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PRESS NOTE

First time in the history as a boon to the farmers, Government of Karnataka is taking a step towards welfare of farmers in the field of irrigation through Solar power development.

The farmers having 10kWp Solar power can earn nearly Rs.50,000/- per annum apart from his self consumption for irrigation, which augments his revenue sources.

Solar power is considered as one of the alternate to augment the current source, as it is a green source of Energy and to harness the potential of Solar Energy, Government has revised the Solar Policy 2011-16 and issued revised Solar policy 2014-21 Dated: 22.05.2014.

The State provides free power to the agriculture sector. As a result, the subsidy towards agriculture consumption has shown an increasing trend year on year.

The revised Solar Policy 2014-2021 promises Solar power adoption in the industrial, commercial and residential segments for rooftop PV systems. Solar powered irrigation system can be a suitable alternative for farmers in the present state of energy crisis.

MNRE Guidelines:

There is a large potential available for generating solar power using unutilized space on rooftops and wastelands around buildings. Small quantities of power generated by each individual household,

industrial building, commercial building or any other type of building can be used to partly fullfill the requirement of the building occupants and surplus, if any, can be fed into the grid. The roof-top SPV systems on building's roof space can be installed to replace DG gensets for operation during load shedding.

Business models for grid connected rooftop and small solar power plants.

For the successful smooth operation of rooftop and small solar power plants, various situations and conditions based models may be worked out to make it a workable business mode. The business models must be in accordance with the prevailing legal framework. There can be many possible business models, some of which can be considered are as follows;

(a) Solar installations owned by consumer.

i) Solar Rooftop facility owned, operated and maintained by the consumer(s).

ii) Solar Rooftop facility owned by consumer but operated and maintained by the 3rd party.

(b) Solar installations owned, operated and maintained by 3rd Party.

If the 3rd party implements the solar facility and provides services to the consumers, the surplus electricity may be injected to the electricity grid. The consumers, the surplus electricity may be injected to the electricity grid. The combinations could be:

i) Arrangement as a captives generating plant for the roof owners:

The 3rd party implements the facility at the roof or within the premise of the consumers; the consumer may or may not invest as equity in the facility as mutually agreed between them. The 3rd party may also make arrangement of undertaking operation and of maintenance of the facility. The power is then sold to the roof owner.

ii) **Solar lease model, sale to Grid.**

The 3rd party implementing the solar facility shall enter in to a lease agreement with the consumer for medium to long term basis on rent. The facility is entirely owned by the 3rd party and consumer is not required to make any investment in facility. The power generated is fed in to the grid and the roof top owner gets a rent.

- The water requirement for farming varies all through the year and farmer does not need electricity to run his pumps all day, every day or all seasons, while the Sun is available all through the year for harnessing Solar energy.

- The excess Solar generation available is pumped to the grid that will add generation capacity to the grid and can be a source of the revenue of the farmer, thus encouraging farming and same time giving a solution for energy crisis.

To encourage the farmers to efficiently use the power by adopting better irrigation, thereby conserving water as well as electricity while earning by Solar power Generation and pumping into the grid. The Government of Karnataka intends for the development of the Solar pump sets on Net metering basis taking into the provisions of segment 2 and 3 of recently announced Solar policy 2014-21 Dated 22.05.2014.

Salient features of the Grid Connected Solar powered Irrigation Pump sets on Net Metering tariff.

1. This programme is proposed for the irrigation pump sets on the dedicated IP feeders. (Agricultural and non-agricultural feeders are segregated under Nirantara Jyothi Yojane)

2. This is applicable for IP sets to the extent of 10HP capacity which requires Solar generating capacity of 10KWp.

3. The existing power supply schedule to feeder will continue.

4. All Solar powered pump set installations will be provided with net metering facility.

    a. KERC announced net metering concept for roof top solar power will be adapted here.

    b. The existing KERC tariff for roof top and other small PV power plant, net metering is Rs. 9.56 per unit without subsidy and Rs. 7.20 per unit with subsidy and which will be revised from time to time.

    c. The net metering mechanism will account for the agriculture pump set consumption and the Solar power injection, permitting grid support for the excess / shortfall between the generation and consumption.

    d. The monthly consumption will be accounted and commercial settlement will be done half yearly.

    e. For investment farmer can avail soft loan from Banks and subsidy from MNRE to an extent of 30%.

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