

SDC 2019 Annual Meeting Abstracts

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Title: Impact of solar energy-based development intervention program on poverty reduction: Evidence from a pilot study in Qinghai, China



Since 2014, China initiated a nationwide plan to reduce poverty through deploying photovoltaic systems in its vast rural areas, which aims to benefit over 2 million households by 2020. However, the challenges of implementing such an ambitious program in the remote rural areas and the effect on poverty reduction are yet to be investigated. Focusing on Qinghai, China, where numerous large-scale solar farms and small-scale solar stations have been built under the government-led ‘targeted poverty reduction’ program, we aim to assess its implementation status and socioeconomic and environmental impact, and model the causal sequences and feedback loops so as to advance the conceptual understanding of how solar energy-based development affects rural household wellbeing and generates broader socioeconomic and environmental spillovers. Our acquisition of existing remote sensing and census data, field data collection on socioeconomic, institutional and environmental variables, and advanced statistical, spatial, and modeling analyses will advance theory in renewable energy-based development intervention, and be of practical interest to decision makers in government, NGO, and donor organizations.