



SELF'S SOLAR MARKET GARDENS | BENIN

In Benin, a six-month dry season makes it difficult for women farmers to grow food. But thanks to an innovative project developed by the Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF), a nonprofit that designs and delivers creative solar solutions to fight energy poverty, year-round food production is now possible in Benin's remote villages. SELF's [Solar Market Garden](#) project 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. By embracing solar power and micro-irrigation technologies, these female leaders are trailblazing solutions for both climate change mitigation and adaptation that can be replicated throughout the world, especially sub-Saharan Africa.

Key facts

- 400 women work the 11 gardens in 10 villages in northeast Benin, directly benefitting 3,352 family members
- 66,000 people have access to fresh fruits and vegetables grown throughout the year
- In the 2013-2014 dry season, the solar market gardens yielded 27.7 metric tonnes of produce valued at USD 40,000

More information

Digital assets are available for download at: <http://bit.ly/1MExrNR>

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