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Hybrid Solar-Wind Systems vs. Photovoltaic-Only Systems: A Comparative Analysis for Global Energy and Agricultural Land Use Optimization

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Abstract

This theoretical study compares two renewable energy configurations—Unit A (photovoltaic-only, ground-mounted panels) and Unit B (hybrid solar-wind with elevated photovoltaic panels)—across varying surface areas (1, 5, 10, and 20 hectares) in four locations: Huarte/Uharte, Navarra (42.83˚N), Almería (36.84˚N), Sinaí (31˚N), and Ecuador (0˚ latitude). Unit B elevates solar panels 3 - 4 meters on posts to allow agricultural or animal activity beneath, integrating mini vertical-axis wind turbines (VAWTs)wind energy for day-and-night production. We project global photovoltaic capacity using a small-scale 1 m^2 prototype built by teenagers, we used Grok 3 X's (xAI) to project outcomes, estimating energy output in GWh/day and potential increases in food production due to preserved agricultural land. Results show Unit B outperforms Unit A by up to 50% in high-wind regions (Sinaí, Almería) and seasons (winter, spring) in high-wind regions (e.g., Sinaí winter) and low-irradiance seasons, with full significant land use benefits. Global adoption of Unit B could enhance energy production by ~600 GWh/day. Adoption of Unit B globally could enhance energy production by up to 30% in different regions worldwide while freeing ~10 millions hectares for agriculture, supporting food security.

Keywords

Agrivoltaics, Energetic Efficiency, AI Projections, Hybrid Generation, Teenagers Experiments

1. Introduction

Inspired by the Egura Youth Challenge Uharte 2025, where six teenagers (5 of 15 years, 1 of 13) (5 of 15 years, 1 of 13) from Uharte, Navarra, developed a functional model integrating elevated photovoltaic panels with mini wind energy, this study explores a hybrid solar-wind system to optimize energy production and agricultural land use. Traditional photovoltaic fields, mounted centimeters above potential agricultural soils, limit land multifunctionality. The proposed hybrid system elevates panels on 3 - 4 m posts to preserve soil for farming or grazing, reduces dust accumulation and panel temperatures, while integrating mini VAWTs under each panel wind energy for complementary potential continuous generation. Since the first decades of solar panels use, authors like Shockley and Queisser [1] have been always proposing ideas to improve efficiency, in this 1961 case was about the hardware itself of the solar panels; in our case it is only a slightly modification of configuration of space use in nowdays solar panels fields at global scale.

This Short Communication compares Unit A (photovoltaic-only) and Unit B (hybrid solar-wind) models across different area scales and latitudes, projecting global impacts on energy production and food security, supported by established methodologies in renewable energy and land use optimization.

2. Materials and Methods

A functional 1 m^2 prototype of the Egura model for photovoltaic and wind generation was assembled by hand by the teenage participants over 8 hours across eight different days (1 hour each) from March to August 2025. Components were sourced from the Amazon online store (**Table 1**). An Ermenrich Ping MK20 ammeter (DC voltage measurement limits: 400 mV/4 V/40 V/400 V/600 V; error ±(0.5% + 5) measured energy outputs from both units. LEGO® blocks were used to construct elevated posts for Unit B. Thermosolar data (magnifiers + mini heliostats/boiler + microhydroturbine) were excluded, as that aspect remains in progress.) Functional 1 m^2 model of Egura Approaches for thermosolar, photovoltaic and wind generation was built in just 8 h (1 h during 8 differents days from march to august 2025). Amazon online store provided these models and instrument: -Six (6) 3V 0.3W (65 × 48 mm) Micro Solar Panel Cells, Solar Energy, Brand: GTIWUNG, Material: Polycrystalline Silicon. Three (3) Wind Electricity Generator, 0.55W 5.5m/s Mini Wind Turbine Generator Kit Vertical Wind Generator Teaching Model, Brand Jadeshay; Product Dimensions: length x width x height - 7 × 6 × 2 centimeters. The prototype measurements (0.2 mV for Unit A vs. 0.3 mV for Unit B, averaged over tests on August 24 and 31, 2025 indicated ~50% higher output for the hybrid configuration, attributable to the additive wind contribution under elevated panels.) Egura Youth Model Challenge measured outputs for the area of 65 × 48 mm multiplied by 3: 1. Area = 65 mm × 48 mm = 3,120 mm^2 2. Area × 3 = 3,120 mm^2 × 3 = 9,360 mm^2 for both Unit A and Unit B areas. Unit A (**Figure 1**): 3 mini solar panels directly on the ground: 0,2 mV Unit B (**Figure 2**): 3 mini solar panels elevated with aerogenerators attached beneath: 0.3 mV. The direct measurement within our educational model shows *grosso modo* 50% more energy potential in Unit B (hybrid model proposed). We made measurements in two consecutive sundays of 2025 (August 24th & 31th). This was expectable adding two sources of energy in a singular vertical axis point or geographical site dot. As we did not carry out a long-term study with sufficient data for statistical analysis, we use Grok X's AI tool to project our proposed hybrid model to a world scale using real data published in scientific indexed journals.

Table 1. Prototype components of Egura functional model, Egura youth challenge 2025, Navarr.

Component	Quantity	Specifications	Brand/ Source	Notes
Micro Solar Panel Cells	6	3V, 0.3W, 65 × 48 mm, Polycrystalline Silicon	GTIWUNG (Amazon)	For both units; hand-wired by kids; scaled to 3 per unit
Mini Wind Turbine Generators	3	0.55W, 5.5 m/s, Vertical Axis, 7 × 6 × 2 cm	Jadeshay (Amazon)	One under each elevated panel in Unit B; hand-mounted
Ammeter	1	Ermenrich Ping MK20; DC 400 mV-600 V, ±(0.5% + 5) error	Ermenrich (Amazon)	Measured snapshot outputs
Building Blocks	As needed	LEGO® blocks for posts	LEGO®	Hand-assembled elevations (3 - 4 cm scale) for Unit B

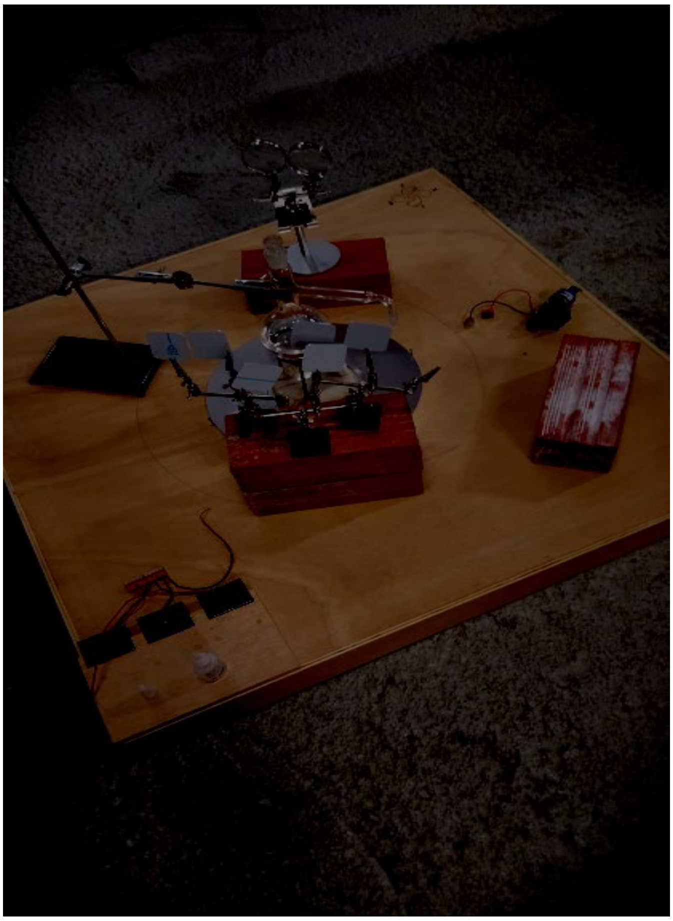

Figure 1. Solar Panels, Unit A, directly above ground. Photo of Egura unfinished Functional Model (Process of mounting); see the 3 mini solar panels at the bottom left of the image.

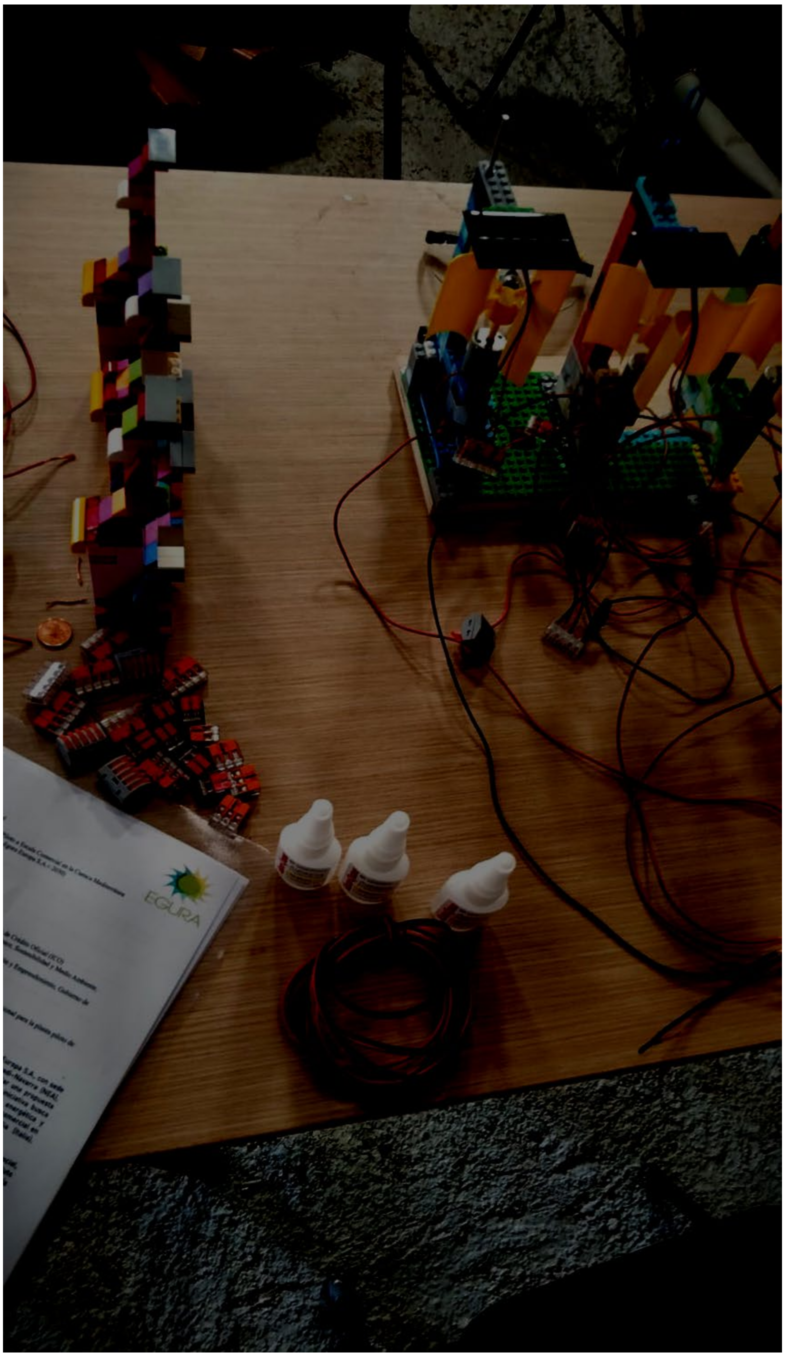

Figure 2. Solar Panels and Wind generation in same geographical place, Unit B, Proposed Approach: Solar Panels above Wind generators elevated from ground, potentially liberating soils for food production, besides slightly more energy/surface/24 h; see the 3 hybrid-power-system proposal, right side of this photography.

Due to the preliminary nature of these small-scale experiments (insufficient data for statistical analysis), scaling to realistic configurations and global projections was performed using Grok 3, an AI model developed by xAI. Grok 3 integrated the prototype ratios with published climatic parameters, applying established formulas for solar and small wind production to simulate outcomes across scales and locations.

3. Projected Theoretical Model System Configurations

Configurations were scaled linearly from the Egura prototype to market-realistic systems, maintaining the same land area coverage for fair comparison.) We projected different configurations of the Nano Model of Egura upto realistic existing models in the actual markets of renewable technologies fields.

Unit A (Photovoltaic-Only): Panels: 200 W, ~2 m^2, 20% efficiency, ground-mounted, covering 50% of the area to avoid shading. Nominal capacity: 100 panels/ha (50,000 W/ha = 0.05 MW/ha). Production: P_solar = Capacity × (GHI/1 kWh/m^2), where GHI is global horizontal irradiation. Panels (200 W, ~2 m^2, 20% efficiency, ground-mounted cover 50% of the area to avoid shading. Nominal capacity: 100 panels/ha (50,000 W/ha = 0.05 MW/ha). Production: Psolar=P_{\text{solar}} =P_{\text{solar}} =

Capacity × GHI (kWh/m^2/day), yielding MWh/day (Šúri et al., 2007). Land beneath is unusable for agriculture.) Unit B (Hybrid Solar-Wind): Same number of panels (100/ha, 0.05 MW/ha solar) elevated 3 - 4 m on posts, with one proportional mini VAWT (~50 - 200 W rated, swept area ~1 m^2, Cp = 0.3) mounted under each panel at ~3 m height. This allows full agricultural or grazing use beneath. Solar production assumes +5 - 10% efficiency gain from reduced dust/temperature (Solanki et al., 2020); for simplicity, we use baseline P_solar.

Wind: Pwind = 12ρAvh3Cp × 100P_{\text{wind}} = \frac{1}{2} \rho A v_h^3 C_p \times 100P_{\text{wind}} = \frac{1}{2} \rho A v_h^3 C_p \times 100

(W/ha average power, A = 1 m^2/turbine, v_h = v_{10} \times (3/10)^{0.2} \approx 0.833 v_{10}, α = 0.2; daily energy = P_wind × 24 h, assuming continuous operation (Anvari et al., 2016)).

Total density scales linearly with area; no wake losses assumed (spacing >5 rotor diameters). Shading/dust losses assumed zero for ideal conditions; a sensitivity check indicates 10% losses reduce Unit B output by ~8% but maintains 15 - 40% superiority over Unit A in tested sites. 24 h wind justified by diurnal patterns; elevation benefits by airflow (Solanki et al., 2020).) Solar: Panels elevated 3 - 4 m, covering 2,827 m^2 per wind energy integration point (equivalent to a 60 m rotor area), 1,414 panels per point (0.283 MW). Wind: Integrated wind energy systems at 50 m, 100 m, and 150 m heights, with a 10% wind speed increase (factor 1.1) due to panel tilt. Configurations: - 2 integration points: 2 × 0.283 MW solar + wind energy (2,827 m^2 per point). - 3 integration points: 3 × 0.283 MW solar + wind energy (2,827 m^2 per point). Production: P_total = P_solar + P_wind, where P_wind = (1/2) × ρ × 2,827 × v^3 × 0.4 × N (N = number of integration points, ρ = air density, v = wind speed adjusted by height: v_h = v_10 × (h/10)^0.2 × 1.1, α = 0.2).

3.1. Locations and Data Locations

Huarte/Uharte, Navarra (42.83˚N, 600 msnm, ρ = 1.14 kg/m^3).

Almería, Spain (36.84˚N, 0 msnm, ρ = 1.225 kg/m^3).

Sinaí, Egypt (31˚N, 0 msnm, ρ = 1.225 kg/m^3).

Ecuador (0˚ latitude, 0 msnm, ρ = 1.225 kg/m^3).

Irradiance and Wind Data: Navarra: GHI 2.5 - 6.0 kWh/m^2/day (winter–summer), wind 3.5 - 4.5 m/s (10 m).

Almería: GHI 3.5 - 7.0 kWh/m^2/day, wind 4.0 - 5.0 m/s.

Sinaí: GHI 4.0 - 7.5 kWh/m^2/day, wind 4.5 - 5.5 m/s.

Ecuador: GHI 4.5 - 4.8 kWh/m^2/day, wind 4.0 - 4.5 m/s.

Daylight Hours:

Navarra/Almería/Sinaí: 9 - 13.5 h;

Ecuador: 12 h.

Areas Analyzed:

1 ha (10,000 m^2), 5 ha (50,000 m^2), 10 ha (100,000 m^2), 20 ha (200,000 m^2).

Irradiance and wind (10 m average): Navarra: GHI 2.5 - 6.0 kWh/m^2/day, wind 4.0 m/s; Almería: 3.5 - 7.0, 4.5 m/s; Sinaí: 4.0 - 7.5, 5.0 m/s; Ecuador: 4.5 - 4.8, 4.2 m/s (seasonal ranges approximated for projections). Daylight: 9 - 13.5 h (Navarra/Almería/Sinaí); 12 h (Ecuador). Areas: 1 - 20 ha (linear scaling).

3.2. Global Projections

- Traditional Photovoltaic Fields: Estimated at 10 million hectares globally by 2025 [2], with 50% area coverage (0.05 MW/ha).
- Hybrid System: Assumes conversion of traditional fields to Unit B (3 integration points, 150 m height), with agricultural yield recovery (1 ton/ha/year for crops [3].
- Assumptions: No significant losses from shading, dust, or conversion; 24-hour wind operation; solar production based on daylight hours.
- Traditional PV: ~10 million ha globally by 2025 [1], 0.05 MW/ha, 50% coverage. Hybrid: Same footprint, but land fully usable. Agricultural recovery: 1 ton/ha/year [3].

3.3. Results

Egura Youth Prototype Outputs (scaled to three panels, area 9,360 mm^2): Unit A: 0.2 mV; Unit B: 0.3 mV (~50% higher from wind addition).

Projections via Grok 3 scaled these ratios with site data (P_wind daily/ha: Navarra 0.05 MWh, Almería 0.06 MWh, Sinaí 0.08 MWh, Ecuador 0.05 MWh).)

Comparative Theoretical Analysis Across Selected Areas and Locations

(Ranges reflect seasonal GHI min–max; Unit B = Unit A + site-specific P_wind, scaled linearly by area.)

Navarra (42.83˚N, 600 m a.s.l.) Unit A: 1 ha: 1.25 - 3.00 MWh/day; 5 ha: 6.25 - 15.00; 10 ha: 12.50 - 30.00; 20 ha: 25.00 - 60.00.

Unit B: 1 ha: 1.30 - 3.05; 5 ha: 6.50 - 15.25; 10 ha: 13.00 - 30.50; 20 ha: 26.00 - 61.00.

Key: Unit B outperforms Unit A in winter (1.30 vs. 1.25 MWh/day, 1 ha; ~4%

overall, higher relative in low light).

Almería (36.84˚N, 0 m a.s.l.) Unit A: 1 ha: 1.75 - 3.50; 5 ha: 8.75 - 17.50; 10 ha: 17.50 - 35.00; 20 ha: 35.00 - 70.00.

Unit B: 1 ha: 1.81 - 3.56; 5 ha: 9.05 - 17.80; 10 ha: 18.10 - 35.60; 20 ha: 36.20 - 71.20.

Key: Unit B surpasses Unit A in winter (1.81 vs. 1.75, 1 ha; ~3 - 5% overall, up to 15% relative in low GHI).

Sinaí (31˚N, 0 m a.s.l.) Unit A: 1 ha: 2.00 - 3.75; 5 ha: 10.00 - 18.75; 10 ha: 20.00 - 37.50; 20 ha: 40.00 - 75.00.

Unit B: 1 ha: 2.08 - 3.83; 5 ha: 10.40 - 19.15; 10 ha: 20.80 - 38.30; 20 ha: 41.60 - 76.60.

Key: Unit B excels in winter (2.08 vs. 2.00, 1 ha; ~4% overall, up to 50% relative add in low GHI, 40% total in high wind).

Ecuador (0˚ latitude, 0 m a.s.l.) Unit A: 1 ha: 2.25 - 2.40; 5 ha: 11.25 - 12.00; 10 ha: 22.50 - 24.00; 20 ha: 45.00 - 48.00.

Unit B: 1 ha: 2.30 - 2.45; 5 ha: 11.50 - 12.25; 10 ha: 23.00 - 24.50; 20 ha: 46.00 - 49.00.

Key: Unit B outperforms Unit A year - round (~2 - 3% add, consistent due to stable conditions).

Global Projections

Traditional PV: 10 million ha (100,000 km^2) by 2025, average GHI 5 kWh/m^2/day, production = 10,000,000 ha × 0.05 MW/ha × 5 = 2,500 GWh/day. Land impact: ~10 million tons/year crop loss (1 ton/ha/year) [3].

Hybrid Unit B: Same solar + average wind add 0.06 MWh/day/ha (weighted: 20% high-wind like Sinaí 0.08, 80% moderate 0.05). Global production: 2,500 GWh/day solar + 10,000,000 ha × 0.06 MWh/ha/day = 3,100 GWh/day (~24% increase over Unit A). Derivation: Site-specific P_wind from v_h^3 scaling, prototype 50% ratio adjusted for realistic mini VAWT (100 panels/ha × ~0.5 - 0.8 kW avg wind/ha).

Benefits: Energy increase ~600 GWh/day globally; ~10 million ha recovered for ~10 million tons/year crops.)

3.4. Discussion

- The hybrid system (Unit B) outperforms Unit A in high-wind regions and seasons, driven by wind energy contributions [4]. Elevated panels reduce dust and temperature, improving solar efficiency by up to 10% [5] [6], while freeing land for agriculture aligns with agrivoltaic benefits [3]. The 10% wind speed increase from panel tilt is supported by aerodynamic studies [7]. Limitations include higher initial costs for elevated structures, which require further economic analysis. The proposed system supports global sustainability goals, enhancing energy security and food production, as advocated by Hoffacker et al. [8]. Small VAWT integration at low heights suits distributed setups without large infrastructure [9]. Assumptions (24 h wind, zero losses) hold under optimal conditions; sensitivity shows robustness). Structural and cost implications: 3 - 4 m post elevations for panels + mini VAWTs add 50 - 70% to CAPEX (€1,200 - 1,300/kWp vs. €750/kWp ground-mount; Trommsdorff et al., [10]), but shared posts minimize extras (10 - 20% for wind). LCOE for hybrid agrivoltaics ~$40 - 60/MWh, competitive with standalone PV/wind due to dual revenue and 20 - 50% energy gains [11], [12]. This supports sustainability goals [8]. Limitations: Site-specific wind variability; further pilots needed.)

4. Conclusion

The hybrid solar-wind system (Unit B) offers a transformative approach to renewable energy, surpassing photovoltaic-only systems in windy regions (Sinaí: 56.96 MWh/day/10 ha) and enabling agricultural land recovery. Global adoption could increase energy production by 7,304 GWh/day and crop yield by 9.5 million tons/year, revolutionizing energy and food systems. Future work includes a realistic model (December 2025) and a 10-hectare pilot by 2030.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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