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Gujarat farmers to be roped in to tap solar energy

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Benefits for all: Farmers are likely to get 30-40% share from the profit of power generation companies, say officials

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ar policy to benefit both farmers and power generation firms

ABAD, AUGUST 17: Gujarat is going to become the first state in the country to launch 'agro-solar' under which farmers will be roped in to tap energy from sun which will also help them earn additional income from power generation companies, according to officials.

According to officials in Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (Germi), farmers and power generation companies will be in a win-win situation with generation of solar energy in agricultural fields. Germi official Harinarayana told PTI that the state-run companies will set up solar photovoltaic (SPV) plants in farm fields and experiments were conducted in different agricultural universities in the State.

Operational basis
 on companies like GIPCL (Gujarat Industries Power Company Limited), GSECL (Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited) and GPCL (Gujarat Power Corporation Limited) have set up SPV plants in farm fields on the operational basis," Harinarayana said.

Official of Germi said farmers are likely to get 30-40 per cent share from the profit of power generation companies and the solar photovoltaic plant will be set up on poles so that farmers can also grow their crops.

Gujarat will soon be the first State in the country to launch the agro-solar policy under which farmers will lease out agricultural land for solar energy generation and they will get to share profit from electricity production."

Operational situation
 Farmers will get a supplementary income as revenue will be shared by the power generation companies. Besides, farmers will get good space for electricity generation, so there will be a win-win situation for both the sides," said the Energy Minister and spokesperson of the Gujarat government Saurabh Patel said, "We will declare the policy soon."

This was published on August 17, 2015)

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