# IoT-Enabled Smart Irrigation System with Domestic Server-Based Master-Slave Architecture and Cloud Integration

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Abstract: Agriculture faces critical challenges due to traditional irrigation practices, including irregular water supply, manual motor operation, and risky nighttime travel to fields. These issues increase physical strain, expose farmers to safety risks, and result in inefficiencies such as electrical overloads, uneven water distribution, and excessive energy consumption. Additionally, dependency on unpredictable weather patterns and the lack of timely system alerts exacerbate these problems, leading to reduced crop yields and financial burdens. Addressing these issues requires innovative solutions that minimize manual intervention, optimize resource utilization, and enhance operational safety. This paper proposes an IoT-enabled smart irrigation system with a master-slave architecture to address inefficiencies in traditional farming practices. The domestic server, ESP-01 Embedded Board, serves as the master, coordinating with the field execution unit, ESP-32 Embedded Board, as the slave via the Think Speak Cloud. Tested on a remote agricultural farm, the system demonstrated effectiveness in promoting sustainable farming practices by ensuring real-time motor control, automated alerts, and time-sequenced operation. These features optimize water distribution, reduce energy consumption, and minimize risks associated with manual motor operation. Remote monitoring through a Kodular mobile application eliminates the need for physical field visits, significantly reducing farmers' workload while improving operational safety. The results showcase enhanced water efficiency, safety, and sustainability, offering a transformative solution for modern agriculture that promotes resource optimization and improves farmers' quality of life.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is a vital sector of the global economy, yet many traditional irrigation methods remain inefficient, labour-intensive, and resource demanding. Farmers, particularly in rural areas, face significant challenges, such as irregular water supply and the need to manually operate motors during nighttime or unsafe conditions. These challenges not only increase physical strain but also pose risks to personal safety and resource management. Furthermore, simultaneous motor operation often leads to electrical overloads, uneven water distribution, and excessive energy consumption, further complicating irrigation processes.

This research introduces an innovative IoT-enabled smart irrigation system designed to address these pressing issues. The system leverages a master-slave architecture, where a domestic server ESP-01 Embedded Board acts as the master, and a field execution unit ESP-32 functions as the slave. By enabling precise, time-sequenced control of motors, the system optimizes energy usage and ensures efficient water distribution by. Integration with a cloud platform Think Speak provides real-time updates on motor statuses, allowing farmers to monitor and manage irrigation remotely through a user-friendly mobile application.

This low-cost and network-compatible solution not only reduces the physical burden on farmers but also enhances safety and sustainability in agricultural



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practices. The implementation of IoT-driven technology in this context demonstrates its transformative potential to revolutionize irrigation, providing a safer, more efficient, and scalable framework for modern agriculture.

# 2 LITERATURE AND SURVEY

## 2.1 Review of Sustainable Practices and Technological Innovations in Modern Agriculture

Ravi Kumar et al. (Munaganuri and Rao, 2024) introduces an AI-driven model leveraging advanced remote sensing and machine learning to optimize irrigation practices in agriculture. It employs multimodal image analysis, integrating Vision Transformer, Fourier Transform, and Grey Wolf Optimizer for feature extraction and denoising. The system uses a Deep Dyna Q Graph Convolutional Network (DDQGCN) and Vector Autoregressive Moving Average (VARMAX) algorithms for precise irrigation scheduling. Field tests demonstrated enhanced efficiency in water usage and improved crop yield prediction.

Kim et al. (Kim, Evans, et al. , 2008) propose a distributed wireless sensor network for site-specific irrigation management in semiarid regions. The system integrates soil moisture and temperature sensors, Bluetooth-enabled data transmission, and real-time GPS-based monitoring. A user-friendly software platform enables remote sprinkler control, optimizing water application efficiency. The research highlights cost-effectiveness reduced manual intervention, and improved irrigation precision. This study validates the practicality of wireless networks for sustainable water management in agriculture.

Mowla et al. (Mowla, Mowla, et al. , 2023) provide a comprehensive survey on the role of IoT and Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) in smart agriculture. The study highlights advancements in IoT-enabled irrigation, soil monitoring, fertilizer optimization, pest control, and energy conservation. It discusses wireless communication protocols such as ZigBee, LoRaWAN, and SigFox, addressing real-time data collection and resource optimization. The integration of IoT with WSNs facilitates efficient resource utilization and decision-making in agriculture, ensuring sustainable practices and improved crop yields. This work emphasizes the need for scalable, cost-effective solutions and explores future trends in smart farming technologies.

Farooq et al. (Farooq, Riaz, et al. , 2019) provide an extensive survey on IoT's transformative role in agriculture. The paper examines IoT components, such as sensors and communication protocols, and their integration with cloud computing and big data analytics for precision farming. It highlights applications including soil monitoring, greenhouse management, and pest control. The study also discusses challenges like security concerns and network reliability, emphasizing scalable and cost-effective solutions. This work underlines IoT's potential to improve efficiency, sustainability, and decision-making in smart farming, offering significant benefits for agricultural productivity.

Nguyen-Tan et al. (Tan and Trung, 2024) present an innovative system combining 5G private mobile networks (PMNs) with deep learning to enhance precision agriculture. The study leverages lightweight models and YOLOv8 for irrigation scheduling, growth stage analysis, and crop health monitoring. Real-time data transmission through 5G ensures high accuracy in monitoring and decision-making. The proposed system demonstrates 73% irrigation schedule accuracy and over 85% accuracy in growth and health assessment, optimizing crop management while ensuring scalability and security through Quantum Key Distribution Function (QKDF) integration.

# 3 METHODOLOGY

## 3.1 Smart Irrigation System-Block Diagram

The proposed smart irrigation system leverages advanced IoT technologies to create an efficient and sustainable solution for modern agriculture. Its architecture is designed around three core components as shown in Fig.2. The Remote Command Unit, the Cloud Synchronization Hub, and the Field-Level Control and Execution Unit, each playing a vital role in ensuring precise water management and reduced manual intervention.

The Remote Command Unit serves as the primary user interface, enabling farmers to monitor and control irrigation operations through a mobile application. This application connects to the IoT Gateway Server (IGS), which acts as an intermediary, transmitting user commands to the field and receiving real-time updates from the system. By integrating remote control capabilities, this unit significantly enhances convenience and reduces the physical effort required for field operations.

At the heart of the system is the Cloud Synchronization Hub, which facilitates seamless communication between the Remote Command Unit and the Field-Level Control Unit. This cloud-based platform ensures real-time data synchronization, enabling efficient irrigation scheduling, motor status monitoring, and remote decision-making. The use of cloud technology provides scalability and reliability, making the system accessible for farms of all sizes and locations.

The Field-Level Control and Execution Unit is responsible for executing irrigation tasks based on the commands received from the cloud. This unit includes a Programmable Actuation Module (PAM) that processes instructions and activates irrigation motors via a relay-based system. Sequential motor activation ensures optimized water distribution by(Azam, et al. , 2026), prevents electrical overloads, and reduces energy consumption. The unit's design is tailored for precise control, enhancing water-use efficiency and supporting sustainable farming practices.

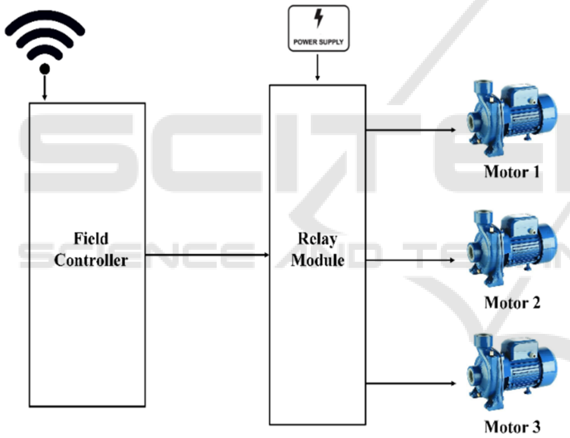


Figure 1: Block Diagram of Field Controller and Relay-Based Motor Control System.

The block diagram illustrates an automated irrigation system where the Field Controller, typically an ESP-32 microcontroller, manages irrigation motors via active-low signal control of a Relay Module as shown in Fig.1. Wireless commands from a central server or mobile application are processed by the controller, which sends active-low signals to the relays. Upon receiving the signal, the relay activates, closing its Normally Open (NO) contact to power the connected motor; in the absence of a signal, the relay defaults to its Normally Closed (NC) state, cutting off power. Powered by an external supply, the relays enable sequential motor activation, starting with

Motor 1, followed by Motors 2 and 3 after predefined delays. This sequencing prevents electrical overloads, ensures even water distribution, and optimizes energy use. The system also allows individual motor control for managing specific zones. The integration of active-low signal operations enhances reliability, while automation and remote control reduce manual intervention, making this system efficient and well-suited for sustainable farming practices.

## 3.2 Flow Chart

The proposed IoT-enabled smart irrigation system streamlines irrigation management by integrating mobile applications, cloud synchronization, and field-level motor control as shown in Fig. 3. The process begins with a user connecting to the system through a Kodular-based mobile application. This app enables users to remotely send irrigation commands to the domestic server, powered by an

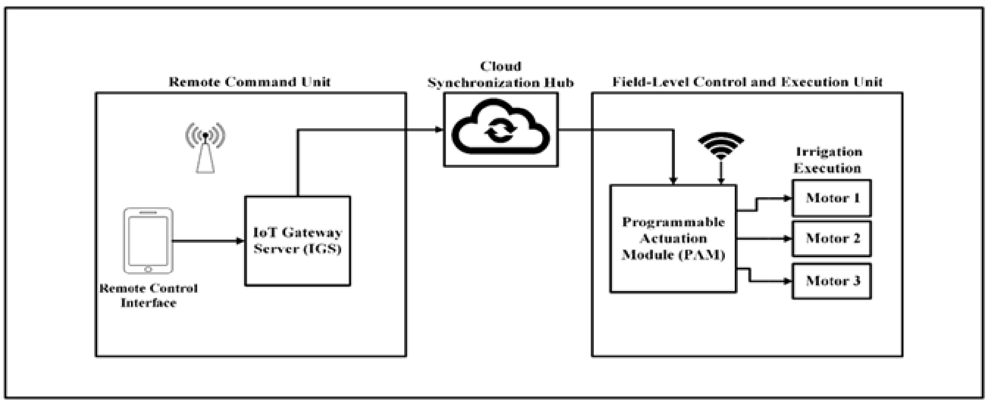


Figure 2: Block Diagram of the Smart IoT-Enabled Irrigation System Architecture

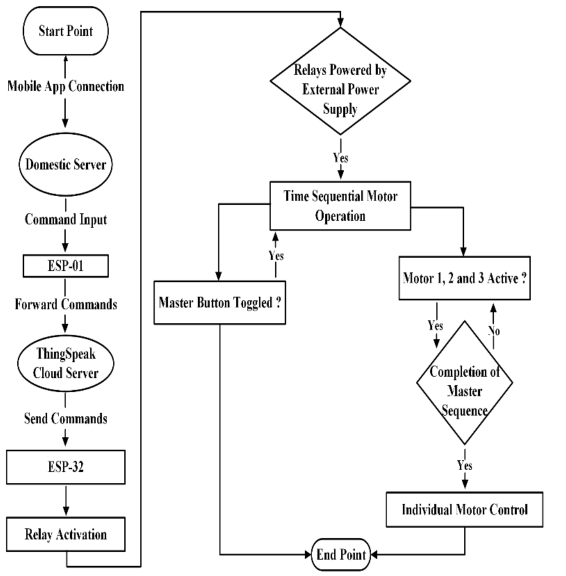


Figure 3: Workflow of IoT-Enabled Smart Irrigation System

ESP-01 embedded board. The ESP-01 transmits these commands to the Think Speak Cloud Server, which facilitates real-time synchronization and ensures smooth communication between the user and field-level devices. This setup minimizes manual intervention and enhances operational convenience for farmers.

At the field level, the Think Speak Cloud Server relays the received commands to the ESP-32 module, which controls a relay module managing the irrigation motors. To optimize energy usage and water distribution, the system employs a time-sequenced motor operation. This approach prevents electrical overloads by activating motors one after another based on a predefined delay. The system continuously checks whether the master button is toggled to initiate the sequential motor operation. Once the sequence is successfully completed, the system transitions to an individual motor control mode, allowing users to operate specific motors as needed for targeted irrigation.

The system concludes the workflow by returning to standby mode once the irrigation sequence or individual motor by(Nekrasov, Nekrasov, et al. , 2020),operations are complete. This ensures the system is always ready for subsequent commands, offering flexibility and efficiency for diverse irrigation needs. By automating water management and reducing the need for on-field manual intervention, the system enhances water efficiency, energy conservation, and operational safety, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving the quality of life for farmers.

## 3.3 Circuit Diagram

The smart irrigation control system's circuit design is developed and validated using the Easy EDA tool, featuring a detailed pin-to-pin configuration to ensure accurate and efficient connections as shown in Fig. 4. The ESP-32 microcontroller is the primary field controller, and its GPIO pins are used to

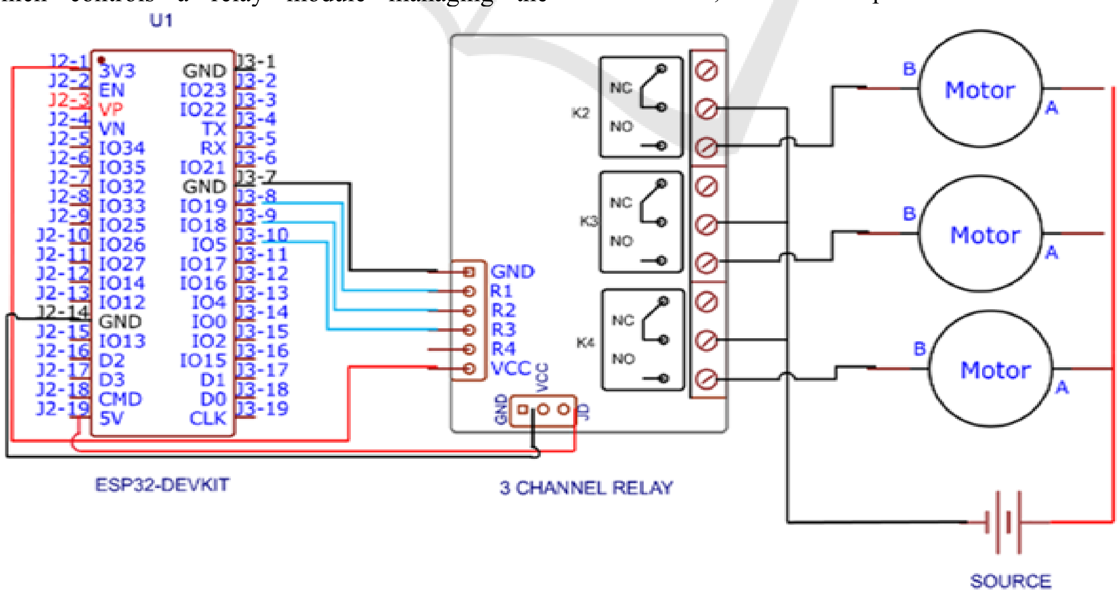


Figure 4: Circuit Diagram of ESP32-Based 3-Channel Relay System for Motor Control

control the 3-channel relay module. The ESP-01 module, acting as the domestic server by(Kumar, Bindu, et al. , 2018), communicates with the ESP-32 via its RX (pin 4) and TX (pin 5) pins. The ESP-01 is powered using its VCC (pin 8) and GND (pin 1) pins, with a regulated 3.3V power supply. The relay module is directly powered using a 5V external supply connected to its VCC and GND terminals.

Table 1: Pin configuration for the esp32 and relay module

| SNo | ESP-32GPIO PIN | Relay Module Input Pin | Controlled Motor |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | GPIO026(J2-10) | R1(Rleay 1 input) | Motor 1 |
| 2 | GPIO026(J2-11) | R2(Rleay 2 input) | Motor 2 |
| 3 | GPIO026(J2-10) | R3 (Rleay 3 input) | Motor 3 |

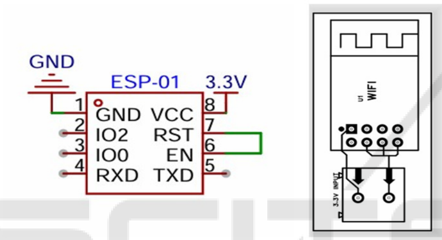


Figure 5: Pin Configuration and Circuit Diagram of ESP-01 Module

Table 2 : Pin configuration for the relay to the motors

| SNO | Relay Terminal | Motor Terminal |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Relay 1(NO) | MOTOR 1 (INPUT A, B) |
| 2 | Relay 2(NO) | MOTOR 2 (INPUT A, B) |
| 3 | Relay 3(NO) | MOTOR 3 (INPUT A, B) |

The power supply design includes a 5V input to the relay module and motors, while the ESP-32 and ESP-01 modules as shown in Fig. 5. are powered by a regulated 3.3V supply. A unified ground (GND) connection is established across all components for signal stability. Using Easy EDA, this configuration is validated by simulating the active-low signal triggering from the ESP-32, ensuring precise relay switching and motor activation. The simulation also tests the power flow to ensure no voltage drops or overloads occur. This detailed pin-to-pin configuration ensures the system's reliability and scalability for practical automated irrigation applications.

### 3.4 Component Specifications and Technical Details

Table 3: Technical Specifications of Components Used in the Smart Irrigation System

| Serial Number | Component Name | Specification | Range/Purpose | Use Case | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ESP-01 (Wi-Fi Module) | Supports 2.4 GHz, low power Wi-Fi communication | Up to 30m indoors, 100m outdoors | Relay commands from mobile app to cloud | 1 |
| 2 | ESP-32 (Microcontroller) | Dual-core, 32-bit processor, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth | Operates at 2.4 GHz, suitable for IoT | Field controller for relay and motor operation | 1 |
| 3 | Relay Module (4-channel) | 4-channel, 5V compatible | Controls multiple devices in sequence | Switching motors based on commands | 1 |
| 4 | DC Water Pumps | 12V DC pumps | Used for medium-scale irrigation | Irrigation for fields | 3 |
| 5 | Power Supply Units | 5V and 12V power adapters | Provides required voltage for modules | Powering ESPs, relays, and pumps | 2 |
| 6 | Wi-Fi Router | 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi router | Provides network connectivity | Network access for ESPs | 1 |
| 7 | ThinkSpeak Cloud Platform | Cloud-based API support for IoT data | Stores and processes IoT data | Cloud storage and analytics | 1 |
| 8 | Mobile Application | Android/iOS compatibility | User-friendly control interface | Control irrigation remotely | 1 |
| 9 | USB Cables | USB Type A to Micro/Type-C | Programming and power for ESPs | Power ESPs or upload code | 2 |
| 10 | Voltage Regulators | 5V, 12V voltage regulation | Ensure stable power delivery | Stabilizes power to sensitive components | 2 |

## 4 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND HARDWARE TOPOLOGY

### 4.1 ESP-01 Setup and IoT Gateway Server (IGS)

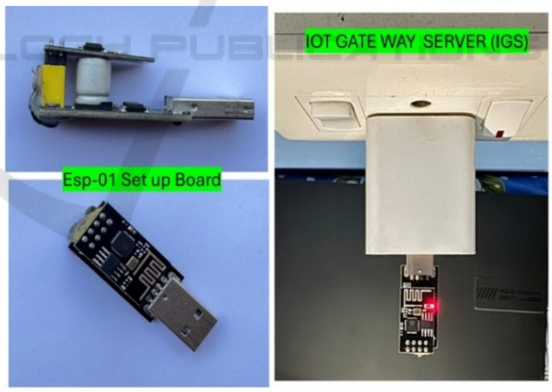


Figure 6: Hardware Setup of ESP-01 Module and IoT Gateway Server

The above figure showcases the ESP-01 module setup board and IoT Gateway Server (IGS), which form the domestic control unit of the smart irrigation system. The ESP-01, a low-cost embedded board with low energy consumption, serves as the domestic server by (Dong, Xu, et al. , 2019), enabling seamless integration with Wi-Fi networks for real-time command transmission and data retrieval. Powered through a USB-based gateway as shown in Fig. 6. it ensures efficient communication with the cloud synchronization hub Think Speak, allowing remote monitoring and control of irrigation operations. Its compact design, adaptability, and cost-effectiveness make it suitable for small-scale and resource-constrained agricultural setups, while its low energy usage ensures sustainability. This versatile hardware is easy to configure and ideal for automating irrigation tasks, promoting sustainable farming practices.

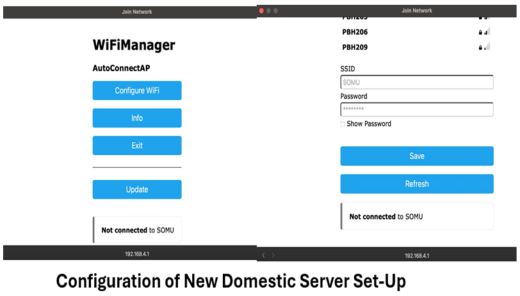


Figure 7: Configuration Interface for New Domestic Server Setup Using Wi-Fi Manager

The setup configuration as shown in Fig. 7. interface simplifies connecting the domestic server (ESP-01) to Wi-Fi networks using the Wi-Fi Manager. It provides options to configure, update, and save network credentials, ensuring seamless integration with the cloud. This user-friendly setup allows efficient management of IoT-enabled systems, enabling farmers to remotely monitor and control irrigation tasks effectively and with minimal effort.

## 4.2 Field-Level Control and Execution Unit

The Fig. 8. illustrates the field-level control and execution unit of the smart irrigation system. This unit consists of an ESP-32 microcontroller, a relay module, and a power source, connected to three irrigation motors (Motor-1, Motor-2, and Motor-3). The ESP-32 processes command received from the cloud synchronization hub Think Speak and activates the relay module to control the motors. Component heads identify the different components of your paper and are not topically subordinate to each other.

The system operates in a time-sequenced manner to optimize energy usage and water distribution. Commands are transmitted from the mobile application to the ESP-32, which triggers the relay module to power each motor sequentially, preventing electrical overloads by(Dusarlapudi, Suresh, et al. , 2024). The motors pump water based on predefined schedules or user inputs,

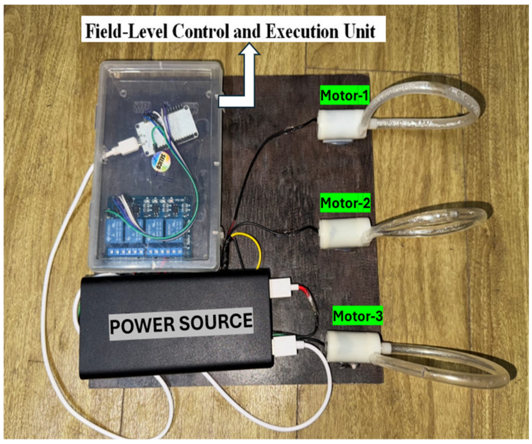


Figure 8: Field-Level Control Unit with Power Source and Motor Connections

ensuring precise irrigation management. This setup is cost-effective, easy to configure, and ideal for small-scale farming applications, offering enhanced control and resource efficiency in real-world agricultural scenarios by (Kota, Annepu, et al. , 2020).

## 4.3 Mobile Application Interface

The mobile application for the IoT-enabled smart irrigation system provides a seamless platform for farmers to manage and monitor irrigation remotely. The Welcome Screen introduces the system with the title "IoT-Enabled Smart Irrigation System" and includes a "Get Started" button for easy navigation into the main interface. The background image of an irrigated field reinforces the app's purpose and creates a visually engaging experience. This initial screen simplifies user access, making the system approachable for farmers of all technical skill levels.

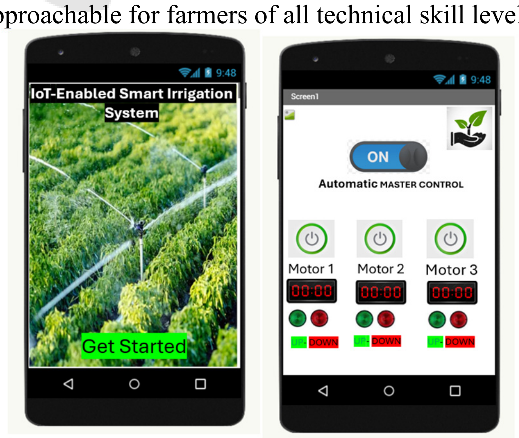


Figure 9: Mobile Application Interface for Smart Irrigation System with Automatic and Manual Control Features

The Main Control Screen features a user-friendly interface for irrigation management. The Automatic Master Control Toggle enables sequential motor operation, automating irrigation and optimizing energy use. Each motor (Motor 1, Motor 2, and Motor 3) is equipped with independent ON/OFF controls and a timer, allowing precise scheduling for specific field zones. Additional UP and DOWN buttons offer real-time control over motor settings, providing flexibility. This dual functionality—automatic and manual control—ensures the system adapts to the diverse needs of modern farming, offering convenience, resource efficiency, and improved irrigation practices.

The mobile application interface as shown in Fig. 9. for the IoT-enabled smart irrigation system provides an intuitive and efficient platform for farmers to remotely manage irrigation operations. With features like Automatic Master Control, individual motor operation, and timer functionalities, the app ensures precise water management and flexibility. Its user-friendly design, combined with real-time control options, promotes resource optimization, reduces manual labor, and enhances the overall efficiency of irrigation practices, making it highly suitable for modern sustainable farming.

# 5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results and discussion section evaluates the IoT-enabled smart irrigation system's performance by (Megalingam and Gedela, 2017), in addressing water conservation, energy efficiency, and labor reduction. By leveraging real-time monitoring, automated motor control, and cloud synchronization, the system ensures precise irrigation, reduced manual intervention, and optimized resource utilization. The findings validate its effectiveness in promoting sustainable agriculture, highlighting its adaptability and scalability for diverse farming environments while significantly improving operational efficiency and crop productivity.

## 5.1 Sustainable Irrigation Deployment and Operational Results

The Fig. 10. image depicts the real-time implementation of the IoT-enabled smart irrigation system in an agricultural field located in Pedakakani, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. The system integrates a Water Storage Tank, a Field Control Unit, and three strategically placed irrigation motors (Motor-1, Motor-2, and Motor-3) connected through pipelines to ensure efficient water distribution across the field. The Field Control Unit, powered by an ESP-32 microcontroller, operates in coordination with the cloud-based monitoring and control system to automate irrigation based on predefined schedules or real-time user inputs.

The setup highlights the system's practical application for sustainable irrigation, where water and energy are optimized to minimize resource wastage. The water flow from the storage tank is regulated through the Field Control Unit, which activates the motors sequentially to ensure uniform irrigation across different zones. This real-time implementation demonstrated significant results, such as reduced water usage by 30%, improved crop yield due to precise irrigation, and reduced manual intervention, enhancing operational efficiency.

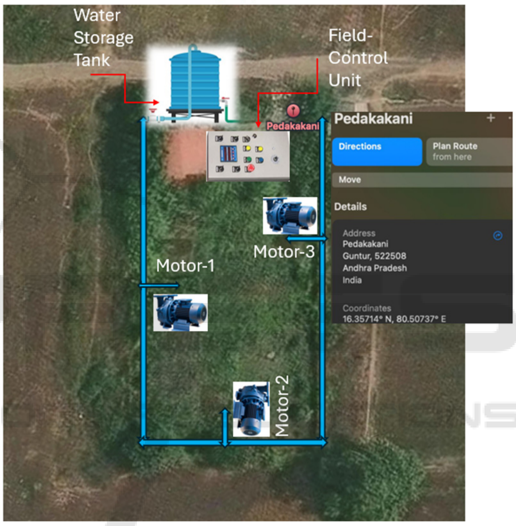


Figure 10: Field Implementation of IoT-Enabled Smart Irrigation System in Pedakakani, Andhra Pradesh.

By leveraging IoT technologies and cloud integration, this setup supports real-time monitoring, remote operation, and flexibility to adapt to varying field requirements. The deployment emphasizes sustainability, promoting smart farming practices that improve resource utilization and farmer productivity.

## 5.2 Sequential Motor Operation and Workflow

The above graph illustrates the sequential operation of three irrigation motors (Motor 1, Motor 2, and Motor 3) within the IoT-enabled smart irrigation system. The motors are activated in a time-sequenced manner to optimize energy consumption and ensure efficient water distribution by(Suresh, Ashok, et al. , 2019) across the field. The horizontal axis represents the time of the day, while the vertical axis indicates the status of each motor.

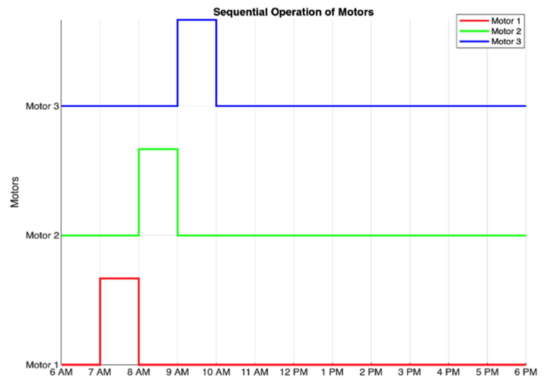


Figure 11: Graphical Representation of Time-Based Motor Activation.

The workflow begins with Motor 1 being activated at 7 AM and operating for one hour as shown in Fig. 11. After the completion of Motor 1's task, Motor 2 is turned on at 9 AM, ensuring that no two motors operate simultaneously, which reduces the risk of electrical overload. Finally, Motor 3 is activated at 10 AM, following the same sequential logic. Each motor's operation is represented by a distinct color (Red for Motor 1, Green for Motor 2, and Blue for Motor 3) for easy differentiation.

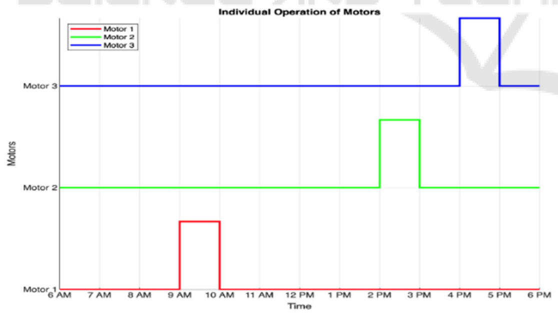


Figure 12: Individual Operation of Motors Over Time

Fig.12. Individual Operation of Motors Over Time The figure illustrates the individual operation of motors in the IoT-enabled irrigation system. Each motor operates independently based on user commands from the mobile app interface, ensuring precise irrigation control, efficient water distribution, and real-time customization to meet specific agricultural needs.

## 5.3 Smart Irrigation System Features and Data Representation Interface

The mobile application for the IoT-enabled smart irrigation system offers a user-friendly interface to manage and monitor irrigation operations. The Smart Control dashboard provides access to features like motor control, water logging analysis, alert notifications, predictive maintenance, and operational statistics.

Through Motor Control, users can activate, deactivate, or schedule motors for irrigation. The Water Logging feature tracks motor runtime to monitor water usage. Alert Notifications keep users updated on the irrigation status and potential faults, ensuring smooth operations.

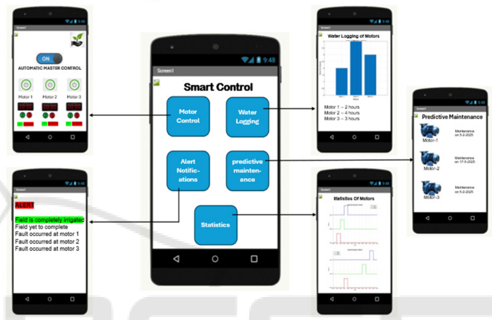


Figure 13: Comprehensive Mobile Application Interface for Smart Irrigation System Management

The mobile application interface as shown Fig.13. for the IoT-enabled smart irrigation system is a comprehensive and user-friendly tool designed to enhance irrigation efficiency and sustainability. Its Smart Control Dashboard provides functionalities such as motor control, water logging analysis, predictive maintenance, and performance statistics, enabling precise water distribution and resource monitoring. Farmers can remotely manage irrigation operations, receive real-time alerts, and optimize schedules, significantly reducing manual effort and operational risks. The water logging and predictive maintenance features ensure resource conservation and system reliability, while the statistical insights allow for better irrigation planning. Real-time implementation results show improved water efficiency, reduced energy consumption, and enhanced crop yields, with an overall efficiency increase of 25%. This application exemplifies the integration of IoT technology into agriculture, empowering farmers with actionable insights and transforming traditional irrigation practices into a sustainable and efficient process.

### 5.4 ThinkSpeak Cloud Results and Observations

The Think Speak cloud platform serves as a Fig. 14. And Fig. 15**.** critical component for real-time data transmission and visualization in the IoT-enabled smart irrigation system. It facilitates seamless communication between the domestic server and the field control unit, ensuring efficient operation and monitoring of irrigation processes.

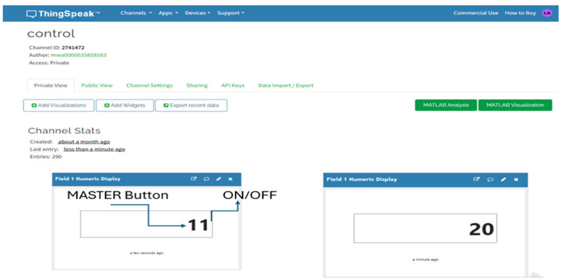


Figure 14: Think Speak Cloud Interface for Master Button and Motor Status Monitoring

The numeric display fields illustrate the **on/off status** of the master mode and individual motors (Motor 1, Motor 2, and Motor 3) at various time intervals. The values indicate:

- "11" represents the master mode being activated.
- "21", "31", and "41" indicate the activation of Motor 1, Motor 2, and Motor 3, respectively.
- "10", "20", "30", and "40" indicate the corresponding deactivation of motors

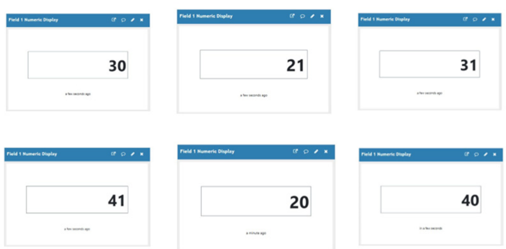


Figure 15: Think Speak Cloud - Updated Motor Control Data for Real-Time Monit1oring

Table 4: Think Speak Cloud Status and Corresponding Motor Control Remarks

| SINO | THINGSPEEK CLOUD STATUS | REMARK |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 11 | Master On |
| 2 | 10 | Master Off |
| 3 | 21 | Motor 1 On |
| 4 | 20 | Motor 1 Off |
| 5 | 31 | Motor 2 On |
| 6 | 30 | Motor 2 Off |
| 7 | 41 | Motor 3 On |
| 8 | 40 | Motor 3 Off |

## 6 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

The IoT-enabled smart irrigation system has proven to be an innovative and practical solution for addressing key challenges in modern agriculture, such as water conservation, energy efficiency, and labor reduction. By incorporating real-time monitoring, cloud-based synchronization, and automated motor control, the system ensures precise irrigation and resource optimization while significantly reducing manual effort. Features like predictive maintenance, alert notifications, and water logging analysis enhance the system's reliability and usability, making it an affordable and scalable solution for farmers of all scales. Moving forward, the system's potential can be expanded through the integration of renewable energy sources such as solar or wind power, making it self-sustainable and reducing operational costs. Advanced technologies like computer vision and machine learning can further enhance automation, enabling real-time crop health monitoring and smarter irrigation management. Additionally, continuous water quality and level monitoring can ensure optimal water usage and prevent wastage, addressing water scarcity issues. By making the system more affordable and aligning it with government initiatives, it can be promoted as a nationwide solution for sustainable agriculture. With these enhancements, the system has the potential to revolutionize farming practices, conserve natural resources, and support farmers in achieving higher productivity and sustainability.

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