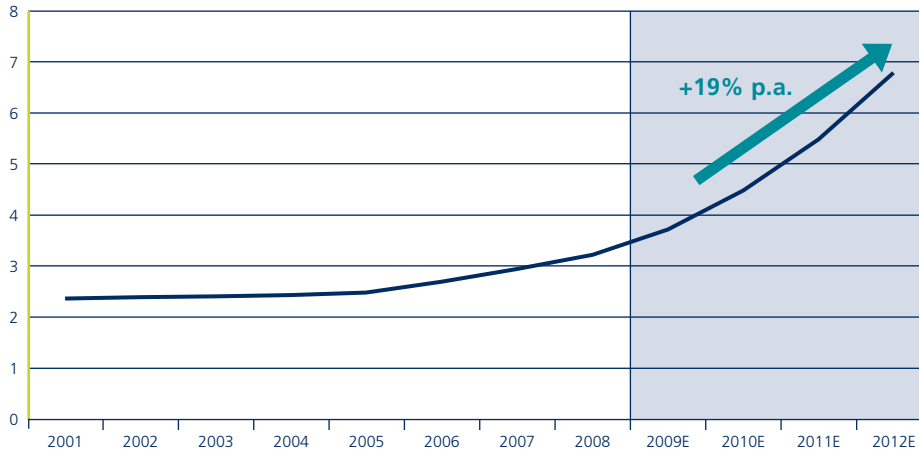


## Micro Irrigation Conquers India Less Water – Higher Yield

**AGRICULTURAL LAND AREA UNDER MICRO IRRIGATION IN INDIA**  
(million hectares)



Source: Jain Irrigation, SAM

Water is an extremely precious and scarce commodity. It is therefore all the more astonishing how inefficient the irrigation technologies used in agriculture actually are. With conventional flood irrigation, the efficiency level is often well below 50%, and important nutrients or crop protection agents are washed away in the process. With advanced micro or drip irrigation systems, about half of the water can be saved and the quantity of chemicals used can be reduced. In addition, increases in yield of up to 150% can be achieved.

Countries where water for food production is in short supply are therefore increasingly turning to micro irrigation. In recent years this innovative technology has spread from the Middle East, across India, and on to China. Often, farmers receive government support to help with their initial investment. In India this can be up to 70% of the costs. Thus a farmer's investment in micro irrigation can pay for itself in just two

years. The growth potential for this technology is enormous. In India there are currently 87 million hectares of irrigated land.

Although 80% of this land is suitable for micro irrigation, only 3% have the necessary equipment installed. In India, the annual growth rate of agricultural land area using micro irrigation is approximately 19%.

Providers of irrigation technology find interesting opportunities in countries affected by water shortages. Investors can potentially profit from attractive investment opportunities in the area of micro irrigation.



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