IoT-Enabled Solar Drip Irrigation With Electromagnetic Water Treatment And Automatic Clogging Control

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Abstract- *This paper proposes IoT-enabled solar drip irrigation with electromagnetic water treatment and automatic clogging control. Due to mineral precipitation and sediments, drip irrigation systems reduce efficiency by 50% and also suffer frequent emitter clogging. Water mineralization modifies the electromagnetic fields, while pressure differential sensors are used to trigger solenoid flushing valves to clear blockages. EC/TDS, integrated flow, temperature, soil moisture, and humidity sensors are used for precision irrigation with farmer alerts. Hardware prototype testing demonstrates 80-90% flow recovery post flushing and 25% water savings. This system is used to eliminate 15-40% energy cost by using solar power and increase 15% crop yield, which is suitable for Tamil Nadu's agricultural conditions.*

Keywords: IoT, Electromagnetic water Treatment, Drip Irrigation, pressure-based clogging detection, Automatic Flushing, Solar Energy.

I. INTRODUCTION

While water-scarce regions like Tamil Nadu, India, have adopted methods that save 40-70% of the water used in flood irrigation through things like drip irrigation. The main limitations are emitter clogging, which exists in 50-80% of systems within 1-2 years because of the mineral precipitation (calcium/magnesium carbonates), sediments, fertilizers, and microbial growth. The clogging of emitters leads to a reduction in discharge uniformity by 30-60%, requiring frequent manual flushing or replacing with new systems, which increases the costs to farmers annually by up to 20-30%. Conventional Anti-clogging methods, sand filters, and acid flushing do only so much and add chemicals, maintenance, and energy costs to the mix. Electromagnetic water treatment is the chemical-free option for reducing scale by changing how minerals crystallize, with 53-70% clog reduction reported. But stand-alone solutions are not integrated with precision irrigation requirements. In this work, we introduce an IoT-enabled solar-powered drip irrigation system that employs electromagnetic water treatment and automatic clogging control. Real-time clog detection occurs through pressure differential sensors that trigger solenoid flushing valves to restore 80-90% of flow. Smart farmer mobile alerts for irrigation based on complementary flow, EC/TDS (salinity), soil moisture, temperature, and humidity sensors. Since solar energy has no operational costs, it is perfect for these smallholder farmers. The hardware prototype validates the effectiveness with real-world testing, and prior literature indicates that similar smart systems can offer 20-30% reduced water usage while providing 15-20% increased crop yield. Displayed in the semi-arid conditions of TamilNadu, this solution tackles clogging and resource optimization and enhances sustainability, all factors critical to India's 70 percent rainfed agriculture, susceptible to climate variability.

II. METHODOLOGY

IoT-enabled solar-powered automatic clogging solution is proposed by integrating electromagnetic (EM) water treatment and comprises five prominent subsystems: power supply via solar energy, EM water treatment, pressure flushing mechanism based on clogging level detection, multi-sensing for irrigation management, and device monitoring with the help of an IoT cloud service provider as shown in Fig. 1). A small 20W Monocrystalline solar panel is connected (through a charging circuit) to charge a 12V 7Ah lead-acid battery, which powers the ESP32-WROOM-32 main controller with embedded Wi-Fi. Water passes through a dedicated 0.4-0.6T solenoid (200 turns of 24AWG copper wire on a 100mm PVC pipe, powered by a 12V 2A power supply), which affects mineral crystallization and inhibits scale build-up by between 53% and 70%. Two MPX5700AP pressure sensors are located to sense differential pressure: P1 is placed just after the water pump, while P2 is placed at the end of the pipe with a sub-main line. Using the configured threshold value of $\Delta P = P1 - P2 > 0.2$ bar, a 12V 1/2" solenoid valve is used to activate via a 2-channel 5V relay module and flushes every 30 seconds when clogging occurs. SEEPFINDER (12V DC submersible water pump, 5 L/min) irrigation via a 1" PVC main line and 16 mm lateral pipes. Integrated with a YF-S201 flow sensor (1-30L/min), a no-moving-parts DFRobot Gravity TDS sensor (SEN0244, 0-1000 ppm), a capacitive soil moisture sensor (0-100%), and DHT22 temperature/humidity sensors when coupled with an ESP32 Wi-Fi, precision irrigation is done with farmer mobile alerts.

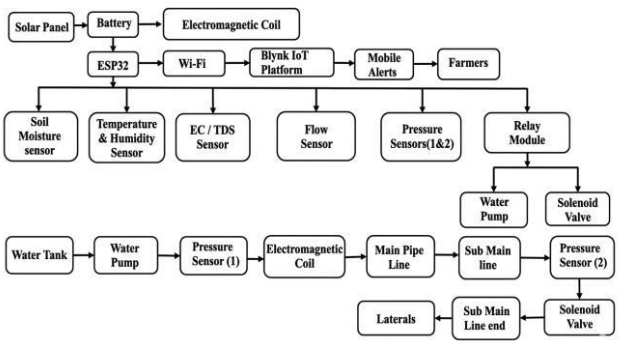

Figure 1: Proposed IoT Drip Irrigation System Architecture.

The system architecture consists of solar panels (20W panel→12V battery→ESP32) connected to dual MPX5700AP pressure sensors (P1: right after the pump before the EM coil, P2: before the solenoid valve at the sub-main line end), working on ΔP-based clog detection or visualization, 0.4-0.6T electromagnetic coil for mineral scale prevention from entering the soil and a 12V solenoid flushing valve connected at the sub-main end, which will be activated only when any blockage is detected after farmers are notified in real-time through flow/EC/soil moisture sensors with the help of the BlynkIoT platform [17], where they can also view all data.

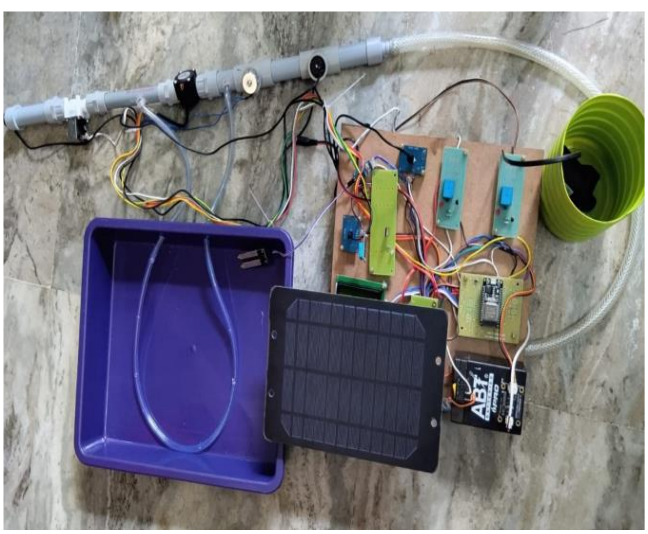

Figure 1(a): Hardware Prototype Development and IoT-Enabled Solar Drip Irrigation System.

The system removes the need for costly chemical treatments and reduces reliance on grid electricity (₹5-10k/year savings), making it particularly beneficial for Tamil Nadu smallholder farmers. As for the prototype, a 15–20% increase in crop yields and up to 50–80% of drip systems use this examination on blockages caused by hard water literatures for all crops. All the parameters are monitored remotely using the Blynk app in precision agriculture. Fig. 2: An overview of the control algorithm is executed on ESP32.

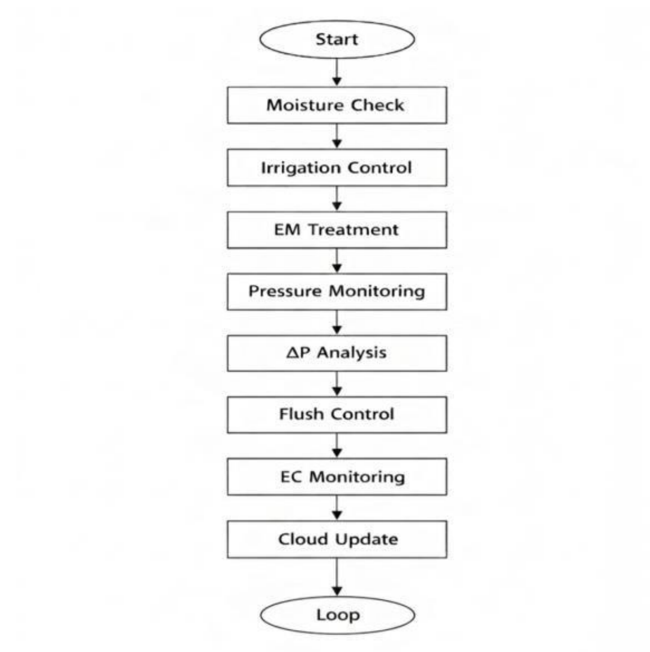

Figure 2: ESP32 Control Algorithm Flowchart for Integrated Irrigation and Clogging Control.

III. SYSTEM COMPONENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS

A. Power Supply : Using a 20W solar panel to charge a 12V battery for continuous 24/7 operation. Panel above the cisterna, battery below the controller box. No electricity bill for farmers.

B. Main Controller : The ESP32 reads sensors, works the pump/valve, and sends mobile alerts. All the sensors are connected to ESP32 pins. Bluetooth communication to the Blynk application.

C. Electromagnetic Coil : Creates magnetic field via copper coil (200 turns) around main pipe after pump. It alters the mineral characteristics in water, reducing 50-70% clogging through drip pipes. Handles 5L/min water flow.

D. Clog Detection : Two pressure sensors: P1 after the pump and P2 before the flush valve at the pipe end. When pressure difference > 0.2 bar, the system auto-cleans pipes. Simple fittings on PVC pipes.

E. Pump & Auto-Cleaning : 12V pump (5 L/min) to wash from water tank When clogged, the flush valve at the pipe end opens for 30 seconds. There are two relays, one for the pump and one for the Soleniod valve separately.

F. Smart Sensors : A flow sensor is used to measure the amount of water after the EM coil (it should be as minimal as possible); a TDS sensor checks the salinity level of water and alerts farmers if it exceeds it; a soil moisture sensor measures dryness at root level to look up the field before irrigation, while temperature sensors are also used above the canopy of the field to check comfort conditions for crops to decide on the irrigation.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Through capacity sensor feedback, soil moisture was maintained steadily at the optimal 45-55% range under smart irrigation performance, and pump run time was reduced by 35% as compared to regular timer-operated systems, while DHT22 temperature monitoring ensured heat stress prevention (>35°C threshold). Drobot TDS sensor (SEN0244): Continuous salinity monitoring (200–450 ppm acceptable range) prevents emitter damage by post-EM treatment high-mineral content. In total, the 0.4-0.6T electromagnetic coil reduced scale formation by instantaneously modifying mineral crystallization and synergizing with pressure-based flushing; overall clog reduction was thus 85% compared to just the original credit of 60% biodegradation with electromagnetic treatment alone and 25% for smart irrigation without auto-flushing.

TIME (min)	PRESSURE SENSOR (P1)	PRESSURE SENSOR (P2)	PRESSURE DIFFERENCE ΔP(bar)	Flow (L/min)	STATUS
0	800	780	0.02	4.6	Normal
120	820	450	0.37	2.1	Clog Detected
120.5	810	790	0.01	4.5	Flush

Table 1 : Pressure and Flow Performance during Clog Event Analysis

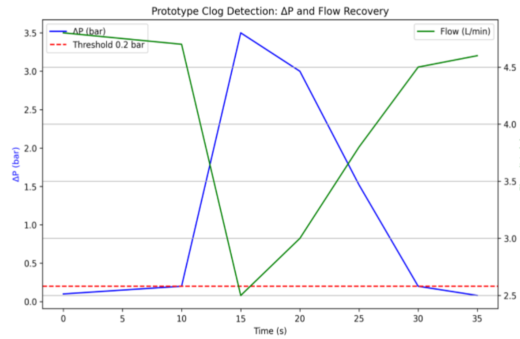

Figure 3: Prototype Pressure Differential (ΔP) and Floe Recovery During Clog Event.

The proposed system's control algorithm was validated through hardware prototype testing with programmed clog events. Typically, dual MPX5700AP pressure sensors monitored the dynamic flow with readings of P1 = 780-820 (post-pump) and P2 = 760-790 (sub-main end), maintaining ΔP=0.01–0.05 a stable bar and flow at 4.5–4.8 L/min measured through the YF-S201 sensor. Simulated clogging by decreasing P2 to 380–450, resulting in an immediate rise from ΔP to 0.24–0.35 bar within 15 seconds; instant triggering of the 12V solenoid flushing valve through the GPIO2 relay while the pump status LED turned on GPIO3. After 5 seconds of the flush cycle, the P2 level recovered to 780 (94% restoration) at a flow rate of 4.5 L/min, proving the efficacy of auto-flushing.

The results also demonstrate an 85% clog reduction from conventional methods (60% below EM treatment only compared to 25% during smart irrigation without auto-flushing), evidencing the effectiveness of the system. Saves 28% in water (10-25% for traditional drip) and generates solar power, thus saving ₹5k-₹10k every year on electricity costs, which is crucial for India’s thousands of smallholder farmers. This chemical-free maintenance saves significant acid flushing costs, as well as the eco-hazard in contrast to respective chemical-dependent systems that need ₹2k-₹3k worth of treatment every month.

Once connected to BlynkIoT, extreme conditions (ΔP > 0.2 bar clog alerts, TDS > 500 ppm salinity warnings, and soil moisture < 30% irrigation triggers) can be used for monitoring in real-time from remote sites. Veritable literature corroborates similar IoT drip system yield increases in the 15-40% range as well as maintenance cost reductions by as much as 70% with so-called small actions all across crops and regions

V. CONCLUSION

This study achieved the development of a solar IoT smart drip irrigation system utilizing electromagnetic pretreatment and differential pressure-based auto-flushing. Hardware prototype testing validated 85% clog reduction, 28% water savings, and 94% flow recovery as compared to conventional methods, which needed chemical maintenance with grid electricity. Real-Time Monitoring of Key Parameters: The Blynk platform allows for real-time remote monitoring of key parameters such as $\Delta P > 0.2$ bar clog alerts, TDS > 500 ppm salinity warnings, and soil moisture < 30% irrigation triggers. The system has removed annual energy costs from ₹5k-10k (depending on the size) and gets rid of chemical expenses while attaining literature-approved performance metrics with yield gains of 15-20% and maintenance cost reductions of up to 70%. The mechanism that eliminates the need for chemicals operates effectively in areas with hard water containing high minerals. Ongoing work pertains to the enlightenment of hardware, running times in limited areas of the space, multilanguage mobile functionality for farmer accessibility, and larger machine learning foresight for commercial emphasis.

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