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Smart farming and irrigation using IOT: A Review

Yukti Kesharwani
Assistant Professor
Department of Engineering (Computer Science and Engineering)
Dr. C. V. Raman University

Student Name- Shiphali Soni
Mtech (Computer Science and Engineering)
Dr.C.V.Raman University

Abstract
Smart farming and irrigation utilizing Internet of Things (IoT) technology represents a transformative approach to modern agriculture, enhancing efficiency, sustainability, and yield. This system integrates sensors, actuators, and data analytics to monitor and manage agricultural processes remotely. By employing IoT devices such as soil moisture sensors, weather stations, and automated irrigation systems, farmers can gather real-time data on environmental conditions and crop health.Through data analytics and machine learning algorithms, this system enables predictive insights, allowing farmers to make informed decisions regarding irrigation scheduling, fertilization, and pest management. This proactive approach minimizes resource wastage, reduces costs, and optimizes crop yield.IoT-based smart farming promotes sustainability by facilitating precision agriculture practices. By delivering the right amount of water, nutrients, and other resources precisely where and when they are needed, it minimizes environmental impact and conserves resources.

Introduction
In the face of escalating global challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, and food security concerns, the agricultural sector is under immense pressure to evolve and innovate. Traditional farming practices often struggle to cope with these challenges efficiently. However, the emergence of Internet of Things (IoT) technology offers a promising solution by revolutionizing the way farming and irrigation are approached.The integration of IoT in agriculture, often referred to as smart farming, represents a paradigm shift in agricultural management. By leveraging IoT devices such as sensors, actuators, and connectivity solutions, farmers can monitor and control various aspects of their operations remotely and in real time. This technology enables the collection of vast amounts of data

pertaining to soil moisture levels, weather patterns, crop health, and more, providing farmers with invaluable insights into their fields' conditions.

One of the primary applications of IoT in agriculture is smart irrigation. Water scarcity is a pressing concern in many regions worldwide, exacerbated by inefficient irrigation practices. Traditional irrigation methods often lead to overwatering or underwatering, resulting in decreased crop yields, wasted resources, and environmental degradation. However, IoT-enabled irrigation systems offer a solution by precisely monitoring soil moisture levels and weather forecasts to deliver the optimal amount of water precisely where and when it is needed.

IoT facilitates the implementation of precision agriculture techniques, allowing farmers to tailor their cultivation practices to individual plants or small sections of fields. By applying fertilizers, pesticides, and other inputs in a targeted manner based on real-time data and analytics, farmers can optimize resource utilization, minimize waste, and maximize productivity.this paper explores the concept of smart farming and irrigation using IoT technology. It examines the various components of IoT-based agricultural systems, the benefits they offer, and the challenges they may encounter. Additionally, it discusses real-world applications, case studies, and future prospects for the integration of IoT in agriculture, highlighting its potential to transform the industry and address critical global challenges.

Need of the Study

The need for this study arises from the urgent challenges facing the agricultural sector, including climate change, water scarcity, and the growing demand for food. Traditional farming methods are often inefficient and unsustainable, leading to decreased yields, resource wastage, and environmental degradation. By integrating IoT technology into agriculture, this study seeks to address these challenges by providing farmers with tools and insights to optimize their irrigation practices, enhance crop productivity, and promote sustainability. Understanding the potential of IoT in agriculture is crucial for policymakers, researchers, and farmers alike to make informed decisions, develop innovative solutions, and ensure food security for a growing global population. Moreover, this study aims to contribute to the broader discourse on the adoption of emerging technologies in agriculture and its implications for sustainable development and resilience in the face of environmental and socio-economic pressures.

Literature Review

Mohamed, E. S et al (2021) Smart farming integrates technology into agricultural management to optimize productivity, sustainability, and resource efficiency. Through sensors, drones, and IoT devices, farmers can collect real-time data on soil moisture, nutrient levels, weather patterns, and crop health. This data enables precision farming techniques such as targeted irrigation, variable rate fertilization, and pest management, reducing resource waste and environmental impact. Machine learning algorithms analyze data to provide insights and predictions, aiding decision-making processes for planting, harvesting, and resource allocation. Additionally, smart farming facilitates remote monitoring and control, allowing farmers to manage operations efficiently from anywhere. By harnessing the power of technology, smart farming not only enhances crop yields and quality but also promotes sustainable practices and resilience to climate change, ensuring long-term viability for agricultural businesses.

Raghuvanshi, A et al (2022) In smart farming, IoT-enabled smart irrigation systems are vulnerable to cyber threats, potentially jeopardizing crop health and water resource management. Intrusion detection using machine learning offers a proactive approach to mitigate these risks. By analyzing network traffic patterns, anomaly detection algorithms can identify suspicious activities indicative of cyber attacks or unauthorized access attempts. Machine learning models trained on historical data can recognize patterns associated with normal system behavior, enabling early detection of deviations that may signal security breaches.Through continuous monitoring and real-time alerts, intrusion detection systems can prompt immediate response actions, such as isolating compromised devices or blocking malicious traffic. Moreover, machine learning algorithms can adapt and improve over time, enhancing the system's ability to detect emerging threats and evolving attack strategies. By bolstering the security posture of IoT-enabled smart irrigation systems, intrusion detection using machine learning contributes to safeguarding agricultural operations, preserving crop yields, and ensuring sustainable resource management in smart farming environments.

Rohith, M et al (2021) An IoT-enabled smart farming and irrigation system integrates various technologies to optimize agricultural operations. This system typically consists of sensors, actuators, IoT devices, and a central control platform. Sensors gather data on soil moisture levels, temperature, humidity, weather forecasts, and crop health, providing real-time insights into environmental conditions.The data collected by these sensors is transmitted wirelessly to a central control platform, where it is processed and analyzed. Machine learning algorithms can then interpret this data to make informed decisions regarding irrigation scheduling, fertilizer application, and pest management.Actuators, such as automated valves or pumps, are used to control irrigation systems based on the analyzed data and predefined parameters. This enables precision irrigation, where water is applied only when and where it is needed, reducing waste and optimizing resource use.IoT-enabled smart farming systems often include remote monitoring and control capabilities, allowing farmers to manage their operations from anywhere using smartphones or computers. This enhances efficiency and flexibility, particularly for farmers managing large or geographically dispersed farms.

Boursianis, A. D., et al (2020) The ARETh0U5A IoT platform offers a smart irrigation system tailored for precision agriculture. This platform integrates advanced sensors, data analytics, and remote control capabilities to optimize water usage and enhance crop yields.At the core of the system are sensors deployed throughout the fields, collecting data on soil moisture levels, temperature, humidity, and weather forecasts. These sensors provide real-time insights into environmental conditions, enabling precise irrigation scheduling.The platform's data analytics capabilities utilize machine learning algorithms to interpret the sensor data and make informed decisions about irrigation timing and volume. By analyzing historical data and current conditions, the system can predict optimal watering schedules and adjust them dynamically based on changing environmental factors.

Dhanalakshmi, R et al (2021) One pioneering approach in smart farming involves the integration of IoT technology to develop automated irrigation systems. By combining IoT devices with sophisticated sensors and analytics, this innovative technique revolutionizes traditional agricultural practices. These systems deploy sensors across fields to monitor crucial parameters like soil moisture, temperature, and weather conditions in real-time. Advanced data analytics, including machine learning algorithms, process this information to make informed decisions about irrigation scheduling and water distribution. Automated actuators, such as valves or pumps, are then utilized to precisely control the flow of water based on these decisions. This automation ensures that crops receive the optimal amount of water precisely when needed, minimizing water wastage and maximizing yields. Furthermore, remote monitoring and control capabilities enable farmers to oversee the irrigation process and make adjustments from anywhere, promoting operational efficiency and resource conservation. Overall, this novel technique using IoT-based automated irrigation systems represents a significant step forward in smart farming, offering farmers a powerful tool to enhance productivity, reduce costs, and foster sustainability.

Punjabi, H. C et al (2017) Smart farming utilizing IoT technology revolutionizes agricultural practices by integrating sensors, actuators, and data analytics to optimize crop production, resource utilization, and environmental sustainability. In this approach, IoT devices such as sensors are deployed across fields to gather real-time data on soil moisture, temperature, humidity, weather conditions, and crop health. This data is transmitted wirelessly to a central control system where advanced analytics, including machine learning algorithms, analyze the information. Farmers can then make data-driven decisions regarding irrigation scheduling, fertilizer application, pest control, and other agricultural practices.IoT-enabled smart farming systems offer remote monitoring and control capabilities, allowing farmers to manage their operations efficiently from anywhere using smartphones or computers. This flexibility enhances productivity and responsiveness, particularly for large-scale or geographically dispersed farms. Additionally, by enabling precision agriculture techniques such as variable rate irrigation and targeted resource application, IoT technology helps minimize resource wastage and environmental impact while maximizing crop yields. Overall, smart farming using IoT holds immense potential to transform agriculture by enhancing efficiency, sustainability, and profitability.

Madushanki, A. R., et al (2019) The adoption of the Internet of Things (IoT) in agriculture and smart farming is driving significant progress towards urban greening initiatives. By integrating IoT technology into agricultural practices, urban areas can transform underutilized spaces into green spaces, contributing to environmental sustainability, improved air quality, and enhanced quality of life for urban residents.IoT devices such as sensors, actuators, and automated systems play a crucial role in urban greening efforts. These devices are deployed in various urban farming settings, including rooftop gardens, vertical farms, and community gardens, to monitor environmental conditions, manage irrigation systems, and optimize resource utilization.Real-time data collected by IoT sensors on factors such as soil moisture, temperature, humidity, and sunlight exposure enable precise monitoring and control of urban farming environments. This data is analyzed using advanced analytics, including machine learning algorithms, to inform decision-making processes and optimize plant growth and health.IoT-enabled smart farming systems offer remote monitoring and control capabilities, allowing urban farmers to manage their green spaces efficiently from anywhere. This flexibility enables proactive maintenance, timely interventions, and optimization of resource usage, thereby maximizing yields and sustainability.

Proposed system

The system comprises both hardware and software components. On the hardware side, there is an embedded system, while the software aspect involves a webpage developed using PHP. This webpage is hosted online and incorporates a database where sensor readings are stored, facilitated by the hardware.

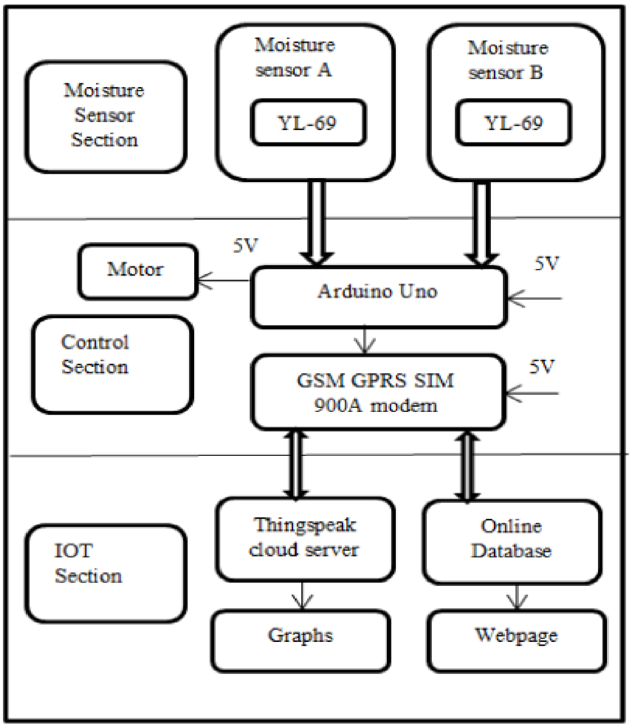
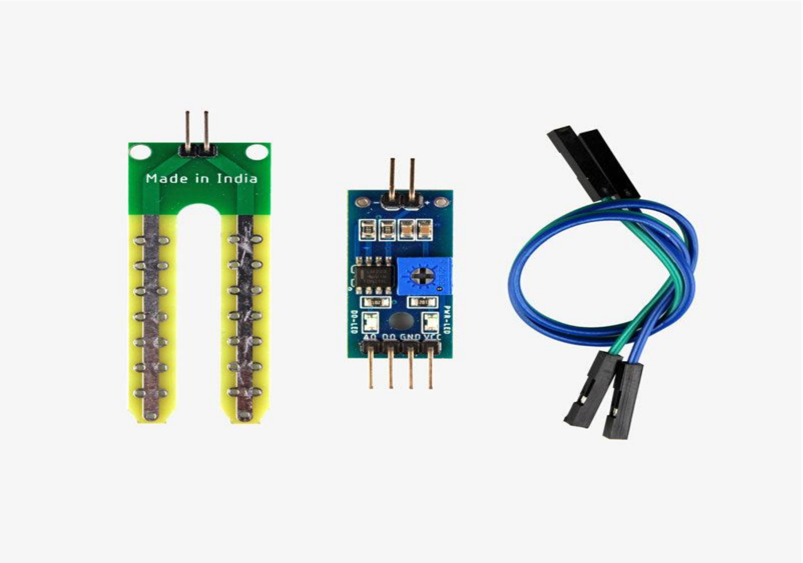


Figure 1: Overall Engineering Design

Moisture Sensing Section

The moisture sensing section of the system employs a setup featuring two YL-69 soil moisture sensors, each paired with LM393 comparator modules. This configuration allows for the placement of sensors in diverse soil conditions, enabling thorough analysis and comparison of moisture levels across different environments.when the soil moisture is low, the sensor module exhibits a higher level of resistance. This sensor offers both digital and analog outputs, with the digital output being straightforward to utilize but less precise compared to the analog output.



Leveraging the Atmega 328P-PU microcontroller embedded in the Arduino Uno, which incorporates a built-in 10-bit 6-channel analog-to-digital (A/D) converter, enables the analog input pin of the Arduino to accurately capture analog signals transmitted by the sensor. This results in binary integers ranging from 0 to 1023. A higher output value corresponds to lower moisture content in the soil.

Control Section

Sensor data is first collected by the Arduino board, which is equipped with the ATMEGA328P microcontroller responsible for controlling the activation and deactivation of the motor to which water sprinklers can be attached. Subsequently, these sensor readings are transmitted to the GSM-GPRS SIM900A modem. This modem hosts a SIM card with a 3G data plan, enabling IoT functionalities within the system. The transmitted values are then forwarded to the IoT section through the modem.

The GSM modem utilized is a versatile plug-and-play quad-band SIM900A GSM modem designed for seamless integration into RS232 applications. It boasts support for various features, including voice, SMS, data/fax, GPRS, and an integrated TCP/IP stack. Connection between the Arduino and the GSM modem is established by linking the transmit (TX) and receive (RX) pins from the Arduino to the corresponding RX and TX pins of the GSM modem, respectively.

Research Problem

The research problem of smart farming and irrigation using IoTcenters on optimizing agricultural practices through the integration of IoT technologies to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and productivity. This multifaceted issue encompasses various critical areas, including the optimization of water usage through precision irrigation techniques enabled by IoT sensors and actuators. Understanding how to monitor soil moisture levels, weather conditions, and crop water requirements in real-time is essential to minimize water wastage while ensuring optimal crop growth. research focuses on leveraging data analytics, including machine learning algorithms, to analyze the vast amount of data collected from IoT devices and derive actionable insights for decision-making processes such as irrigation scheduling and pest management. Investigating the integration of IoT devices into existing farm management systems is crucial, considering factors such as interoperability, data security, and usability for farmers. exploring the environmental benefits and sustainability implications of adopting IoT-based smart farming practices is imperative, including assessing reductions in water usage, chemical inputs, and greenhouse gas emissions associated with precision agriculture techniques facilitated by IoT technologies. By addressing these research questions, advancements in smart farming and irrigation practices can be achieved, leading to more efficient resource management, improved crop yields, and reduced environmental impact in agricultural systems.

Conclusion

The integration of IoT technology in smart farming and irrigation systems marks a significant advancement in agricultural practices, offering unprecedented opportunities for efficiency, sustainability, and productivity. By leveraging IoT devices such as sensors, actuators, and data analytics, farmers can monitor and manage their fields with precision, optimizing resource usage and maximizing yields.Through real-time data collection and analysis, IoT-enabled smart farming systems provide insights into environmental conditions, crop health, and water needs, enabling informed decision-making and proactive intervention. This capability is particularly crucial for irrigation management, where precise control over water application helps conserve resources and minimize environmental impact.the remote monitoring and control features of IoT-based systems empower farmers to manage their operations efficiently from anywhere, enhancing flexibility and responsiveness to changing conditions. This capability is especially beneficial for large-scale or geographically dispersed farms, where manual monitoring and management may be challenging.the adoption of IoT in agriculture holds promise for sustainability and environmental stewardship by promoting precision agriculture techniques, reducing resource wastage, and minimizing the use of harmful chemicals. Additionally, IoT-based smart farming initiatives contribute to the resilience of food production systems, mitigating risks posed by climate change and other environmental challenges.

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