

Productive Uses of Photovoltaic Power - PVPU

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1. PV-PU Limitations

PU Limits:

- Can add net welfare gain but difficult to find evidence (PRODUSE results)
- PUE uptake often limited; promising business ideas do not wait for electrification

PV Limits:

- Sunlight volatile
- Storage expensive (today)
- \$/kWh high → use for motive power very limited
- AC adds cost (inverter) + efficiency issue

PV-PU favourable conditions:

- Dispered, small loads are good (PV = Least Cost)
- No need for el. storage (water pumping!)
- low Ah need is good (ICT!)
- => Limited but important PV-PU in rural livelihoods context, and viable in rural service sector





2. A simple PVPU Typology

X = USER TYPE

	agro	Service / Retail	household
lighting	Poultry rearing, fishing [GATE, Lighting Africa]	night sales, tourist lodge	extended work hours
ict	sales prices ^{[IDTR],} transaction costs, maritime info	mobile phones charging, hotel/barber/etc. with TV/DVD	reduced transaction costs, remittances
cooling/heating	Small fridges for dairy etc.	small fridges in bars, lodges	
machines	water pumping, fences [InWent, ESMAP], shearing	chlorine production ^[GTZ]	iidev

= ENERGY SERVICE

User Type A: PVPU for agro MSE

- Water Pumping: drip irrigation and cattle (no electricity storage) [GTZ, WB, FAO]
- Electric Fences [InWent, WB]
- Portable lamps for fishing [GTZ, WB]
- ICT → Price information and Transaction Costs! [IDTR]



→ Many promising examples!



User Type B: PVPU for service & retail

- PicoPV for night sales: zero sum game?
- Light + TV in ecolodges: can they charge more?
- Mobile phone charging, paid cell phone usage, battery charging



→ Need to look closely!



User Type C: PVPU for households

- Lighting + ICT → Savings = the obvious benefit, but: note often forgotten "PU aspects" (MFI!)

→ Need to understand better secondary effects on income and welfare



