

Uganda National Forum for Scaling investment in Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems

Date: 6 May 2026

Time: 08:30–15:00

Venue: Golden Tulip Hotel

Organised by UNEP-CCC; co-hosted by FAO, the Royal Danish Embassy in Uganda, MercyCorp, GGGI and UNCDF

Background and context

Uganda's agricultural sector is increasingly threatened by climate variability, prolonged dry spells, and the declining reliability of rainfall. Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems (SPIS) are emerging as one of the most promising climate-smart technologies to strengthen resilience and increase productivity for the country's smallholder farmers.

Under the Danida-funded [Accelerating Climate Technology Transition \(ACTT\)](#) project, UNEP-CCC - working in partnership with Mercy Corps Uganda, GGGI, FAO and UNCDF - has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of Uganda's SPIS market, the enabling environment, and the business and financing models needed for scale. Insights from this work, together with experience from the Mercy Corps Pump-Up project, have been consolidated into a new report that forms an evidence base for implementing Uganda's NDC 3.0 and other national adaptation and development priorities. This report will be critical to informing targeted policies and incentives critical to crowding in SPIS market investments from diverse stakeholders based on a realistic, up-to-date country context.

This one-day event will serve as both wrap-up meeting for ACTT and as a National Investment Forum, bringing together policymakers, SPIS suppliers, financial institutions, investors, farmer-facing organisations, and development partners to reflect on the project's key findings and chart next steps for driving private-sector investment.

The event will highlight the high-level investment case for SPIS, showcase innovative aggregator-based and blended-finance models, and explore opportunities to integrate SPIS into national climate investment plans and adaptation finance pipelines. The meeting will also serve as a platform for strengthening partnerships with key ecosystem actors - including technology providers, agribusinesses, off-takers, insurers, and farmer organisations - to support market-driven roll-out of SPIS for climate-resilient agriculture across Uganda.

Agenda for one day event

08:30 – 09:00 | Registration & Networking Coffee

09:00 – 09:30 | Opening Session

- Welcome remarks from UNEP-CCC, including overview of the ACTT project
- Opening statement from MWE, Climate Change Dept., on Uganda's climate vulnerability, agricultural priorities, and SPIS alignment with NDC 3.0, NAP, and NDP IV
- Remarks: FAO Representative
- Remarks: Danish Ambassador to Uganda

09:30– 09:50| Setting the scene (UNEP-CCC)

- SPIS market insights, demand and financing trends and barriers
- Business model and financing innovations (PAYG, leasing, aggregator model)
- Summary of high-level investment roadmap and policy recommendations

Session 1: Financing and Business Models for Scaling SPIS use among smallholder farmers

09:50 – 11:10 | Panel / Deep Dive: Innovative Business Models & Aggregator Partnerships

- Mercy Corps' Pump-Up aggregator model and role of cooperatives
- Bundled services (agronomy, market linkages, maintenance)
- Insurance-linked models for drought-risk mitigation
- Insights from pilot investment partnerships
- Insights from suppliers in addressing customer acquisition, affordability, after-sales service gaps and demand-side data needs

Interactive discussion: Opportunities for replication and blended-finance pathways

11:10 – 11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:30 | Investor Roundtable: Building a Pipeline for SPIS Financing

- Perspectives from local lenders/commercial bank, DFIs, impact investors, fund manager
- Risk mitigation, guarantees, concessional windows
- Needs for investment-ready SPIS suppliers and aggregators
- Targeted enabling policies and incentives to scale financing models

12:30 – 13:00 | Policy Dialogue; Next Steps & Joint Roadmap and Closing Remarks

Government of Uganda

- Priority actions for government, financiers, and private sector
- Options for a coordinated platform on SPIS scaling

13:00 – 14:00 | Networking Lunch