

# AGRITECH ADVANCE PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## CoolVeg

Commercialising Portable Forced-air Evaporative Cooling Chambers for Fruit and Vegetable Preservation

### About the project

CoolVeg is commercialising an affordable, energy-efficient alternative to traditional refrigerated solar-powered cold rooms through its portable forced-air evaporative cooling chambers. Designed for off-grid, dry regions, these chambers create a cool, humid environment that significantly extends the shelf-life of fruits and vegetables whilst costing around 60% less than refrigeration-based systems of a similar size.

Built from locally available materials that are light enough to be moved or loaded onto small trucks, the chambers can be transported directly within rural and peri-urban markets, helping local farmers and produce retailers reduce spoilage and improve overall produce quality.

With support from the Agritech Advance call, CoolVeg will build cooling chambers in partnership with BemaxG Agritech Limited in Kenya and ColdHubs in Nigeria. Ten chambers will be constructed in Abuja and deployed across Kaduna State, while nine chambers will be built in Nairobi and deployed across counties in Kenya. In Kenya, the chambers will also be demonstrated and sold commercially to build market traction.

The project will assess willingness to pay, evaluate financial and operational performance and identify effective marketing and distribution approaches in off-grid communities. By demonstrating benefits such as reduced food loss, increased income, and improved logistics, it will generate the evidence to support a scalable commercial model in Northern Nigeria and Kenya, with potential to expand to other regions over time.

By enabling low-income households to access effective postharvest storage without relying on grid electricity, the project supports climate-resilient food systems and strengthens the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and fresh-produce retailers who currently face high rates of spoilage and limited options for safe, affordable storage.

“With sustained support from the Efficiency for Access Research and Development Fund, we have been able to bring affordable, portable cooling to underserved communities. It’s a major step toward reducing spoilage, improving food quality and ensuring rural farmers and vendors can earn a fairer return.” **Eric Verploegen, Founder, CoolVeg**

Photo Credits: CoolVeg



### Agritech Advance Grantee

CoolVeg

### Organisation Founded

October 2023

### Technology

Forced-Air Evaporative  
Cooling Chambers


### Project Locations

India, Kenya, Nigeria.


[Learn more about  
CoolVeg](#)




Learn more about  
Agritech Advance

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