

# AGRITECH ADVANCE PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## aQysta

Scaling Off-grid Solar Drying to Increase Smallholder Farmer Incomes in Malawi

### About the project

aQysta is scaling an off-grid solar—biomass hybrid drying system that enables Malawian smallholder farmers to produce export-quality dried fruits and spices at industrial scale. By operating a drying as a service model, the company removes the upfront technology cost for farmers while providing access to reliable, food-safe processing powered entirely by renewable energy. This approach helps address post-harvest losses of up to 50%, which is a major barrier preventing farmers from meeting international quality standards and accessing high-value markets.

Through the Agritech Advance Call, aQysta will validate the technical performance, commercial viability, and farmer-level impact of its integrated solar-biomass drying facility in Malawi. The project aims to demonstrate continuous day to night drying using hybrid energy, ensure consistent product quality for European buyers and deliver at least 16 tonnes of export-quality dried fruits during the project period.

Using digital tools to track income changes, the initiative is expected to increase earnings for 1,700 farmers by around 50% whilst building local technical capacity for long-term operation.

The project will also strengthen investment readiness by generating evidence for an investment raise to support national scale-up from 50 to 300 tonnes of annual dried-fruit capacity. By diversifying product lines from mango and pineapple to papaya, banana, and chillies, the project supports year-round facility utilisation and enhances climate-resilient livelihoods for marginal fruit farmers across Malawi.

“Continued support from the Efficiency for Access Research and Development Fund enables us to take our technology from concept to scale with secured investment. We can now demonstrate, at scale, that Malawian smallholders can reach premium export markets using technology designed around their needs.” — **Pratap Thapa, Co-founder and CEO, aQysta**



### Agritech Advance Grantee

aQysta

### Organisation Founded

July 2023

### Technology

Solar-Biomass Hybrid Drying  
System


### Project Location

Malawi


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aQysta](#)




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Agritech Advance

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