Barriers: Conventional systems require dedicated farmland and significant upfront investments, which marginal farmers ($\approx 90\%$ of Bihar's farming households) cannot afford.</p>	<p>Optimized Land Use & Distributed Ownership: By using underutilized rural roadways for elevated solar roofs, our model conserves valuable farmland and offers scalable, community-friendly ownership options.</p>
<p>Reliance on Deep Groundwater Pumping: Traditional setups depend on high-power pumps to extract water from deep aquifers (25–60 ft), resulting in high energy costs.</p>	<p>Energy-Efficient Water Recharging: Surplus solar energy recharges nearby ponds and wells, providing water that can be pumped with low-power units, significantly reducing energy costs.</p>
<p>Dependence on Grid Connectivity: On-grid systems often destabilize the network during peak production, and costly battery storage is needed for off-grid backup.</p>	<p>Robust Off-Grid Functionality: Our system is designed to work effectively off-grid, using natural water storage as an energy buffer to minimize grid imbalance and avoid expensive battery systems.</p>
<p>Short-Term System Longevity: Isolated installations (solar panels with individual pumps) often suffer from maintenance issues and inconsistent usage over time.</p>	<p>Long-Term, Modular Design: The modular, elevated solar structure paired with automated maintenance (e.g., movable panels on rails) ensures prolonged, reliable operation with lower upkeep.</p>
<p>Limited Revenue Streams: Traditional models focus solely on power generation for irrigation, missing out on additional income channels.</p>	<p>Multi-Synergy Revenue Generation: Our integrated approach supports cold storage, aqua-farming, and EV charging, creating diversified income streams while enhancing overall farm productivity.</p>
<p>Low Technological Adoption: Farmers often lack the skills or digital literacy to manage advanced solar installations and maintenance systems.</p>	<p>Simplified, User-Friendly Systems: With a design that minimizes complex technology, local operators manage the systems, freeing farmers from technical burdens and ensuring ease of use.</p>
<p>Exclusive Focus on Electricity for Irrigation: Conventional models typically force farmers to invest in both solar panels and high-power pumps, even when only water is needed for irrigation.</p>	<p>Flexible Energy & Water Delivery: Our model allows farmers to choose between purchasing solar electricity or simply accessing water from pre-charged, elevated tanks. This flexibility minimizes the need for individual pumps, solar panels, or water tanks, making it a cost-effective and tailored solution.</p>

A win-win situation to all

Farmers: Offers multiple/flexible, cost-effective energy and water options regardless of land and economic constraints, empowering all farmer categories.

Government & Policy Makers: Enables fast, scalable deployment that accelerates net-zero targets, builds high farmer trust, and advances sustainable agriculture policies.

Local Entrepreneurs: Creates robust business opportunities in owning, managing, and maintaining integrated Agrivoltaic systems with diversified revenue streams.

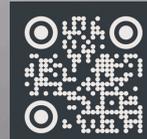
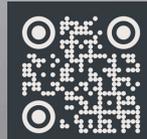
Solar-Based Companies: Facilitates rapid, aggregated deployment with simplified maintenance and reduced logistics, unlocking high-volume business potential.

Water Management Institutions: Promotes efficient water conservation and management through integrated systems that recharge local water bodies and reduce deep groundwater reliance.

Other Business Owners: Supports development of renewable-powered cold storage, agro-processing, and EV charging infrastructure, contributing to broader net-zero and rural economic goals.



Read our latest studies on Heatwaves (inhouse), Hydrogen (Elsevier), & Decarbonization (Elsevier)



At RINOLYST, we are exploring integrated and flexible Agrivoltaic solutions to develop a fully renewable, self-sustaining farming model for Bihar that transforms agriculture, rural energy, and water management. Recognizing the critical importance of climate resilience and sustainable practices, we believe that fruitful collaboration is essential to drive this transformation. We welcome policymakers, industries, institutions, communities, and individuals to join us on this pivotal journey. Every initiative at RINOLYST is grounded in scientific integrity, driven by rigorous research and robust data, and propelled by our unwavering commitment to accelerating progress through research that matters.

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