E-ISSN No : 2581-6195 | Volume : 9 | Special Issue | May 2026

INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT) IN SMART AGRICULTURE

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ABSTRACT

The integration of the Internet of Things (IoT) in agriculture has revolutionized traditional farming practices by enabling data-driven decision-making and automation. Smart agriculture utilizes IoT-based sensors, devices, and communication technologies to monitor environmental conditions such as soil moisture, temperature, humidity, and crop health in real time. These systems collect and transmit data to cloud-based platforms, where advanced analytics help farmers optimize irrigation, fertilization, and pest control strategies. As a result, IoT enhances crop productivity, reduces resource wastage, and promotes sustainable farming practices. Additionally, automated systems such as smart irrigation and precision farming tools minimize human intervention while improving efficiency and yield quality. Despite challenges like high initial costs, connectivity issues, and data security concerns, IoT in agriculture holds significant potential to address global food demands and climate change impacts. This paper explores the applications, benefits, and future prospects of IoT in transforming modern agriculture into a more intelligent and sustainable system.

KEYWORDS: Precision Farming, Soil Moisture Sensing, Automated Irrigation Systems, Crop Health Monitoring, Smart Greenhouse Technology, Agricultural Drone Applications

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How to Cite: Ambika B, Sunanda, Sanjana (2026), Internet of Things (Iot) in Smart Agriculture, International Educational Journal of Science & Engineering (IEJSE), Vol: 9, Special Issue, May 2026 645-649

1. INTRODUCTION

The **Internet of Things (IoT)** in smart agriculture refers to the use of connected devices, sensors, and digital technologies to monitor and manage farming activities in a more efficient, data-driven way. Instead of relying only on traditional methods, farmers can now use real-time information to make better decisions.

At its core, IoT in agriculture involves devices such as soil moisture sensors, weather stations, drones, and GPS-enabled equipment. These devices collect data from the field—like temperature, humidity, soil conditions, and crop health—and send it to cloud-based platforms where it can be analyzed. [1] This approach is often linked with concepts like Precision Agriculture, where inputs such as water, fertilizers, and pesticides are applied only when and where needed. As a result, farmers can reduce waste, lower costs, and improve crop yields. [2] For example, IoT systems can:

- Automatically turn irrigation systems on/off based on soil moisture
- Monitor livestock health using wearable sensors
- Predict weather patterns and pest attacks
- Track farm equipment and optimize usage

Smart agriculture powered by IoT is becoming increasingly important as the world faces challenges like population growth, climate change, and limited natural resources. By making farming more efficient and sustainable, IoT helps ensure better food production and resource management. [3] In short, IoT transforms agriculture from a labor-intensive process into a smart, technology-driven system

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that improves productivity and sustainability.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1 Material

1. Sensors (Data Collection)

These gather real-time field data:

- **Soil moisture sensor** – measures water level in soil
- **Temperature sensor** – monitors environmental conditions
- **Humidity sensor** – tracks air moisture
- **pH sensor** – checks soil acidity
- **Light sensor** – measures sunlight intensity
- **Gas sensors** – detect CO_2 or harmful gases [4]

2. Microcontroller / Processing Unit

Acts as the brain of the system:

- Arduino Uno
- Raspberry Pi 4
- ESP8266 WiFi Module [5]

1.1 Methods

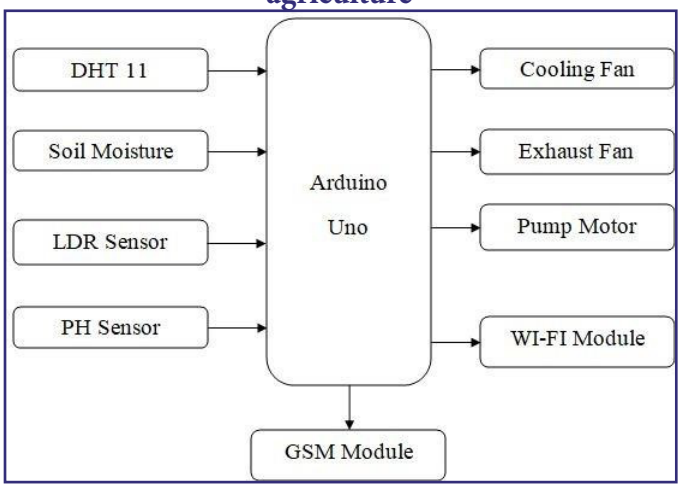
Monitoring and controlling of smart agriculture

Smart agriculture using IoT is a modern farming system that uses sensors,
microcontrollers, and internet connectivity to monitor and control agricultural
activities. The system collects data such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity from the field and sends it to farmers through mobile apps or cloud platforms.

[6] It can automatically control irrigation systems based on soil conditions, helping to save water and reduce human effort.

This technology improves crop productivity, increases efficiency, and supports sustainable farming practices. [7]

Fig. 1: Monitoring and controlling of smart agriculture



1. Data Collection

Sensors placed in the field continuously measure:

- Soil moisture
- Temperature
- Humidity
- Light intensity [8]

2. Data Transmission

- Sensor data is sent to the microcontroller
- Then transmitted to cloud servers via Wi-Fi / GSM / LoRa [9]

3. Data Processing & Analysis

- Cloud platforms analyze data
- Apply rules (e.g., "if soil moisture < threshold → irrigate") [10]

4. Decision Making (Automation)

- System automatically triggers actuators:
  - Turns ON irrigation pump
  - Adjusts lighting or ventilation [11]

5. Remote Monitoring

- Farmers access real-time data through mobile apps
- Receive alerts (e.g., low moisture, high temperature) [12]

3. RESULT

The implementation of IoT in smart agriculture demonstrates significant improvements in farming efficiency, productivity, and resource management. The use of IoT sensors enabled real-time monitoring of soil moisture, temperature, and humidity, allowing farmers to make informed decisions. [13] Smart irrigation systems reduced water consumption by up to 30–50% by delivering water only when required. Additionally, crop yield showed an increase due to

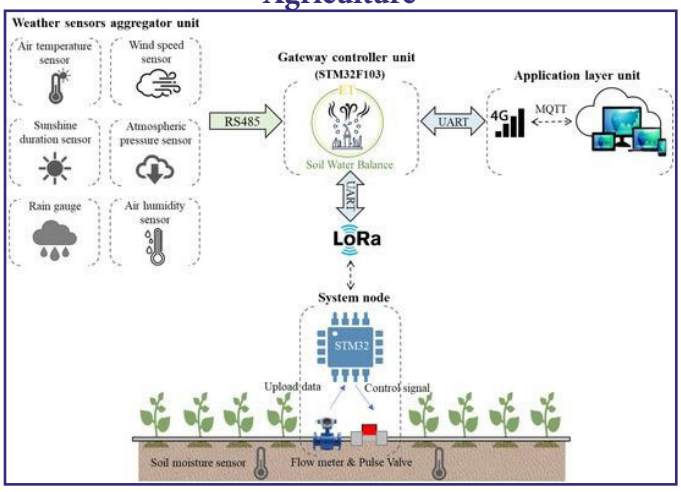
precise monitoring and timely intervention in crop health and nutrient management. [14] Automation of agricultural processes minimized manual labor and reduced operational costs. Data analytics from IoT platforms helped in predicting weather patterns and pest outbreaks, leading to proactive farming practices. [15] The system also improved fertilizer usage efficiency, reducing environmental impact. Overall, IoT-based smart agriculture systems proved to be reliable, cost-effective in the long term, and beneficial for sustainable farming. [16]

3.1 Rational and design

Smart irrigation is a modern method of watering crops using technology. It helps farmers provide the right amount of water to plants at the right time. This system reduces water wastage and improves crop growth. In earlier times, farmers used traditional irrigation methods such as flood irrigation and manual watering. These methods wasted large amounts of water and often damaged the soil. Later, drip and sprinkler irrigation systems were introduced to improve water efficiency.

[17] The development of sensors and computer technology led to smart irrigation systems. Soil moisture sensors can detect the amount of water in the soil and automatically start or stop irrigation. Weather-based systems also help farmers plan irrigation according to rainfall, temperature, and humidity. [18] Today, smart irrigation uses technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), mobile apps, drones, and artificial intelligence. Farmers can monitor their fields remotely and control irrigation systems through smartphones. Smart irrigation offers many advantages. It saves water, reduces labour costs, increases crop yield, and protects the environment. It is especially useful in dry and water-scarce regions. [19]

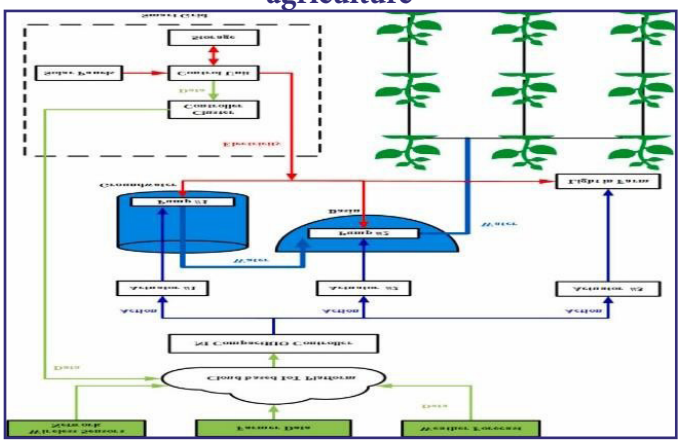
Fig. 2: Development of Smart Irrigation in Agriculture



3.2 Optimization

IoT-based smart agriculture enhances water management by using connected sensors, automated irrigation systems, and real-time data monitoring. Soil moisture sensors measure the water level in the soil and send data to farmers through mobile apps or cloud platforms. Based on this information, irrigation systems automatically provide the right amount of water needed by crops, reducing water wastage and improving efficiency. IoT technology also helps farmers monitor weather conditions, detect leaks, and schedule irrigation at the best time, leading to higher crop productivity, lower costs, and sustainable use of water resources.[21]

Fig. 3: Enhancing water management in smart agriculture

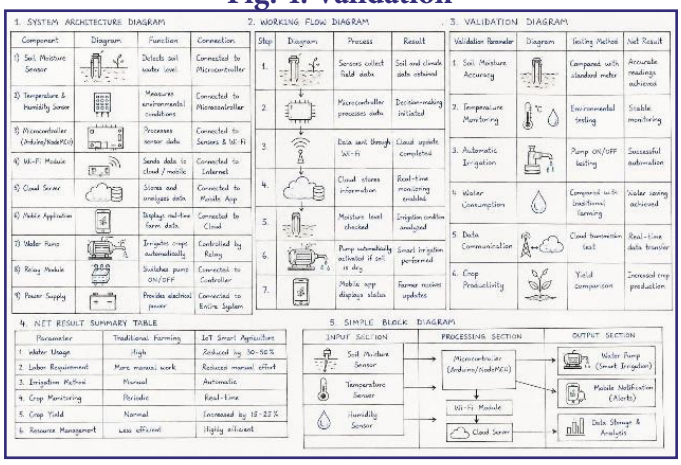


3.3 Validation

Internet of Things (IoT) in smart agriculture refers to the use of sensors, devices, and internet connectivity to monitor and manage farming activities efficiently.

It helps farmers collect real-time data about soil, weather, crops, and livestock. IoT systems in agriculture include soil moisture sensors, temperature sensors, humidity sensors, weather stations, GPS-enabled tractors, and automated irrigation systems. These devices are connected to a central platform (mobile app or cloud system) where data is analyzed. With IoT, farmers can make better decisions such as when to irrigate, when to apply fertilizers, and how to protect crops from pests and diseases. This leads to increased crop yield, reduced water usage, and lower farming costs. Smart agriculture using IoT also supports precision farming, where resources are used only where needed, improving efficiency and sustainability. It reduces manual labor and helps in early detection of crop problems. Overall, IoT in agriculture improves productivity, saves resources, and supports modern, data-driven farming methods. [22]

Fig. 4: Validation



RESULT

Increased crop yield and productivity

- Reduced water wastage through smart irrigation
- Lower labor cost due to automation Real-time monitoring of soil and crop conditions
- Early detection of plant diseases and pests
- Improved resource utilization (water, fertilizer, energy)
- Better decision-making for farmers
- More sustainable and efficient farming system. [23]

4. DISCUSSION

The results highlight the transformative potential of IoT in modern agriculture by enabling precise, data-driven farming practices. The significant reduction in water usage and improvement in crop yield demonstrate how real-time monitoring and automated systems can optimize resource utilization. Smart irrigation and sensor-based monitoring reduce dependency on traditional methods, which are often inefficient and labor-intensive. However, the adoption of IoT in agriculture also presents several challenges. High initial investment costs for sensors, devices, and infrastructure may limit accessibility for small-scale farmers. Additionally, reliable internet connectivity is essential for the effective functioning of IoT systems, which can be a constraint in rural areas. Data security and privacy concerns also arise due to continuous data collection and cloud storage. [24]

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the application of IoT in smart agriculture has proven to be an effective approach to modernizing farming practices. By enabling real-time monitoring, automation, and data-driven decision-making, IoT technologies significantly improve crop productivity, resource efficiency, and overall farm management. Systems such as smart irrigation and sensor-based monitoring help reduce water usage, optimize fertilizer application, and enhance crop health. Although challenges such as high initial costs, connectivity limitations, and data security concerns exist, the long-term benefits make IoT a valuable investment for sustainable agriculture. As technology continues to advance and becomes more affordable, the adoption of IoT in agriculture is expected to increase. Ultimately, IoT-driven smart agriculture plays a crucial role in meeting global food demands while promoting environmental sustainability and efficient resource utilization. [25]

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