

What is agrivoltaic farming?

Here's all you need to know about 'agrivoltaic farming' Agrivoltaic farming uses the shaded space underneath solar panels to grow crops. This article was updated on 28 October 2022. Agrivoltaic farming is the practice of growing crops underneath solar panels. Scientific studies show some crops thrive when grown in this way.

Can photovoltaics be used for crop farming?

Photovoltaics (PV) has emerged as a preferable renewable energy source. However, PV parks are installed on land areas, restricting the available land for crop farming. The EU-funded HyPERFarm project proposes the use of combined agrivoltaic systems that allow food production to continue on land used by PV parks.

How agrivoltaic systems can help farmers in East Africa?

Elsewhere, agrivoltaic systems in East Africa are allowing farmers to make better use of land that was previously seen as unviable. An Agrivoltaic farming project in Kenya is using solar panels held several metres off the ground, with gaps in between them. The shade from the panels protects vegetables from heat stress and water loss.

Could agrivoltaic farming be a solution?

Agrivoltaic farming could be a solution to not just one but both of these problems. It uses the shaded space underneath solar panels to grow crops. This increases land-use efficiency, as it lets solar farms and agriculture share ground, rather than making them compete against one another.

Can agrivoltaic systems affect farmland?

Researchers in Denmark have analyzed the potential of PV systems and their influence on the underlying farmland in three different agrivoltaic projects, including vertical bifacial optimal tilted, horizontal single-axis tracking, and vertical bifacial setups.

What crops can be grown under an agrivoltaic system?

Vegetables, especially lettuce and tomato, were the focus of many papers. The success of a crop under an agrivoltaic system depends on many factors, yet mainly on location and season. Additionally, even light-demanding crops such as maize could be grown under certain conditions.

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The EU-funded HyPERFarm project proposes the use of combined agrivoltaic systems that allow food production to continue on land used by PV parks. By engaging several stakeholders, the project aims to optimise viable agrivoltaic business models and test the marketability of the solution.

Agrivoltaic farming crops Denmark

Interaction between PV-panels, microclimate and crops. For the first year, the demonstration area was grown with winter wheat, a well-known, homogenous agricultural crop. At the site with vertical panels we grow maize, as this crop in ...

Identifying crops (or cultivars), and crop rotations suitable for agrivoltaics remains a bottleneck. Nevertheless, a considerable body of research on shade tolerance is available from studies using different shading setups (netting, agroforestry ...).

Empowering farmers presents a large body of evidence indicating that the strategic placement of agrivoltaic arrays increases the yield of shade-tolerant crops, rather ...

By combining agriculture with photovoltaic technology, Agrivoltaic creates a dual use of the land by optimising crop production and producing energy at the same time. Such a ...

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Agrivoltaic farming is the practice of growing crops underneath solar panels. Scientific studies show some crops thrive when grown in this way. Doubling up on land use in this way could help feed the world's growing population while also providing sustainable energy.

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Research is developing around this theme and the first results are promising. Livestock and some crops, such as potatoes, seem to be adaptable to large areas. In addition, crops that require a lot of sunlight, such as tomato and ...

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The European HyPERFarm project invites you to its final conference in Denmark on 30 October 2024. In the morning, farmers, advisors, researchers and other innovators, together with policy makers, will discuss the future of sustainable agriculture. In the afternoon, the Nørhede Hjortmose PV facility will demonstrate its agrivoltaic systems.

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By combining agriculture with photovoltaic technology, Agrivoltaic creates a dual use of the land by optimising crop production and producing energy at the same time. Such a system can be found in HyPERFarm, an EU Horizon 2020 project.

System Design: Customize the setup with the right panel layout, angles, and integration to match your farm's operations. Productivity: Assess how solar panels will impact crop growth and livestock welfare for optimal performance. Energy Balance: Plan how to use solar power on the farm and sell excess energy for maximum financial returns.

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