

The Sittlingi Organic Farmers Association (SOFA) is located in the Dharmapuri District of Tamil Nadu. The society promotes organic farming and has a value added processing centre that produces and markets millet based biscuits, health mixes etc. It has 200 members and a turnover of 35 lakhs per year, and production is slated to increase rapidly in the coming years.

The area is affected by severe power cuts and low voltage (from 150V to 180V). Electricity is available for 5 to 6 hours per day in single phase. Three phase power is available for 2 to 3 hrs. Due to this, sometimes they are forced to work at odd hours (mostly 11:00 pm to 3 a.m.) and some of the machines can not be used at the same time due to the low voltage. Making it difficult for them to reach their production targets.

A 4.5kWp solar system was installed to power the processing machines that have motors ranging from 0.5-2 HP. The system is designed to provide 4.5-5 hrs of back-up and can run up to two machines at a time. The machines connected to the system include a flour mill, dal mill, grader/de-stoner, packing and weighing machine.

Aside from the savings in electricity bill and diesel, post the intervention processing has gone from 250 to 550 kgs per day thereby increasing profits.



Case Study