

## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

# SIMUSOLAR

**WIDENING COVERAGE: DEVELOPING AN INCLUSIVE, GENDER-CUSTOMISED MODEL FOR PRODUCTIVE USES OF ENERGY**

**This project will expand Simusolar's IoT (Internet of Things) platform by allowing women farmers working off-grid and off-network to benefit from solar-irrigation systems and financing. It will aim to expand this approach to other productive use technologies.**

Smallholder farmers, especially women, often face challenges accessing improved agricultural techniques, inputs, affordable technologies, finance, and markets. This is especially true of farmers in off-network areas. Climate change impacts, including unpredictable rain patterns, negatively affect smallholder farmers' income, as it becomes more challenging to maintain their crops.

Simusolar will test an innovative syncing method, named 'PAYGo Bridge', which will use smartphones integrated with Simusolar irrigation systems. It will act as a communication bridge between off-network farms and on-network villages where farmers travel to buy and sell products. Using this proven technology, Simusolar will be able to obtain information on pump use and provide appropriate, value-add services back to farmers, regardless of where they operate. This platform will address affordability, access to information and climate resilience for predominantly female smallholder farmers. The project will be delivered in off-grid and off-network areas.

A combination of hardware, software, and a gender-customised business model will help Simusolar's successful PAYGo Platform to become more accessible. This will enable further productive uses of energy, particularly solar water pumps.



## AT A GLANCE

**R&D Awardee**  
Simusolar

**Efficiency for Access  
Funding**  
£270,000

**R&D Funding Unlocked  
from Simusolar**  
£230,031

**Project Locations**  
Tanzania, United Kingdom