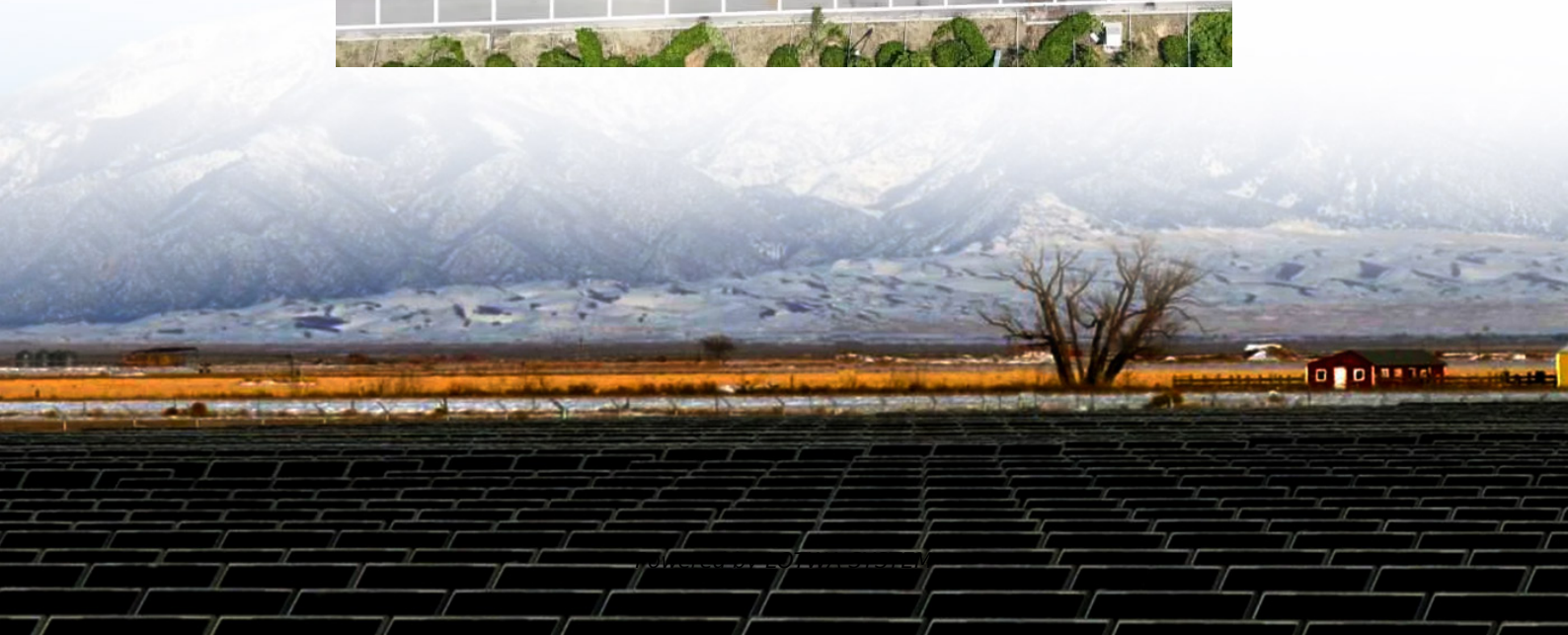


# **Solar power with grid backup in Costa-Rica**





## Overview

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Can solar power diversify the energy mix in Costa Rica?

While hydroelectric power dominates the energy mix at approximately 80% of electricity production, solar energy, though currently a smaller contributor, holds significant potential to diversify and stabilize the grid. This paper investigates Costa Rica's renewable energy journey, emphasizing solar power's evolving role.

Can solar power improve Costa Rica's energy security?

Solar energy, though currently a minor player, offers untapped potential to enhance Costa Rica's energy security. The country's tropical climate ensures consistent sunlight, making solar PV systems ideal for both utility-scale and distributed generation.

Is solar a viable energy source in Costa Rica?

Critically, the literature reveals gaps in solar-specific research for Costa Rica. While hydroelectric and geothermal energy dominate academic focus, solar remains underrepresented, despite its potential to address energy security and grid stability.

Is solar energy a viable alternative to Hydro-heavy grids in Costa Rica?

Solar energy, while underexplored in Costa Rica compared to hydro and geothermal, has gained attention in recent literature. Smith and Paladino (2021) argue that solar photovoltaic (PV) systems offer a decentralized solution to complement hydro-heavy grids, reducing vulnerability to seasonal fluctuations.



## Solar power with grid backup in Costa-Rica

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