

ONLY 6% OF AFRICA'S FARMLAND IS IRRIGATED; CHANGING IT WILL BRING FOOD SECURITY TO HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS

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INTRODUCTION

Imagine a professional basketball player wearing sneakers only 6% of the time. Or an international banking chain, with only 6% of the branches having a safe.

Strange, right? Although these are absurd, hard-to-imagine scenarios, this is precisely the situation in a much more substantial and fundamental field: the agriculture sector in Africa, with only 6% of farmlands across the continent receiving proper irrigation. Currently relying on rainwater or manual irrigation, the sector's productivity is considered to be the lowest in the world.



A DRAMATIC EFFECT

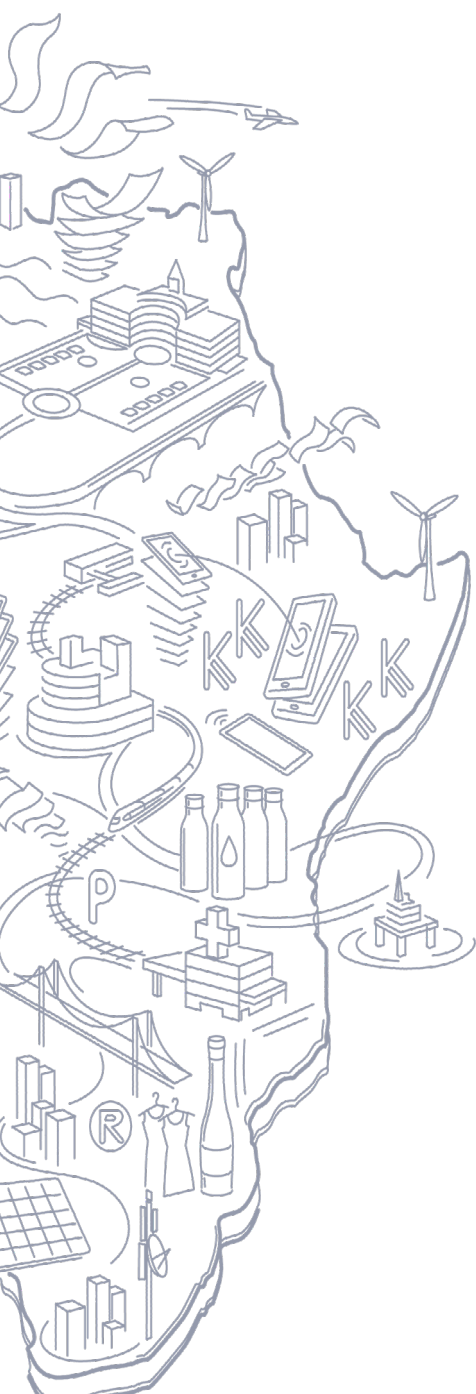
6% is the official number across the continent, but a deeper dive into the data reveals a particularly bleak reality. While in Sub-Saharan Africa only 4% of agricultural land is irrigated, in the northern continent the figure is 28%, with over two-thirds of agricultural areas equipped with irrigation systems located in only five countries (Morocco, Egypt, Sudan, South Africa, and Madagascar).

Most African farmers rely on rainwater, often irregular and rarely sufficient, or on existing water sources (many in the form of rainwater pools) often containing polluted water, which may cause serious damage to the field and crops, and later on to those consuming the crops.

In terms of food security, local farming plays a key role. But although 70-80% of the local population of the working age are smallholder farmers, agriculture in the region is far from being sufficient, and the continent currently spends more than \$35 billion on food imports per year.

The effect of irrigation systems on the crop has been dramatic and known for many years. It is estimated that land that is irrigated regularly yields twice or more crops than land irrigated by rain and manual irrigation alone: the crops are higher, the amount increases, and the season lengthens. The extremely low 6% is causing low efficiency, leaving millions hungry and without income.





TIME FOR CHANGE

This reality can and should change. Through smart and calculated investment, the percentage of agricultural areas irrigated across the continent can be dramatically increased, resulting in a significant increase in productivity. A more efficient agricultural sector will yield much (much) higher crops, benefiting the entire continent: the economy will grow, jobs will be created, exports will increase, imports will decrease, and food prices will become cheaper.

Today, irrigation systems are much more accessible and affordable than ever before, with advanced technology systems enabling the use of extremely affordable energy sources. At Ignite Power, we provide our customers with solar-based irrigation systems that utilize the most accessible resource in the continent, sunlight, to pump water into large fields at a very low cost, enabling last-mile farmers to utilize pumping technology for the first time and increase their yield, up to 3 times higher per season!

Our goal now is to scale this project drastically, and impact millions of people throughout the SSA region. By utilizing solar power, advanced technology, inclusive financial models, and extensive last-mile presence and operations, we work tirelessly to meet our vision: to disrupt Africa's agriculture sector, and lead thousands of African communities into an inclusive, more sustainable future.

ABOUT IGNITE

Yariv Cohen and **Angela Homsy** are the Co-founders of [Ignite Power](#), the fastest-growing Pan-African developer, distributor, and financier of life-enabling technologies, providing customers in last-mile communities with state-of-the-art solutions to their every-day needs. The company utilizes advanced technologies, smart financing models, and extensive on-field operations, leading Africa into a more sustainable and inclusive future for all.

Ignite is sustainably supporting African smallholder farmers through solar irrigation pumps, that present a first-time solution for those who have been relying on rain water or polluting diesel pumps, deriving up to 3 times more yields, and 200% higher income.

