DETERMINATION OF CRITICAL IRRADIANCE AND OVERALL EFFICIENCY TO LIFT WATER BY SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Egypt is now facing the problem of invasion of the desert and the scarcity of water for agriculture and lack of energy in remote locations. This research has been concentrated on determination of critical irradiance and overall efficiency of PV panel and centrifugal pump system was used to lift water from wells. Therefore, the experimenters were carried out in summer and winter 2014/2015 at Faculty of Agriculture, Kaferelsheikh University, Egypt. The experimental studies were confined to determine: the effect of daytime, solar radiation intensity and 2, 3 and 4m water heads. The results indicated that, the critical irradiance at heads of 2m, 3m and 4m were 257.14, 328.57 and 628.57W/m², respectively in summer. It was 242.86, 285.71 and 571.43 W/m² at water heads of 2, 3 and 4m, respectively in winter. The maximum values of pump discharge were 48.82, 47.92, 44.91 l/min at heads of 2, 3, 4m, respectively in daytime of 1PM and summer. The maximum values of pump discharge were 48.83, 47.54, $44.49\ell/min$ at 2, 3, 4m, respectively in daytime of 12PM and winter. The maximum time intervals were about of 10, 9.5 and 9h in summer and 8.0, 7.5 and 7.0h in winter at 2, 3 and 4m water head, respectively. When solar radiation increased by 42.86% and the output electric power by 36.67%, the pump discharge and hydraulic power increased by 27.39 and 34.22% in summer 34.47 and 13.33%, winter, respectively at head of 4m. Winter in comparison to summer, the overall efficiency of system increased by 35.02, 37.78 and 40.57% at water heads of 2, 3 and 4m, respectively.

1. INTRODUCTION

The awareness of the world to the energy crisis has turned scientists and engineers towards harnessing of an alternate energy sources. Solar energy being such a potential source, attempts is being made to harness it for domestic and agricultural applications.

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Hamidat et al. (2000) showed that the photovoltaic water pumping systems (PVPS) offer the appropriate solution to supply water for drinking and irrigation in remote regions. Currently, the use of photovoltaic pumps for small-scale irrigation presents a promising option for using solar energy productively and for generating income. Vilela and Fraidenraich (2001) discussed the behavior of water supply systems and found that there was strongly dependent upon the critical radiation level, (I_c) . This parameter determines at what time of the day the pumping system starts working and at what time it stops. According to the proposed water load profile, it is expected that some water demand will be present in the morning and in the evening, when the system has not started pumping or is no longer working. Awady et al. (2002) showed that photovoltaic powered water pumping systems require adequate sunshine and a source of water. The use of photovoltaic power for water pumping was appropriate, as there was often a natural relationship between the availability of solar power and the water requirement. The water requirement increases during hot weather periods when the solar radiation intensity is high and the output of the solar array is at its maximum. Vilela et al. (2003) found that the critical irradiance level increased, by decreasing water pumping capacity. A system with high (I_c) presents a large benefit ratio for the pumped water volume, it will indeed, pump less water than systems with lower critical levels. Pande et al. (2003) showed that the discharge increased by decreasing operating pressure head. Hamidat et al. (2003) revealed that the photovoltaic water pumping system could easily cover the daily water needs rates for small-scale irrigation with an area smaller than two ha. Also, he said there was possible to use a photovoltaic water pumping system for small-scale irrigation of crops in Algerian Sahara regions with low operating pressure head. **Badescu** (2003) said that the PV array supplies electricity to both battery and motor. However, during periods with decreasing solar irradiance the battery acts as a buffer, supplying electricity to the motor. Kasem (2004) mentioned that Egypt is one of solar belt's countries and its economy depends on irrigated agriculture. There is an importunate need for pumps work with solar energy to pump ground water. El-sayed et al. (2005) mentioned that there are two solar

pumping techniques: The first is the thermal methods depend upon vapor production. The released vapor with high pressure from the solar concentrating collectors was used to operate a turbine, which operates the water pump. Disadvantage of this method is the low efficiency and high cost. The second technique is using solar cells to generate electric power during the converting of the sunlight into electricity, depending on components that use direct current. Odeh et al. (2006) found that at low insolation subsystem efficiency increased with increasing insolation and with decreasing pumping head up to certain insolation level. This insolation level is known by the design insolation point at which pump reaches its maximum speed and capacity. At higher insolation, pumping head became the dominant parameter affecting subsystem efficiency. However, they found that in order to determine the optimum pumping head that required to determine average efficiencies for the concerned period. Ghoneim (2006) showed that the water pumping system consists of: the photovoltaic array and the pumping unit (motor and pump). Kulkarni et al. (2007) found that the I_{sc} and V_{oc} values were increased by increasing the amount of incident solar radiation. Consequently I_{max} and V_{max} were increased by increasing the incident solar radiation. Meah et al. (2008) showed that solar water pumping has several advantages over traditional systems. Solar systems are environment friendly, low maintenance, and have no fuel cost. Alternatively, PV systems do not create any emissions and use of Solar Photovoltaic Water Pumping (SPVWP) systems for remote water pumping could reduce both air and sound pollution. The SPVWP system has excellent performance in terms of productivity, reliability, and cost effectiveness. Dong (2009) found that decreasing panel tilt tended to increase the percent insolation of the front panel. This was expected because the altitude angle of the sun was high during the time of data collection. Furthermore, increasing cloud cover both of the percentage of direct irradiance and diffuse irradiance were increased. Mandal and Naskar (2012) observed that by increasing the discharge and pressure the efficiency increased. Benghanem et al. (2013) determined optimum photovoltaic (PV) array configuration, adequate to supply a DC Helical pump with optimum energy amount, under the outdoor conditions of Madinah site. **Chandel et al.** (2015) said that the first generation PV pumping systems used centrifugal pumps driven by DC/AC motors with hydraulic efficiencies varying from 25% to 35% whereas second generation PV pumping systems use positive displacement pumps, progressing cavity pumps or diaphragm pumps with high hydraulic efficiencies of even 70%. **Muhsen et al.** (2017) reviewed the photovoltaic water pumping system's efficiency is about 3.4%. Therefore, the main objective of this work was determination of critical irradiance (required radiation to start operating pump) and overall efficiency of PV panel and centrifugal pump system used to lift water from low well.

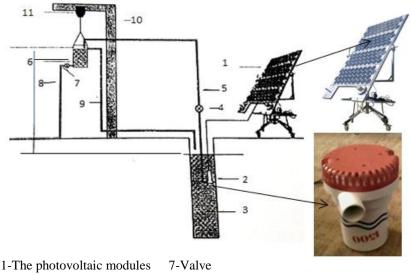
2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1 Experimental components and site

The PV array or panel consists of a four modules constructed on sun tracking device allow horizontal and vertical moving with the direction of the sun. The PV array specifications were tabulated in **Table 1**. A pump (submersible - model 02) made in Italy, delivery volume of $5678\ell/h$. High pumping capacity and reliability at a lower cost, delivery head of 6 m, discharge outlet diameter of 28.6 mm, 12 volts, 9 Amp, DC motor driving a centrifugal pump type connected to a PV array directly. Water well was found in the experimental site as source of water. The main three components, panel, pump and well represent a system to water pumping by solar energy. Schematic diagram of experiment system was illustrated in **Figure 1**.

Module Type	ExSol 35W	Number of cells	36
Size of module	586 x 410 x 25mm	Maximum power	35W
Number of module	4	Total Maximum power	140W
Open circuit voltage	21.8V	Short circuit current	2.27A
Voltage at max power	17.7V	Current at max power	1.98A

Table 1. PV array specifications



- 2-Centrifugal pump
- 3-The well
- 4-Valve
- 5- Pipe to transmit the water from well to tank
- 6- Tank

8-Pipe to transmit the water from tank to ground 9-Pipe to transmit the water from tank to well 10-Carrier 11-Lifter

Figure 1. Schematic diagram of experimental system

Experiments were performed at Agricultural Engineering Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Kaferelsheikh University during summer and winter of 2014 and 2015, respectively.

2.2 Measuring Instruments

The experimental test stand was comprised of Pyranometer, two multimeter, compass, anglevel meter, water balance, digital thermometer, metal meter, and stop watch.

2.3 Experimental factors and parameters of the study

The experimental studies were confined to determine the effect of daytime, solar irradiance and water heads of 2, 3 and 4m (water head is static and delivery head between the level water in well and water tank) at panel tilt angle of 20° in summer and 50° in winter and panel orientation from east to west under actual outdoor conditions for average of many clear sunny days. The present work had many parameters as follows: Pump discharge (ℓ/\min), daily number of operating hours of the pump, useful energy for water pumping, hydraulic power (W), subsystem efficiency (%) and overall efficiency (%).

a) Input and output power to the system

The insolation to the PV array gives the input power to the system and output power by using equations (from Lal et al. 2013) as follows:

 $P_{in} = I_{ns} \times A.$ $P_{out} = V_{oc} \times I_{sc}.$ (1)
(2)

Where:

 P_{in} : input power (W); P_{out} : output power (W); I_{ns} : insolation (W/m²); A: solar module area (m²); V_{oc} : open circuit voltage (V); I_{sc} : short circuit current (A).

b) The hydraulic power output

The hydraulic power output of the pump is the power required to lift a volume of water through a given head and calculated by using the following equation (from Lal et al. 2013):

 $P_h = \rho \times g \times Q \times H....(3)$

Where: P_h : hydraulic power output of the pump (W); ρ : water density (kg/m³); g: acceleration of gravity (m/s²); Q: pump discharge (m³/s), H: total pumping head (m).

c) PV panel efficiency

PV panel efficiency (η_{panel}) is the ratio between output power to input power. It uses to measure of how efficient the PV panel is in converting sunlight to electricity. The efficiency was calculated by the following equation (from Lal et al. 2013):

$$\eta_{panel} = \frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}} \times FF = \frac{V_{OC} \times I_{SC} \times FF}{I_{ns} \times A} \times 100....(4)$$

Where: FF: fill factor which equals about 0.67 for Si.

d) Subsystem efficiency

Subsystem efficiency (η_s) is the efficiency of the entire system components (from Lal et al. 2013):

$$\eta_s = \frac{P_h}{P_{output}} \times 100....(5)$$

e) Overall efficiency

Overall efficiency ($\eta_{overall}$) indicates how efficiently the overall system converts insolation into water delivery at a given head (from Lal et al. 2013).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Effect of solar radiation on pump discharge

Figures 2 and 3 show the effect of solar radiation on pump discharge at different water heads in both summer and winter, respectively. In summer at constant radiation 700 W/m² the pump discharge values were 39.98, 37.00 and 32.13 l/min at 2, 3 and 4m water head, respectively. These values were 32.06, 34.74 and 37.00 l/min at 500, 600 and 700W/m^2 solar radiation respectively, when the water head was 3m. Pump discharge versus irradiance at different heads has the same trend in winter, differed in magnitude according to the electric power generated from the PV. At constant radiation 700W/m² the pump discharge values were 43.50, 41.00 and 40.46ℓ /min at 2 to 3 to 4 m water head, respectively. These values were 34.56 to 39.35 to 41.00 l/min at 500, 600 and 700W/m^2 solar radiation, respectively when the water head was 3m. The minimum values of irradiance, necessary to start the water pump operation (the critical irradiance levels). It is clear that the critical irradiance $(I_{\rm C})$ tended to increase the water head. In summer the critical irradiance at heads of 2m, 3m and 4m were 257.14, 328.57 and 628.57W/m². In winter critical irradiance has the same trend, differed in magnitude due to panel temperature. I_C values at the water head 2, 3 and 4m were 242.86 to 285.72 to 571.43 W/m², respectively.

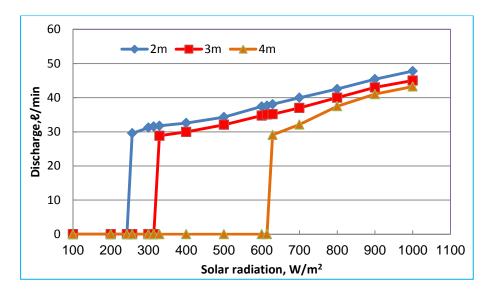


Figure 2. Effect of solar radiation on pump discharge at different water heads in summer

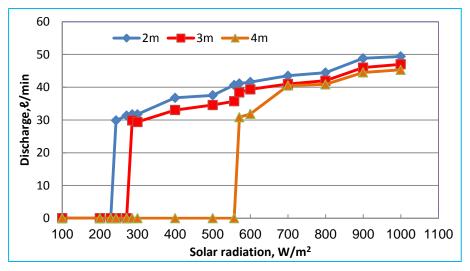
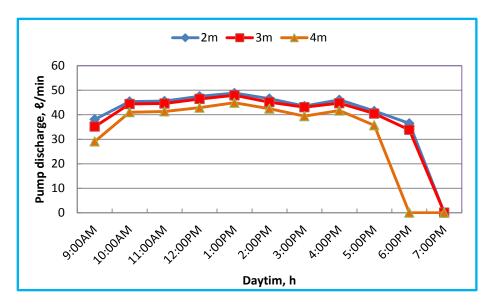


Figure 3. Effect of solar radiation on pump discharge at different water heads in winter

3.2. Effect of daytime on pump discharge and operating time intervals

From **Figures 4** and **5**, the pump discharge increased along daytime from sunrise till noon when it reached its maximum value then it decreased with sunset. The maximum values of pump discharge were 48.82, 47.92,



 $44.91\ell/min$ at 2, 3, 4m water head, respectively when the daytime was 1PM and summer.

Figure 4. Discharge versus daytime at different heads in summer

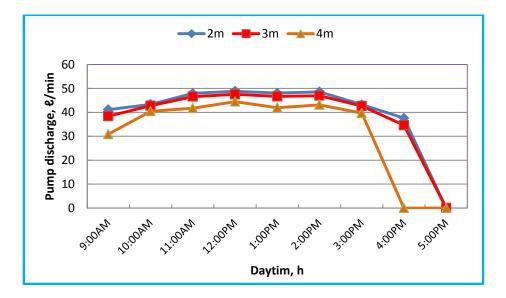


Figure 5. Pump discharge versus daytime at different heads in winter

The maximum values of pump discharge were 48.83, 47.54, 44.49 ℓ /min at 2, 3 and 4m water head, respectively when the daytime was 12PM and winter. Also, water head increased tended to increase the amount of collected solar energy above the critical irradiance and the useful energy for pump discharge, i.e. larger amount of useful energy produced from the panel convert to discharge although it pump less water. That because, when the water head increased, the critical irradiance increased and the pump operated a fewer hours consequently, pump discharge was less. The time interval of pump operating decreased with the increasing of water head. Also it was longer in summer than in winter. The maximum time interval was about of 10, 9.5 and 9h in summer and 8.0, 7.5 and 7.0h in winter at 2, 3 and 4m water head, respectively.

3.3. Effect of solar radiation on output electric power, pump discharge and hydraulic power

Effect of solar radiation intensity (W/m^2) on output electric power (W), hydraulic power (W) and pump discharge (ℓ/\min) were shown in **Figures** 6 and 7. Increasing solar radiation and output electric power tended to increase both of water head and pump discharge, so the hydraulic power will be increase. Increasing volume of water and the head which required to be lifted required more power to lift this volume through a given head. That power is known as hydraulic power. When solar radiation was increased from 700 to 1000W/m², output electric power increased from 57.25 to 78.26W, pump discharge increased from 39.9 to 47.7 l/min and hydraulic power increased from 13.07W to 15.6W at 2m water head. The pump discharge was increased from 38.8, to 46.7 l/min and hydraulic power increased from 19.05 to 22.9W at 3m water head. At 4m water head increasing pump discharge from 32.1 to 43.2 l/min tended to increase the hydraulic power from 21.01W to 28.20W in summer. Similarly, when solar radiation increased from 700 to $1000W/m^2$, output electric power increased from 65.93 to 83.98W, pump discharge increased from 43.5 to $49.3\ell/\min$ and the hydraulic power increased from 14.2 to 16.1W at 2m water head. The Discharge increased from 42.8 to

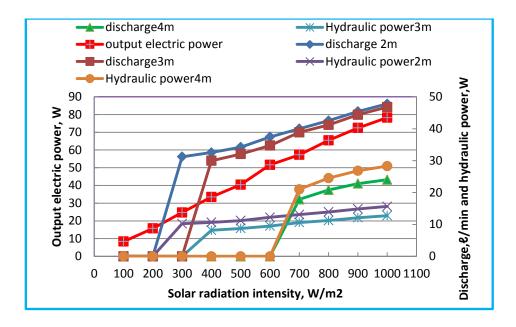
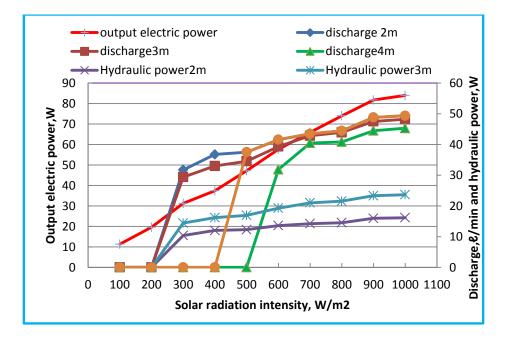
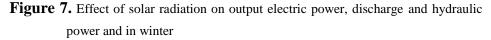


Figure 6. Effect of solar radiation on output electric power, discharge and hydraulic power and in summer





 $48.2\ell/\text{min}$ and the hydraulic power increased from 21.02 to 23.6 W at 3m water head. At 4m water head increasing pump discharge from 40.4 to $45.3\ell/\text{min}$ tended to increase the hydraulic power from 26.40 to 29.60W in winter.

3.5. Effect of daytime and solar radiation on subsystem and overall efficiency.

The subsystem efficiency and the overall efficiency have the same trend. They both increase from 0% for no discharge to reach the peak at the critical irradiance then they reduce with the increase in solar radiation during the daytime. They also decrease with the increase in head from 2 to 4m as shown in Figures 8 (a,b), 9 (a,b), 10 (a,b) and 11 (a,b). The average percent of subsystem efficiency (all percent divided by number of operating intervals) was 11.73, 16.91 and 20.09% at 2, 3 and 4m water head, respectively in summer from 9AM to 7PM. Also, it was 12.78, 18.44 and 19.11% at 2, 3 and 4m water head, respectively in winter from 9AM to 5PM. The average percent of overall efficiency (all percent divided by number of operating intervals) was 1.91, 2.82 and 3.00% at 2, 3 and 4m head, respectively in summer from 9AM to 7PM. Also, it was 2.16, 3.11 and 3.19% at 2, 3 and 4m head, respectively in winter from 9AM to 5PM. The subsystem efficiency was increased from 0% to reach the peak of 30.72, 35.85 and 23.63 % at the critical irradiance was 257.14, 328.57 and 628.57 W/m² then it reduced with the increasing of solar radiation to reach 13.38, 19.65 and 24.21 % at 2, 3 and 4m water head, respectively when solar radiation was 1000W/m^2 in summer. The overall efficiency was increased from 0% to reach the peak 3.13, 3.59 and 2.52% at the critical irradiance was 257.14, 328.57 628.57W/m² then it reduced with the increasing of solar radiation to reach 1.30, 1.91 and 2.36 % at 2, 3 and 4m head, respectively when solar radiation was 1000W/m^2 in summer. The subsystem efficiency was increased from 0% to reach the peak 25.94, 32.45 and 24.55 % at the critical irradiance was 242.86, 285.71 and 571.43 then it reduced with the increasing of solar radiation to 12.88, 18.88 and 23.65% at 2, 3 and 4m water head, respectively when solar radiation was 1000W/m² in winter. The overall efficiency increased from 0% to reach the peak 4.823, 5.77 and 4.24 % at the critical irradiance was 242.86, 285.71 and 571.43 W/m², then it reduced with the increasing of solar radiation to reach 1.938, 2.84 and 3.56 % at 2, 3 and 4m water head, respectively when solar radiation was 1000W/m² in winter. This reduction was found due to high panel temperature.

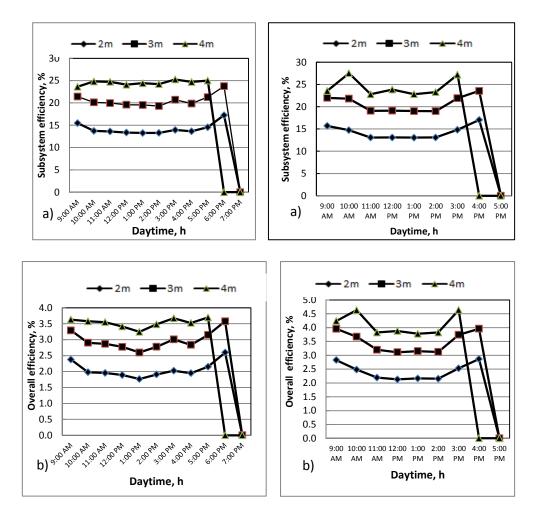


Figure 8. Subsystem and overall efficiency versus daytime in summer.

Figure 9. Subsystem and overall efficiency versus daytime in winter.

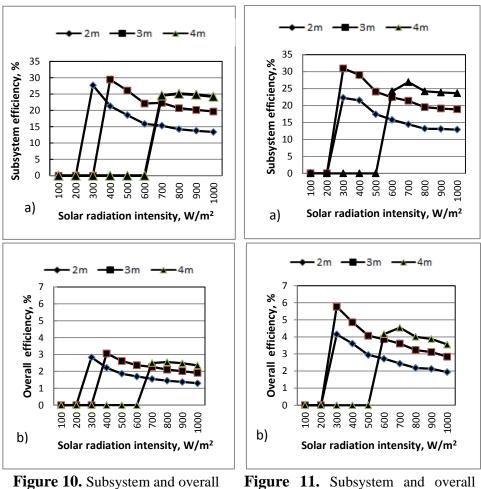
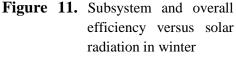


Figure 10. Subsystem and overall efficiency versus solar radiation in summer



CONCLUSIONS

It has been concluded that:

- The discharge increased along daytime from sunrise till noon when it reached its maximum value then it decreased with sunset.
- The hydraulic power directly affects by the head and discharge which affects with radiation and output electric power from the panel. When the water head and pump discharge increased, due to increased radiation and output electric power, the hydraulic power increased.

• The subsystem efficiency and the overall efficiency have the same trend. They both increased from no discharge to reach the peak at the critical irradiance then they reduced with the increased in solar radiation during the daytime. They also decreased with increasing of water head from 2 to 4m under experimental conditions.

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<u>الملخص العربى</u> تحديد الاشعاع الشمسي الحرج والكفاءة الكلية لمنظومة رفع المياه بالطاقة الشمسية

د. عبدالعزيز محمد عكاشة *

تواجه مصر مشكلة غزو المناطق الصحراوية في كيفية توفير المياه للزراعة والافتقار للطاقة التقليدية، لذا اهتم هذا البحث بإيجاد الاشعاع الشمسي الحرج والكفاءة الكلية لمنظومة مكونة من طلمبة طاردة مركزية ومجموعة من الخلايا الشمسية تستخدم لرفع المياه من الابار الضحلة وتخزينها علي ارتفاعات مختلفة لاستخدامها بعد ذلك في عمليات أخرى مثل الري. وبناء " عليه تم اجراء تجربة في فصلي الصيف والشتاء عامي ٢٠١٥/٢٠١٤ علي التوالي بكلية الزراعة-جامعة كفر الشيخ ، من خلال دراسة تأثير عدد ساعات اليوم ، شدة الاشعاع الشمسي وثلاثة ضواغط للمياه عند ٢٠٣٠٤ متر. ويمكن تخليص اهم النتائج الي ما يلي:-

- ١- اقل قيمة للإشعاع الشمسي الحرج (عندما تبدأ الطلمبة في التشغيل) عند ضاغط للمياه ٢،
 ٣، ٢ م ٢٥٧.١٤ ، ٢٥٠.٥٧، ٣٢٨.٥٧ وات/م^٢ في فصل الصيف، و ٢٤٢.٨٦،
- ٢- تحقق أقصي قيم لتصرف الطلمبة ٤٨.٨٢ ، ٤٧.٩٢ ، ٤٤.٩١ لتر/د عند ضاغط مياه ٢ ،
 ٣، ٤م علي التوالي عند الساعة الواحدة بعد الظهر في الصيف. وكانت ٨٤.٨٣، ٤٧.٥٤ ،
 ٤٤.٤٩ لتر/د علي نفس الضواغط وعند الساعة الثانية عشر ظهرا في الشتاء.

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- ٣- كانت اقصي فترات تشغيل للمنظومة حوالي ١٠ ، ٩،٩، ٩ ساعات في الصيف ، ٩.٥، ،
 ٣- ٧ ساعات في الشتاء على ضاغط مياه ٢، ٣، ٤م على التوالي تحت ظروف التجربة.
- ٤- بزيادة الاشعاع الشمسي بنسبة ٤٢.٨٦% ازدادت القدرة الكهربية من الخلايا الشمسية بنسبة ٢٠.٦%
 ٣٦.٦% مما ادي الي زيادة التصرف والقدرة الهيدروليكية للطلمبة بنسبة ٢٧.٣٩،
 ٣٤.٢٢% في الصيف و ١٣.٣٧، ٣٤.٤% في الشتاء علي التوالي عند ضاغط للمياه ٤م.
- ازدادت الكفاءة الكلية للمنظومة في فصل الشتاء عن فصل الصيف بنسبة ٢٠.٣٥، ٣٧.٧٨،
 ١٤.٠٤% عند ضواغط ٢، ٣، ٤م على التوالي.