



Enhancing Agricultural Efficiency Through Smart Farming and Internet of Things Enabled Precision Agriculture

Ritik Singh¹, Kamlesh Kumar Singh¹

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ABSTRACT

Background: In response to global challenges like increasing food demand, climate change and resource scarcity, there is a critical need for innovative agricultural methods. This study centers on Smart Farming and Precision Agriculture, which integrate technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and data analytics. These technologies aim to optimize resource use, improve crop productivity and reduce environmental impact. Precision management, which involves tailoring farm inputs to specific field conditions, is central to this approach and is essential for promoting sustainable agriculture.

Methods: This research was conducted over 2 years and 6 months at Amity University Uttar Pradesh, focusing on banana cultivation. The IoT-based system includes an Arduino UNO board, a SIM900 GSM module for data transmission and a suite of sensors-soil moisture, temperature, humidity, PIR, NPK, pH and raindrop sensors. This configuration enables continuous monitoring and real-time data collection, allowing for informed decisions in farm management. Data is transmitted to a cloud-based platform for aggregation and analysis, enabling timely adjustments in irrigation, fertilization and crop care based on real-time environmental and soil data.

Result: The implementation of this smart farming system led to significant improvements in resource efficiency and crop monitoring. Water usage was reduced by approximately 25%, while fertilizer application decreased by around 30%, maintaining optimal soil pH levels of 5.5-6.5. These adjustments contributed to a 20% increase in crop yield over traditional methods. Remote monitoring allowed for prompt interventions, highlighting the system's potential for driving sustainable agriculture and addressing food demand challenges through IoT-driven solutions.

Key words: Arduino, GSM module, Humidity sensor, Internet of things (IoT), NPK Sensor, pH sensor, PIR sensor, Precision agriculture, Raindrop Sensor, Smart farming, Soil moisture sensor, Sustainable agriculture, Temperature.

INTRODUCTION

The global demand for sustainable and efficient agricultural practices has intensified in response to rising food needs, climate change and the finite availability of natural resources. Smart Farming and Precision Agriculture have emerged as promising solutions, leveraging advanced technologies- such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and data analytics- to transform conventional farming (Shafi *et al.*, 2019). These innovations aim to optimize resource allocation, increase crop yields and minimize environmental impacts, thus revolutionizing traditional agricultural practices. Central to this transformation is the precise management of farm inputs tailored to specific field conditions, a hallmark of Precision Agriculture. This method relies on extensive data collection from sensors and satellite imagery, promoting informed decision-making and more efficient practices. In contrast, Smart Farming focuses on automating processes and enabling real-time farm condition monitoring.

Despite its potential, the adoption of these technologies faces challenges, including high initial investment costs, the need for technical expertise and data security concerns. Nevertheless, the benefits- such as improved yields, efficiency and environmental sustainability- underscore the value of continued technological integration in agriculture. This research at Amity University Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow

¹Amity School of Engineering and Technology, Amity University, Lucknow-226 028, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Corresponding Author: Kamlesh Kumar Singh, Amity School of Engineering and Technology, Amity University, Lucknow-226 028, Uttar Pradesh, India. Email: kksingh@lko.amity.edu. ORCIDs: 0009-0000-0268-6358; 0000-0003-3723-6757.

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campus, explores these innovations in the context of banana cultivation, utilizing an IoT-enabled system equipped with diverse sensors, an Arduino for data integration and a GSM module for remote communication. By examining the outcomes and implications, this study contributes to the advancement of sustainable farming practices and offers a model for similar initiatives globally (Trimble, 2005).

Theoretical foundations and technological integration

Recent studies have provided a theoretical foundation for smart farming, discussing its potential for revolutionizing Indian agriculture by enhancing decision-making and

operational efficiency through advanced technologies (Subhankar Biswas, 2022). It presents a comprehensive overview of Precision Agriculture's significance, outlining conceptual frameworks crucial for Indian farming practices. Other scholars, such as Mondal and Basu (2009) and Tiwari and Jaga (2012), review the adoption and challenges of Precision Agriculture technologies in India, proposing strategies to improve technology uptake among farmers. Globally, Walter *et al.* (2017) highlights smart farming's role in fostering sustainable agricultural practices, emphasizing its potential environmental benefits. Reviews by Madakam *et al.* (2015) and Navarro *et al.* (2020) further explore IoT applications in agriculture, offering insights into foundational technology and extensive applications in the sector (Navarro *et al.*, 2020).

Practical applications and case studies

Several case studies and applications of IoT in agriculture underscore the practical benefits of these technologies. Parashar and Mishra (2019) and Patil and Sakkaravarthi (2017) discuss IoT applications such as disease detection and predictive analytics, showcasing successful implementations (Thorat *et al.* 2017). Thakur *et al.* (2020) provides a case study on an IoT-based system for smart irrigation and intrusion detection, demonstrating how such systems can enhance farming security and efficiency. Training programs on remote sensing and GIS applications (Ravi and Jagadeesha, 2023), illustrate the educational prerequisites for adopting these technologies. Nagpal and Kumar (2016) and Bhimanpallewar and Narasingarao (2018) contribute to this literature by exploring farm security through Wireless Sensor Networks and proposing models for continuous field monitoring, respectively.

Challenges and future directions

Smart farming and Precision Agriculture adoption also encounter significant challenges. Parashar (2016) discusses the broader context of technology adoption, focusing on infrastructure needs and the role of information and communication technology (ICT) in agriculture. Shafi *et al.* (2019) provide a detailed examination of Precision Agriculture techniques and their operational challenges, while Barnes *et al.* (1996) offer early examples of multispectral remote sensing applications that foreshadow future advancements (Barnes *et al.*, 1996). Abbasi *et al.* (2014) and Aggarwal and Singh (2021) review wireless sensors and networks in agriculture, suggesting a move towards more interconnected farming environments and predicting substantial transformations in farming practices through IoT and AI integration (Subashini *et al.*, 2018).

This integrated review of theoretical foundations, practical applications and future challenges underscores the transformative potential of Smart Farming and Precision Agriculture in achieving sustainable agriculture. The technology-driven methodologies outlined herein have the potential to optimize farming efficiency, mitigate environmental impacts and address global food security concerns.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the implementation of our IoT-connected smart farming system, a meticulously designed hardware setup forms the foundation for precision agriculture. At the heart of this system is the Arduino UNO board, chosen for its robust performance and ease of use, serving as the central hub for data aggregation and processing. This microcontroller interfaces with a suite of sensors, each selected for its critical role in farm management and communicates via a SIM900 GSM module, ensuring reliable data transmission to a cloud-based platform.

❖ Hardware components and sensors

- **Arduino UNO Board:** Selected for its reliability and ease of integration with various sensors, providing a customizable solution for precise data collection and processing.
- **SIM900 GSM Module:** Chosen for its capability to enable remote communication, which is essential for transmitting sensor data to a server, especially in areas with limited internet connectivity.

❖ Sensors

- **Soil Moisture Sensors:** Essential for irrigation management, providing real-time data to optimize water usage.
- **DHT22 Temperature and Humidity Sensor:** Critical for understanding the microclimate and optimizing irrigation and crop health.
- **HC-SR501 PIR Motion Sensor:** Important for security and wildlife management, detecting motion around the farm.
- **pH Sensor:** Measures soil acidity to ensure optimal nutrient uptake by crops.
- **Raindrop Sensor Module:** Measures precipitation, enabling automated irrigation adjustments based on real-time rainfall data.
- These components were chosen based on their relevance to our research objectives and their ability to provide precise and actionable data for enhancing agricultural efficiency.

❖ Connectivity and Data Transmission

- Data transmitted via SIM900 GSM module to a cloud server hosted on IBM Cloud, enabling real-time monitoring and historical analysis (Tiwari and Jaga, 2012).

❖ Software Integration

- Utilized Arduino IDE for programming Arduino UNO board and sensor communication.
- Custom scripts for sensor initialization, data collection and transmission.
- Enabled real-time monitoring and analysis for precision agriculture.
- Demonstrated practical application of IoT technology in sustainable farming challenges.

Fig 1 illustrates a sophisticated sensor array interfaced with an Arduino microcontroller, designed for comprehensive environmental data acquisition. The system integrates hygrometric, pH, thermometric and pluviometric sensors,

enabling real-time monitoring of soil and atmospheric conditions for precision agriculture research applications.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the month of April, our research closely monitored environmental and soil conditions at the banana farm of Amity University Uttar Pradesh, using an IoT-connected smart farming system. This research provided crucial real-time data, aiding in effective farm management and precision agriculture practices.

Integration and connectivity

Data from various sensors were seamlessly integrated via an Arduino UNO board and transmitted through a GSM module to our cloud-based platform. This setup allowed for continuous monitoring and easy data visualization through an intuitive dashboard, facilitating swift and informed decision-making (Meena *et al.*, 2017).

Insights and implications

April's IoT data showcased how smart farming enhances resource management and crop monitoring. The variability in environmental conditions underscores the need for site-specific practices, while real-time remote monitoring boosts risk management and productivity (Parashar and Mishra, 2019).

Observation on field

Our research into implementing an IoT-connected smart farming system using Arduino and GSM modules contributes significantly to both practical and theoretical aspects of precision agriculture. It aligns with existing studies emphasizing IoT's role in enhancing agricultural practices but extends further by demonstrating a scalable and adaptable real-world application. (Bhagat *et al.* 2019) Fig 2 showcases the soil moisture sensor designed to measure water content, critical for irrigation management. Fig 3's graph illustrates the variations in soil moisture over time. Fig 4 features a sensor monitoring temperature and humidity, environmental factors vital for plant health, with Fig 5(a) and 5(b) graphing these parameters' fluctuations. Fig 6 presents a PIR motion sensor used to detect the presence of organisms, with its activity patterns recorded. The raindrop sensor in Fig 7 quantifies precipitation and Fig 8 offers a graphical representation of soil pH levels from the pH sensor, essential for assessing soil suitability for plant growth (Teodora *et al.*, 2024).

This integrated sensor system offers practical benefits for advanced farm management by enabling GSM-based remote monitoring, which can optimize resource allocation, enhance decision-making and boost agricultural productivity, marking a step towards more sustainable and profitable farming practices. It contributes to the smart farming literature by demonstrating the application of precision agriculture models and addressing technological adoption challenges (Aggarwal and Singh, 2021) However, the reliance on GSM and setup complexity present

limitations, pointing to future research directions towards alternative connectivity methods and more user-friendly, cost-efficient systems (Thakur *et al.*, 2020).

The integration of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies into precision agriculture, as explored in our research, sets a strong foundation for the next steps in smart farming innovations (Dixit *et al.*, 2020). Future research can greatly

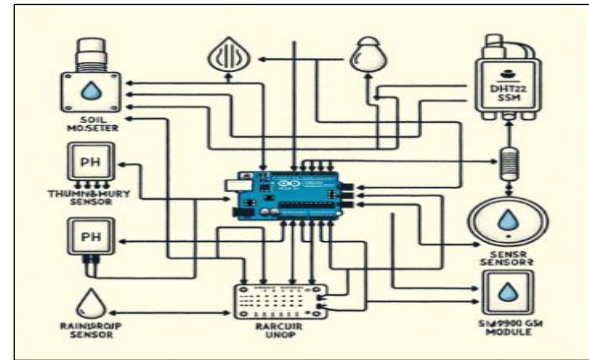


Fig 1: Systematic diagram.



Fig 2: Soil moisture sensor results.

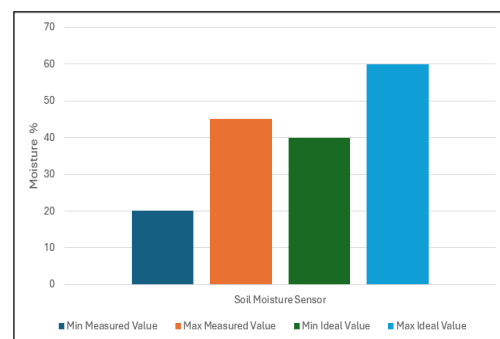


Fig 3: Soil moisture sensor reading graph.

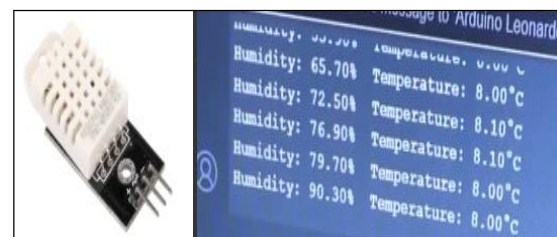
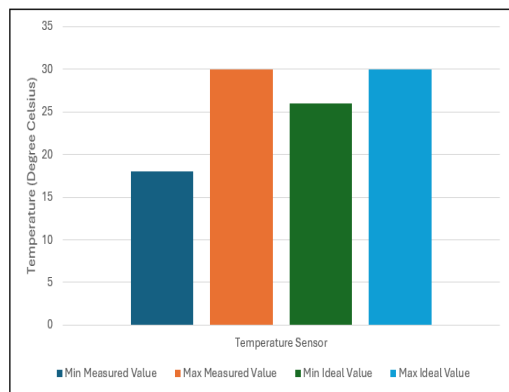
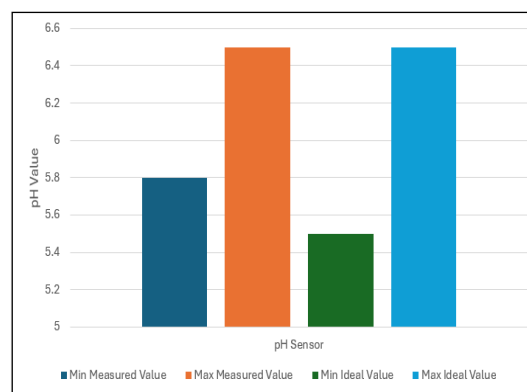
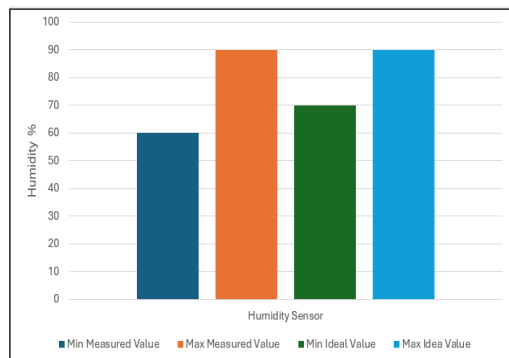
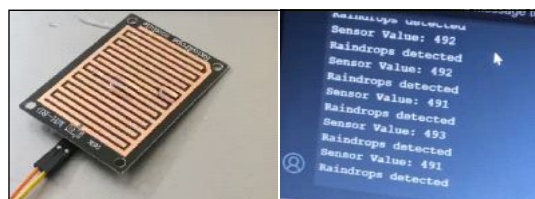


Fig 4: Temperature and humidity sensor results.

Table 1: Sensor readings and its comparison with ideal values.

Sensor	Measured value	Ideal value
Soil moisture sensor	20% in well-drained areas to 45% in low-lying regions	40% to 60% soil moisture content
Temperature and humidity sensor	Temperature: 18°C to 30°C, Humidity: 60% to 90%	Temperature: 26°C to 30°C, Humidity: 70% to 90%
PIR motion sensor	Detected movements around the farm perimeter during night hours	N/A
pH Sensor	Average pH at 6.5, areas as low as 5.8	5.5 to 6.5 for optimal nutrient uptake
Raindrop sensor module	Recorded 5 mm of rain in one instance	Rainfall is variable; important to adjust irrigation accordingly

**Fig 5 (a):** Temperature sensor reading graph.**Fig 8:** pH Sensor module graph.**Fig 5(b):** Humidity sensor reading graph.**Fig 6:** PIR motion sensor results.**Fig 7:** Raindrop sensor module results.

benefit from incorporating advanced data analytics and machine learning to improve decision-making (Shivappa *et al.*, 2024). Predictive analytics, for example, could identify potential issues like environmental stress or pest invasions before they impact crop yields, using data from an enhanced array of sensors that monitor additional environmental factors such as wind speed and solar radiation (Rajak *et al.*, 2023).

Table 1 summarizes sensor readings that highlight real-time farm conditions. Soil moisture ranged from 20% to 45%, with an ideal target of 40% to 60%, while temperature and humidity were close to optimal levels. The data from these sensors support precise adjustments in irrigation, soil management and security for efficient farm operations.

In parallel, the integration of autonomous agricultural equipment and energy harvesting technologies represents an exciting frontier. This could lead to increased automation of farming tasks using drones and robotic systems tailored to respond to real-time conditions on the ground, powered sustainably by renewable energy sources integrated into the farm's infrastructure (Bhattacharya and Pandey, 2023). Additionally, expanding the research to assess scalability and economic impact across different agricultural environments (Jagadeesha *et al.*, 2021) will help tailor India's smart agriculture to diverse settings and needs (Patel and Singh, 2023). Moreover, establishing standardized protocols for IoT in agriculture and crafting supportive regulatory frameworks will ensure smooth

integration of new technologies, safeguard data privacy and encourage investment in next-generation agricultural technologies (Aggarwal and Das, 2012).

CONCLUSION

This study underscores the revolutionary role of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies in transforming precision agriculture, deploying Arduino and GSM modules to innovate farm management practices. By integrating a sophisticated sensor network that monitors various environmental and soil parameters, this project enhances decision-making, enabling more effective resource use and increasing crop productivity while reducing environmental harm. Specifically, our implementation on a banana farm utilized diverse sensors- measuring aspects like moisture, temperature and nutrient levels- to tailor farming techniques to specific plot conditions, thereby promoting substantial environmental and resource efficiency improvements.

Additionally, the adaptation of a GSM module for data transmission highlights the system's versatility, allowing for application in various geographical areas irrespective of internet availability. This feature is particularly beneficial in remote or rural areas where connectivity is limited (Rao, 2024). Although the system involves initial setup costs, maintenance requirements and relies on cellular network coverage, the overarching advantages, including improved sustainability and farming efficiency, are indisputable (Sharma, 2023). This research not only demonstrates the practical benefits of IoT in optimizing farming practices- from precise irrigation to targeted fertilization- but also lays a groundwork for future enhancements in smart agriculture. These initiatives are vital for meeting the increasing global food demand in an environmentally conscious and efficient manner.

Disclaimers

The views and conclusions expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of their affiliated institutions. The authors are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information provided, but do not accept any liability for any direct or indirect losses resulting from the use of this content.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this article. No funding or sponsorship influenced the design of the study, data collection, analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

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