

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

WALA

HARNESSING THE SUN FOR AGRICULTURE

This project will pilot a holistic support solution that will distribute high-quality solar irrigation equipment to smallholder farmers in Malawi.

In Malawi, land is often the only resource of economic value that rural households have own. Over 80% of the population lives in rural areas and depend on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods. However, agriculture is a highly water-intensive practice. There are also water rights in Malawi, which restrict farmers' access to the water they need. This affects the livelihoods of Malawian women who make up 50% of the country's agricultural workforce.

Irrigation can compensate for agricultural water deficits, but it requires a regular energy source. Only 10.8% of Malawi's population is connected to the grid and only 1% of people in rural areas has access to energy.

Wala works with farmers and focuses on productive use solar technologies for agriculture. The company's pilot project in Malawi will provide farmers with holistic support solutions including:

- Pay-As-You-Grow financing connections to financing partners to help save and access soft loans for technology and farm inputs
- Contract farming which will ensure secure and consistent revenue (This will also enable the farmers to pay for Wala Ltd equipment)
- Training on how to use and maintain solar technologies, good agriculture practices and business skills related to farming

Wala will use its efficient and affordable irrigation technology, expertise, and guidance on agri-business to help support smallholder female farmers.



AT A GLANCE

R&D Awardee

Wala

Efficiency for Access Funding

£100,000

R&D Funding Unlocked from Wala Ltd

£184,179

Project Location

Malawi