

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A MICROCONTROLLER BASED AUTOMATED GREENHOUSE MONITORING AND CONTROL SYSTEM

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Abstract

Efficient environmental control remains a major challenge in greenhouse farming, where manual monitoring and semi-automated methods often lead to unstable growing conditions, reduced crop yield, and excessive use of water and energy. This study presents the design and implementation of an automated greenhouse monitoring system for real time environmental regulation. The system integrates temperature and humidity sensing using DHT11, soil moisture measurement using capacitive sensors, and light intensity detection using LDR sensors, all interfaced with an ESP32 microcontroller. A rule-based control mechanism was developed to automatically activate actuators such as water pumps, ventilation fans, and lighting when environmental parameters exceeded predefined thresholds. Experimental evaluation showed that the system maintained optimal environmental conditions 95 percent of the time with an average response time of less than 10 seconds. Comparative analysis with manual greenhouse management demonstrated a 30 percent reduction in water consumption and a 25 percent decrease in energy usage. The results indicate that the developed system provides a reliable and scalable approach for precision greenhouse management and sustainable crop production.

Keywords

*Greenhouse,
Environment,
ESP32
microcontroller,
Sensors, System*

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, Agricultural productivity is increasingly challenged by climate variability, irregular rainfall patterns, and rising temperatures, particularly in developing regions where environmental control technologies are limited [1], [2]. Automation has therefore become essential across multiple sectors, including agriculture, to address real world operational inefficiencies through intelligent monitoring and control systems [3]–[7]. Greenhouse cultivation provides a controlled environment that supports efficient crop production, seed generation, and transplanting by regulating internal climatic conditions. However, maintaining stable environmental parameters within greenhouses remains a critical challenge, especially in regions characterized by fluctuating weather conditions, resource constraints, and limited technical expertise [8].

In tropical environments, rapid variations in temperature, humidity, and light intensity can adversely affect plant growth, leading to reduced yield quality and increased susceptibility to plant diseases. Many greenhouse operators continue to rely on manual observation or semi-automated systems that are often inaccurate, labor intensive, and inefficient in resource utilization. Inconsistent monitoring contributes to excessive water consumption, increased energy demand, and unstable cultivation conditions, thereby increasing operational costs and environmental impact. Consequently, reliable and automated monitoring systems are essential for maintaining optimal greenhouse conditions and ensuring sustainable crop production.

Recent advances in embedded systems, robotics, and Internet of Things technologies have enabled real time environmental monitoring and automated regulation of agricultural processes [9]–[12]. IoT based systems allow sensors to collect and transmit environmental data automatically, enabling timely decision making without continuous human intervention [13]–[15]. Key environmental parameters required for greenhouse crop production include temperature, humidity, soil moisture, and light intensity, all of which must be continuously monitored and regulated to achieve optimal productivity [16], [17]. Automation in greenhouse systems typically relies on predefined threshold values that trigger actuators such as irrigation pumps, ventilation fans, heaters, and artificial lighting when environmental conditions deviate from acceptable ranges [18].

Existing studies report improvements in crop yield, enhanced resource efficiency, and reduced labor requirements through sensor-based greenhouse automation. Some systems have demonstrated significant reductions in water and energy consumption, as well as improved plant growth performance [11], [17], [18]. However, several limitations remain evident in the literature. Many proposed systems depend on stable internet connectivity, utilize complex architectures unsuitable for resource constrained environments, or emphasize monitoring without sufficiently responsive real time control. Challenges related to system scalability, infrastructure reliability, and adaptability for non-technical users continues to limit widespread adoption, particularly in developing regions [10], [11], [15]. Advanced techniques such as artificial intelligence and predictive modeling have been explored in controlled environments, their implementation in practical greenhouse systems remains limited due to cost, complexity, and deployment constraints. These gaps highlight the need for a robust, cost effective, and responsive automated greenhouse monitoring system capable of maintaining optimal environmental conditions while minimizing resource consumption. Addressing this need contributes directly to improved agricultural sustainability, efficient resource management, and enhanced food production under changing environmental conditions.

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

2.1. System Design

This Automated Greenhouse Monitoring System used sensors for detecting environment weather conditions, ESP32 microcontroller for capturing and processing of the signals and also to alert actuator to control the environment weather conditions. The project required some software as well as hardware. Software Components used are:- Arduino IDE and Telegram BOT. The Hardware Components used are:- 12v Transformer PSU, Relay, Sensors, Resistor, Breadboard, Jumper wire, ESP32 Microcontroller, LED and Actuators.

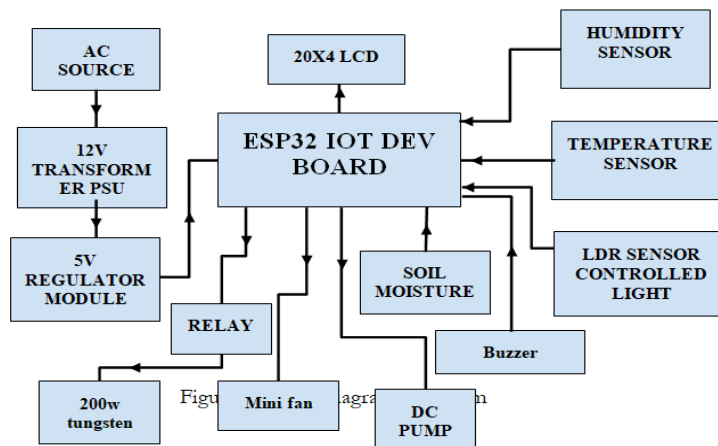


Figure 1: Block Diagram of System

2.2. Microcontroller and Display Integration

The ESP32 IoT Development Board was placed on a veroboard using female header pins to allow easy removal and replacement. A 20x4 LCD was mounted and connected to the ESP32 via an I2C LCD backpack, using jumper wires for SDA and SCL lines. This enabled the system to display real-time environmental readings. The I2C address of the LCD was identified and configured in the firmware to ensure proper communication with the ESP32. Sensors were installed on the board: Temperature and Humidity Sensor (DHT11): Connected to a digital pin of the ESP32, with a 10k pull-up resistor between the data pin and VCC.

Soil Moisture Sensor (TDR): Wired to an analog input of the ESP32 to detect water content in soil. LDR (Light Dependent Resistor): Connected with a 10k resistor in a voltage divider configuration to an analog pin to detect light intensity.

Actuator and Relay Driver Assembly

A relay module was mounted on the board and connected to a digital output pin of the ESP32. This relay was responsible for switching the 200W tungsten bulb on/off. The DC water pump and mini fan were also connected via relay channels for independent control. A c1815 transistor was used to build a relay driver circuit. A 4.7kΩ resistor limited the base current, while a 1N4007 diode protected the transistor from back

EMF generated by the relay coil. A 10 μF capacitor was used to suppress noise across the relay. A buzzer was wired to a digital pin and used for audio alerts based on programmed environmental thresholds. All components were permanently soldered onto the veroboard, ensuring compact arrangement and minimal wire clutter. All external modules and wires were reinforced using hot glue and super glue to ensure durability and shock resistance. The completed circuit was mounted inside a 6x9-inch PVC box. Cutouts were made for the LCD, USB port (for ESP32 programming), power input, and sensor cables. A lamp holder was connected to the relay output and mounted externally to accommodate the 200 W tungsten bulb.

2.3. Software Module

If the temperature is less than 20°C display temperature is too low and turn ON heater, but if the temperature is greater than 34°C display temperature is too high then turn ON fan. If temperature is between 20°C and 34°C temperature is normal, turn OFF both heater and fan.

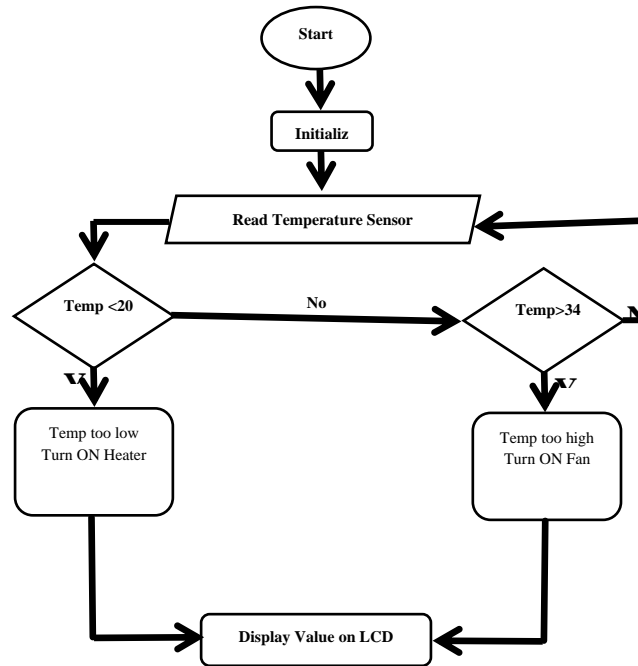


Figure 2: Temperature Sensor Flowchart

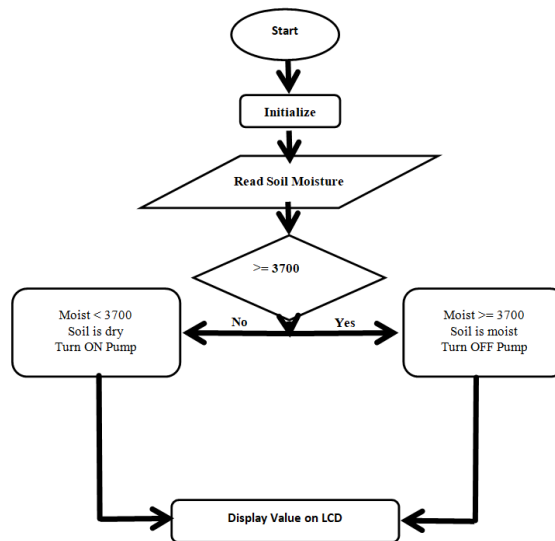


Figure 3: Soil Moisture Sensor Flowchart

2.4. Hardware Module

2.4.1. ESP32 IoT Dev board

ESP32 IoT Dev Board is a powerful microcontroller with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities, dual-core CPU, 520 kb RAM, 160 MHz to 240 MHz speed and 4 MB Flash memory. It serves as the brain of the system, it processes sensor inputs and controls actuators accordingly. It also provides wireless connectivity, sufficient processing power, and multiple GPIOs to support a scalable system.

2.4.2. 20x4 LCD display

20x4 LCD displays real-time environmental readings like soil moisture cm³, temperature (°C), humidity (%), and light levels (cd). Using the LCD with I2C backpack reduces pin usage on ESP32. The display helps users track system status instantly without needing a phone or app.

2.4.3. Humidity and Temperature Sensor (DHT11)

The humidity and temperature sensor measures atmospheric humidity to assess if air is too dry or humid for plant health and also measures air temperature to detect heat conditions that may harm plants. High humidity can cause mould growth; low humidity stresses plants. Automation enables responsive ventilation. It automates heating/cooling mechanisms using fan and bulb to stabilize humidity and temperature.

2.4.4 Soil Moisture Sensor

The soil moisture sensor detects the amount of moisture in the soil to determine when watering is necessary. It also prevents under/overwatering, reduces water waste and keeps root zone moisture ideal.

2.4.5 LDR (Light Dependent Resistor)

The LDR (Light Dependent Resistor) measures ambient light intensity, works with ESP32 to control supplemental growth lighting. It ensures plants receive enough light during low-sunlight conditions. It also saves power by turning off lights when unnecessary.

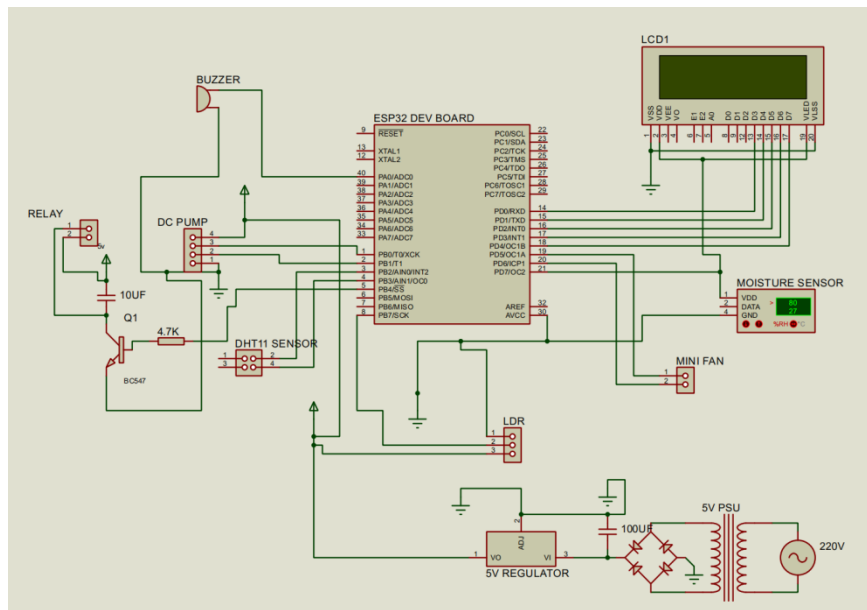


Figure 4: Circuit Diagram of the System

This system was programmed with C++ and Arduino IDE was used to write, compile, and upload the code that controls the system to the ESP32, it also manage sensor inputs, control logic and actuator outputs. Proteus was used in drawing the circuit diagram of the system. This software is crucial for processing sensors data, automating environmental control, and ensuring a user-friendly interface for monitoring and controlling the environmental conditions. This system uses Arduino IDE (Integrated Development Environment) for programming, and the software runs on the Arduino microcontroller to interact with sensors and control actuators.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 5 shows the system before and after casing. This represents the design results of the Automated Greenhouse Monitoring System before casing the design and after the design has been cased. The importance of casing is to prevent damage to some sensitive components.



Figure 5: Design Diagram before casing

Figure 6 shows the plot of temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) against time (minutes), Figure 7 shows the plot of humidity (%) against time (minutes), Figure 8 shows the plot of soil moisture (m^3) against time (minutes) and Figure 9 shows the plot of light intensity (cd) against time (minutes), the time interval ranges from 0 minute to 50 minutes. This system was tested in different environment at different time to ascertain the accuracy, validity and reliability of the system. The accuracy of the sensors was validated and the functionality of the actuator's response were confirmed. The performance of the remote control and monitoring capabilities was monitored to ensure user accessibility and system responsiveness. Control algorithms were optimized to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the greenhouse management system.

The temperature threshold value is between 20°C and 34°C . The temperature sensor detects the temperature of the environment and compare it with the threshold value. If the temperature is less than 20°C , the temperature is too low, then the system turns ON heater to regulate the temperature of the environment. If the temperature is greater than 34°C , the temperature is too high, the system turns ON fan to regulate the temperature of the environment. But if the temperature is between 20°C and 34°C , the temperature is normal, the system turns OFF both heater and fan. The result is display on the LCD and the process continues. The graph below shows the temperature results over 50 minutes.

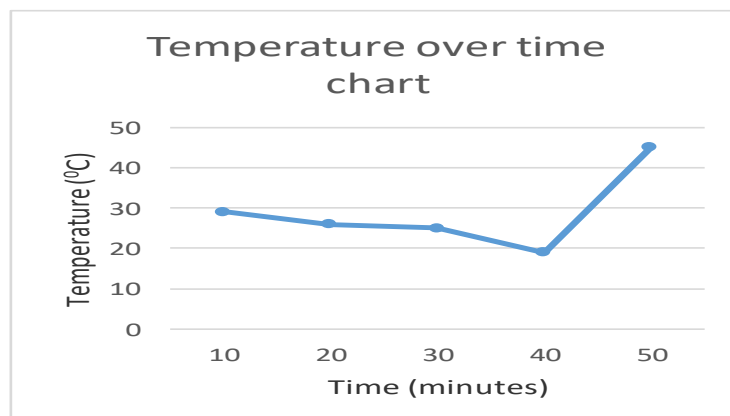


Figure 6: Temperature against time chart

The humidity threshold value is set to greater than or equal to 70%. The humidity sensor detects the humidity signal and compare it with the threshold value. If the humidity is less than 70%, the humidity is low, then the system turns ON Fan to regulate the humidity of the greenhouse. If the humidity is greater than 70%, the humidity is high, the system turns OFF fan to regulate the humidity of the greenhouse. The result is display on the LCD and the process continues. The graph below shows the humidity results over 50 minutes.

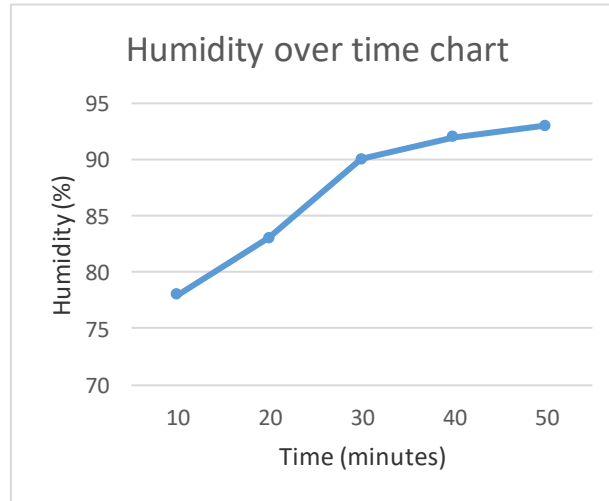


Figure 7: Humidity against time chart

The soil moisture threshold value is greater than or equal to 3700m³. The soil moisture sensor detects the water level of the soil and compare it with the threshold value. If the water level is less than 3700m³, the soil is dry, then the system turns ON pump to regulate the water level of the soil. If the water level is greater than 3700m³, the soil is moist, the system turns OFF pump to regulate the water level of the soil. The result is display on the LCD and the process continues. The graph below shows the soil moisture results over 50 minutes.

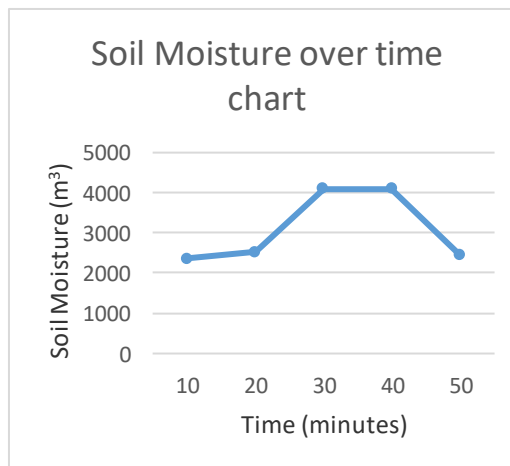


Figure 8: Soil moisture against time

The light intensity threshold value is set to greater than or equal to 1000cd. The light sensor detects the light signal and compare it with the threshold value. If the light intensity is less than 1000cd, it is dark, then the system turns ON light to regulate the light intensity of the greenhouse. If the light intensity is greater than 1000cd, it is bright, the system turns OFF fan to regulate the light intensity of the greenhouse. The result is display on the LCD and the process continues. Greenhouse monitoring and controlling system helps in understanding the climate inside a greenhouse. This project uses NodeMCU and IoT technology. The sensors in the system are connected and processed through NodeMCU using the Blynk IoT app. The system is programmed to set the right temperature and water flow based on what plants need. These ideal conditions help the plants grow well and stay protected. The system measures temperature, sunlight, humidity, and soil moisture. Using the Blynk IoT app, these readings are shown and can be controlled.

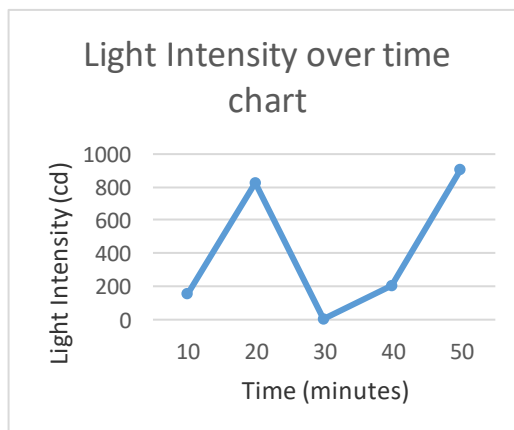


Figure 9: Light intensity against time chart

When the temperature goes above the programmed level, a DC motor starts to cool the greenhouse. The sunlight levels are also shown on the app based on the light sensor. Soil moisture is displayed both on the app and an LCD screen. If the soil becomes too dry, the DC motor turns on and starts pumping water until the soil reaches the desired moisture level. This is done through the soil sensor. The motor stops once the moisture level is back to the set point. The soil moisture system can also be set to work on a timer. By keeping the temperature, humidity, soil moisture, and sunlight at the right levels, the plant grows in the best condition for good production. The system monitors and controls the greenhouse parameters in real time. All the data is shown on a cloud dashboard, and the conditions are automatically kept in the best range. The Automated Greenhouse Monitoring System has 95% accuracy in maintaining the right environment. It responds within 10 seconds when it needs to activate any equipment. Compared to manual monitoring, this system uses 30% less water and 25% less energy, also increases farm produce by 18% and improves farm produce quality by 15% in terms of size and uniformity.

4. CONCLUSION

The implementation of an IoT-based smart greenhouse monitoring system has proved to be a game-changer for the agriculture sector, which previously relied on labor-intensive and time-consuming traditional monitoring methods. The proposed system has not only saved time, money, and human effort but has also provided a controlled environment for the plants, resulting in an overall increase in yield. The smart greenhouse automatically optimizes various parameters for plant growth and sends real-time data to a customized webpage for continuous and effective monitoring. This project can be used not only in greenhouses, botanical gardens, and agriculture farms but also in mechanical companies and mills to measure various parameters of operating machines such as temperature and others with minimal modifications.

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