Inspire®
Clean Energy

ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICE

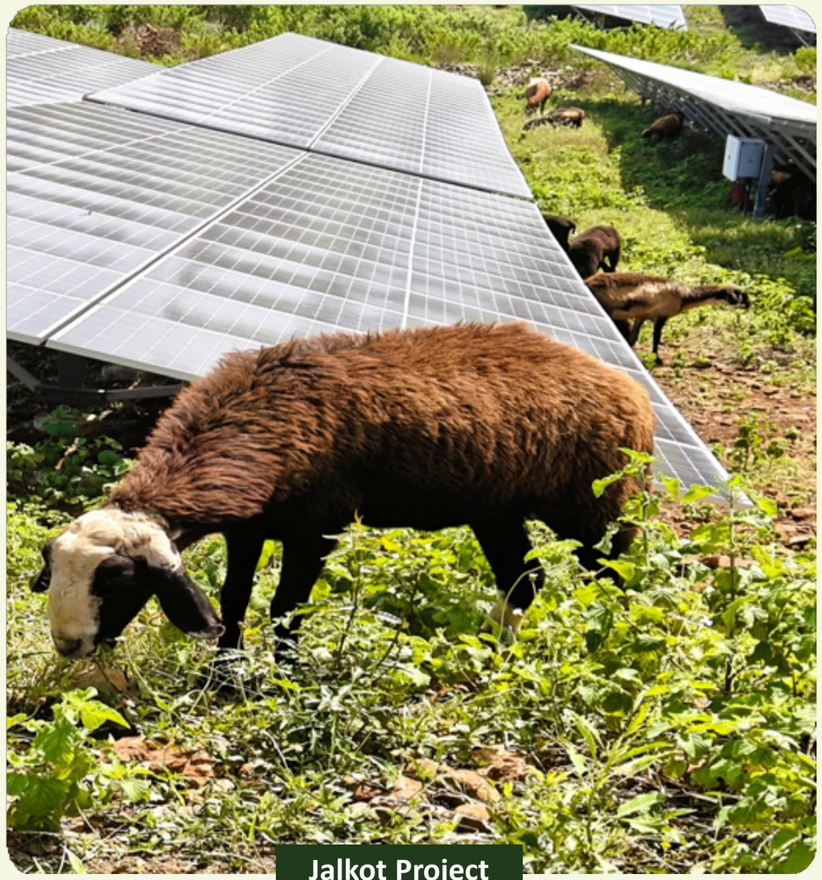
ANIMAL GRAZING IN SOLAR POWER PLANTS

Beneath the panels: Transforming live high-voltage solar fields into ecological pasturelands through zero-herbicide livestock vegetation management.



www.inspire-ce.com

Beneath The Panels



Jalkot Project

01

HOW IT STARTED

The idea came from our senior field team, working the sites day to day, and was then approved and backed by senior management.

02

WHY IT'S UNIQUE

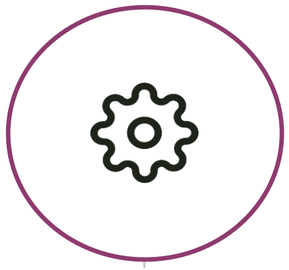
The practice is established globally. The innovation lies in adapting it to India's utility-scale solar context — integrating controlled sheep grazing into routine vegetation management within a live generating plant.

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TIMELINE & MILESTONES

Informal trial begins at MH1 (135 MW), no formal project plan, grew from an operational idea on the ground.

2024



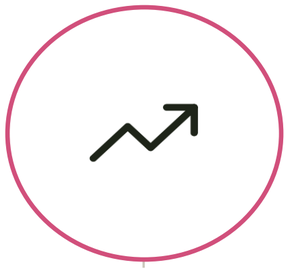
2025

Full-fledged grazing rolled out across the MH1 site, the same project, now running as standard practice, not a trial.



3 more clients come on board, the practice replicates beyond MH1for the first time.

2026



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TANGIBLE BENEFITS

Tangible Benefits of Grazing-Based Vegetation Management

Energy · Water · Carbon · Toxicity · Cost

COST

₹51.9L saved/yr

vs machine cutting (TN1, annualised)

COST

₹3.3L eliminated

one-time module damage (Athavan) that grazing removes as a risk

CARBON

~32 tCO_2e/yr

diesel emissions avoided across 930 acres

TOXICITY

Zero herbicide

vs ₹1.8L/yr chemical spray cost + soil, runoff & air drift risk

WATER

21L/acre saved

water used to dilute herbicide at chemical-spray sites — eliminated entirely under grazing

CYCLE TIME

3 vs 10 days

Sheep grazing take around 4 days to clear 14MW plant while mechanical cutting take 10 days

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INTANGIBLE BENEFITS

People, community, and how the work itself changed

Beyond the numbers, the real impact is in the people, the place and the way we work.

People / Society

One land, two purposes, that's not just a line on our cover slide. It's what this looks like on the ground. Local shepherds get grazing access. We get vegetation managed. Same acre, doing both jobs at once



Attitude shift

Vegetation management changed from a contractor – supervision task to a coordination relationship with local shepherds a different more collaborative way of working.



Morale

Site teams no longer chase and check hired labor After the land was cleared to build the plant, vegetation became a real problem and local farmers had nowhere to graze their animals. Grazing solves both at once: their flocks get land, our site gets managed to verify cutting was done properly. That supervision burden is simply gone.



Social trust

A working relationship with the surrounding farming community, built on a resource exchange rather than a transaction.



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REPLICATION — WITHIN COMPANY

From one trial site to a live, expanding rollout

Project Name	Capacity	Timeline	Implementation Status
MH 1 Project	135 MW	June 2024	**Informal trial → proved out**
MH Plant 2	14 MW	Sep 2025	**Fully Gazed**
MH Plant 3	14 MW	June 2026	**Fully Gazed**
TN1 Project	147 MW	Aug 2026	**Fully Gazed**
TN2 Utility Plant	2 MW	Aug 2026	**Fully Gazed, Live**



MH Plant 1

LOOKING AHEAD

Continue expanding across our ~1.2 GW O&M portfolio wherever site conditions - terrain, security, and local shepherd availability allow. No fixed MW target; expansion follows real site fit, not a mandate.

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REPLICATION — WITHIN THE SECTOR

A service-provider model that spreads across client portfolios

A Model that Matters

We are an asset managers , not an asset owner. When we suggest grazing to other clients, they take interest and ask us to carry the same cost-effective practice into their own projects real, client-driven replication across portfolios, not a hypothetical.

A First, not a Repeat

This CII submission is the first time we've shared the practice publicly, no prior conference, seminar, or paper.

Already in Motion

We raise it proactively with clients whenever a new site fits the profile — it’s how we reached 2 client plants, and how other projects rollout began.

Open to any Operator

The method, real cost data, and what didn’t work at Athavan are all documented in detail any operator who wants to replicate this is welcome to it.



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Challenges Faced & Technical Mitigations

TECHNICAL	ADMINISTRATIVE	MAINTENANCE
Sheep can reach exposed DC cabling	Simple written terms agreed with local shepherds, with free fodder provided for vegetation control.	Risk of overgrazing stripping ground cover
Cabling routed and secured above browse height; weekly inspection added to the O&M checklist	Applied selectively based on site and seasonal conditions; manual cutting retained where required.	Ongoing oversight of grazing activity needed
Plants aren't designed for animal entry; security and safety concerns	Grazing doesn't suit every site or every season	Fixed block-by-block rotation roster agreed with shepherds
Dedicated gated entry points, escorted movement, daylight hours only	Applied selectively; limited manual cutting retained where growth outpaces the flock	Weekly inspection added to the standard O&M checklist

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NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Measured against method, not against named competitors

Rather than rank ourselves against named competitors we don't have audited data on, this compares the three methods on the same basis CII asks for — men, material, methods, technology, and measurement.

PARAMETERS	GRAZING	CHEMICAL SPRAY	MACHINE CUTTING
Men (Labour)	Shepherd coordination only	Application labour, 2x/yr	**Operator + supervision**
Material	None - existing local flocks	Herbicide, ~21 L water/acre	**Diesel, blades, spares**
Methods	Continuous rotational grazing	Periodic chemical application	**Periodic mechanical cutting**
Technology	None required	Sprayer equipment	**Mower / brush-cutter**
Measurement	Flock-days & area (from FY27)	Litres applied per acre	**Fuel logs, cycle count**

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PRIORITY PLANS — NEXT 1 & 2 YEARS

Scaling a practice, not procuring equipment

THE PLAN

- Continue expanding grazing across our **~1.2 GW** O&M portfolio wherever site conditions allow terrain, security, and local shepherd availability.
- About ₹4 crore a year in machine cutting we would never pay.
- About 117 tonnes of CO2 a year, from about 44,000 litres of diesel never burned.
- And about 76,000 litres of herbicide dilution water we would never need.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENT



More shepherd tie-ups as grazing extends into new geographies



Site-specific preparation - cabling rework, gated access before each new site starts



Field staff time to coordinate rotation rosters across a growing number of sites



No capital equipment required the resource ask is coordination, not procurement

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TOP PRACTICES — CORE APPROACH GOING FORWARD

What every new site is told before grazing starts

BEFORE GRAZING STARTS

- Site suitability checked first - terrain, security, shepherds
- Written fodder-for-service terms agreed upfront
- DC cabling routed above browse height
- Gated, escorted, daylight-only flock access

WHILE GRAZING RUNS

- Fixed block-by-block rotation roster with shepherds
- Weekly inspection on the standard O&M checklist
- Grazing offered proactively to clients on new sites

WHAT WE TRACK & DISCLOSE

- Flock-days, area, machine-hours logged from FY27
- Trade-offs — cycle time, methane — disclosed openly
- Standing O&M practice, regardless of award outcome
  Sprayer equipment

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MAJOR LEARNINGS

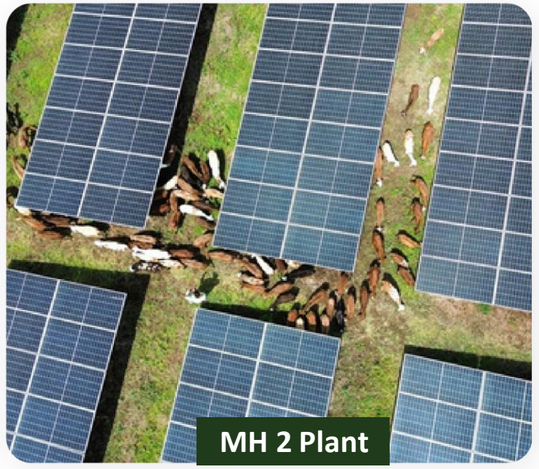
What this project taught us

- *A solar plant's job isn't finished when it generates clean power it's finished when the land beneath it is left better than it found it.*
- *Sustainability isn't a feature you add. It's a choice you make in small decisions, again and again.*
- *Protecting the planet doesn't always need something new sometimes it just needs stepping back and letting nature do what it already does best.*









· BENEATH THE PANELS · INSPIRE CLEAN ENERGY ·

THANK YOU

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