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Newsletter

National Solar Help Desk

The National Solar Help Desk (NSHD) is an undertaking of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), to support the proliferation of primarily Solar Rooftop programme under net metering. Initial establishment of NSHD was supported by GIZ Bangladesh. At present, NSHD is covering different activities under the leadership of SREDA. SREDA envisions to enlarge the scope of NSHD to cover all Renewable Energy solutions in the future.

Towards a National Working Group in Bangladesh to Promote Agrivoltaics and Floating Solar

A roundtable titled “Promoting Agrivoltaics and Floating Solar in Bangladesh” was held on 20th May at Hotel Intercontinental Dhaka, jointly organised by the Power Division (MPEMR), GIZ Bangladesh, and the European Union. It gathered stakeholders from ministries, government agencies, development partners, academia, financial institutions, and the private sector to explore integrated land-use solutions for scaling renewable energy.

The session was Chaired by Ms. Mst. Zohra Khatoon, Joint Secretary, Power Division. Representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Land, and Water Resources, BSREA, IDCOL, Bangladesh Bank, Utilities among others, participated actively.

A key outcome was the decision to form a national working group on agrivoltaics and floating solar, to coordinate efforts and guide policy and project development. Led by the Power Division, the group will include a Core Committee and four sub-groups: policy and regulation (led by SREDA), research and development (International Development Enterprises- iDE), business models and financing (IDCOL), and capacity building (BPML). The Core Committee will coordinate the efforts of the sub-groups and oversee the implementation of

the working group's objectives. It will be formed chaired by Power Division including the lead organisations of the sub-working groups, GIZ, BSREA, and academia, with SREDA as coordinator. SREDA and the Power Division, supported by GIZ, will facilitate the first coordination meeting.

Technical presentations by Fraunhofer ISE, KfW, and the WAVE Foundation shared global best practices and insights on proposed pilot project in Bangladesh. The initiative marks a significant step toward advancing innovative, sustainable energy aligned with Bangladesh's renewable energy goals.



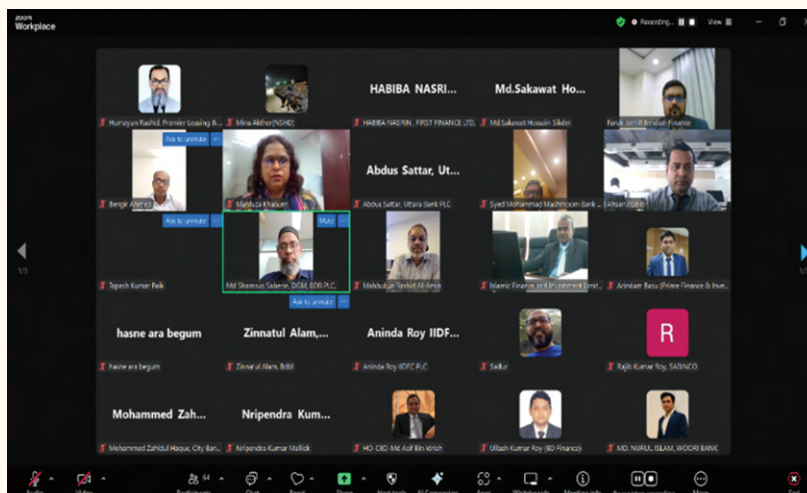
Participants engage in focused subgroup discussions during the Roundtable on Promoting Agrivoltaics and Floating Solar in Bangladesh

Webinars on Enhancing Data Contribution for the National Renewable Energy Database: Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement

To promote data accuracy of National Database of Renewable Energy (NDRE) and stakeholder collaboration, SREDA organised a series of six online webinars titled “Enhancing Data Contribution for the National Renewable Energy Database: Stakeholder Engagement.” These sessions brought together key actors including distribution utilities, EPC and OPEX investors, financial institutions, and representatives from solar park and solar irrigation projects. Each session commenced with opening remarks from the Director (Renewable Energy), SREDA, who chaired the webinars. The Assistant Director (Solar), SREDA facilitated interactive discussions, encouraging participants to ask questions and share their challenges related to data submission and reporting. Throughout the initiative, NSHD played a central coordinating and technical role by preparing tailored presentations, analysing database entries, identifying errors, proposing solutions, managing communications, organising logistics, and leading all NDRE platform demonstrations.

The first two, held on 24th and 25th March 2025, engaged all the utilities—BPDB, BREB, DESCO, DPDC, NESCO, and WZPDCL. Presentations highlighted anomalies and gaps in current records, prompting discussions on the need to update databases with verified consumer data and resolve incomplete or inaccurate submissions. The third session, held on 15th April, focused on EPC companies and OPEX model project investors, with 53.3% representing EPC companies, 8.9% from OPEX models, and 37.8% involved in both. NSHD conducted a live demo on NDRE project-level data entry and provided step-by-step guidance on updating records and correcting missing data. Investors were encouraged to offer technical support to clients for accurate submissions.

On 20th April, over 85 banks and financial institutions joined the fourth session, where they were urged to coordinate with clients to reflect financial contributions in NDRE accurately. NSHD addressed sector-specific data requirements and gathered feedback on reporting challenges. The final two webinars, on 7th and 8th May 2025, targeted solar parks and solar irrigation projects, involving focal persons from relevant government bodies. Key discussions included common data entry errors, new features of the updated NDRE portal, and recommendations to improve data quality. Throughout all sessions, NSHD offered solutions



20th May meeting with Banks and FIs

to recurring issues, reinforcing SREDA’s effort to improve collaboration and data integrity.

This webinar series demonstrated its commitment to engaging stakeholders in refining NDRE data and strengthening collaboration across sectors. Regular follow-ups, especially quarterly utility meetings, will support timely updates, improved accuracy, and evidence-based renewable energy policy-making.

NSHD Conducts Feasibility Study for Rooftop Solar Installation at Sylhet Zila Parishad

In response to a formal request from the Sylhet Zila Parishad, a team from NSHD visited the Parishad's office to conduct a feasibility study for installing a rooftop solar power system under the Net Energy Metering (NEM) framework.

The request, submitted to SREDA on 20th October 2024, highlighted the Parishad's interest in adopting a sustainable energy solution by utilising the 2,000 square feet of free rooftop space on its two-storied office building. Following this, NSHD representatives Shadekul Islam Talukdar, Senior Expert, and Arif Istiak Abeg, Executive, carried out an on-site assessment on 26th October.

During the visit, the team evaluated critical parameters including the building's structural integrity, available solar irradiance, current

energy consumption patterns, and budgetary limitations. After a comprehensive analysis, the NSHD recommended the installation of a 15 kWp hybrid solar system, which would effectively address the Parishad's energy requirements while remaining within its financial scope.

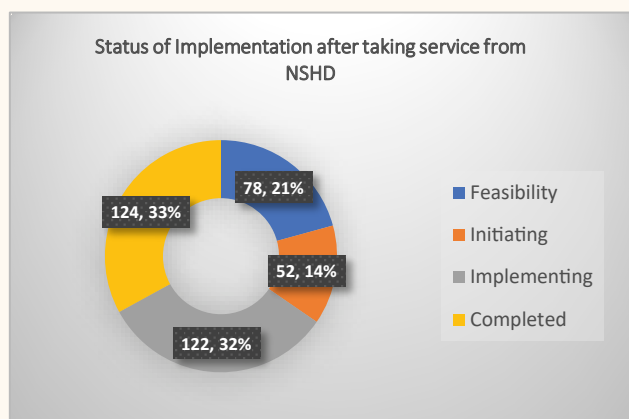
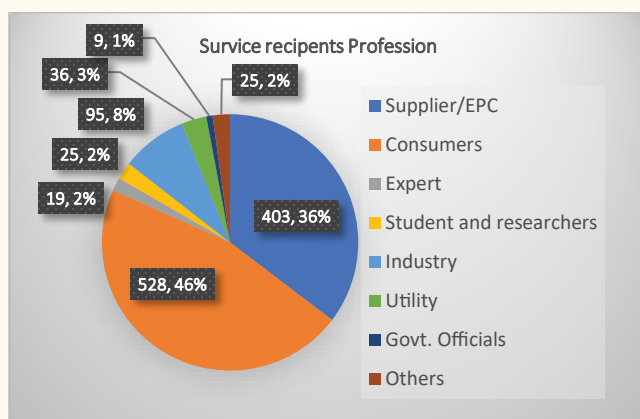
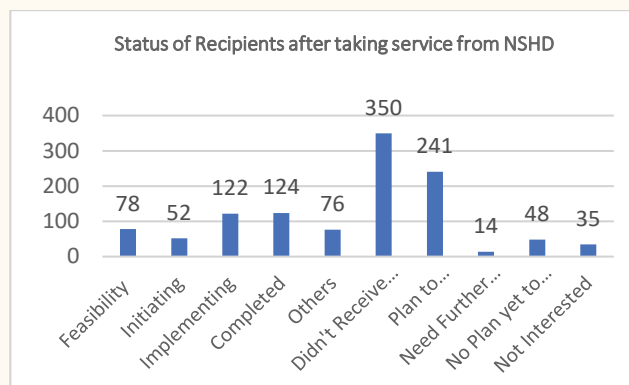
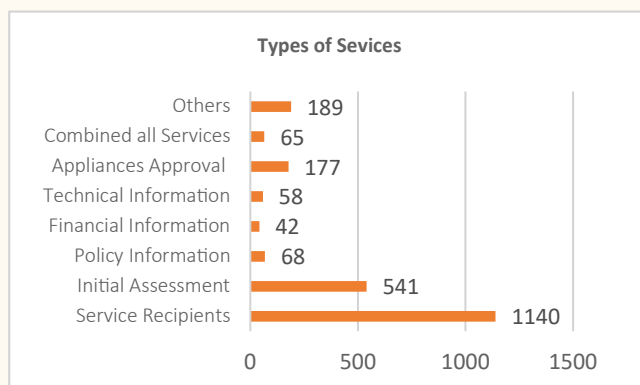
The detailed feasibility report provides technical specifications, system design recommendations, and projected benefits. If implemented, the proposed system is expected to significantly reduce energy costs for the Parishad and contribute to Bangladesh's broader renewable energy targets.

This initiative underscores the growing role of local government bodies in adopting clean energy technologies and advancing national sustainability goals.



Visit to Sylhet Zila Parishad

Feedback analysis of NSHD Service Recipients



124 systems (around 69.95MWp) implemented with the support of NSHD

1661 services have been provided by NSHD since its inception

Contact Details of National Solar Help Desk



National Solar Help Desk

SREDA Office, 9th Floor
IEB Building, Ramna, Dhaka-1000



Implemented by:
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Hotline: 01550 777 777, 01550 711 711
Email: nshd@sreda.gov.bd
Website: <https://www.nshd.sreda.gov.bd>
Online service: Zoom/Google Meet/MS Team
Appointment: <http://shdappointment.sreda.gov.bd>

Author: Arif Istiak Abeg, Mina Akther

Photo Sources: GIZ Bangladesh, and the National Solar Help Desk