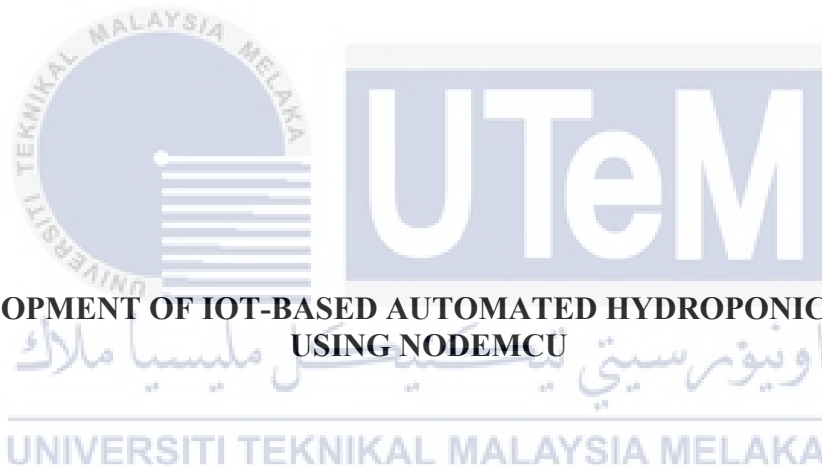




Faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technology



DEVELOPMENT OF IOT-BASED AUTOMATED HYDROPONIC SYSTEM USING NODEMCU

MUHAMMAD ZULHILMI BIN FAZLI

**Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Technology (Industrial Automation & Robotics)
with Honours**

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**DEVELOPMENT OF IOT-BASED AUTOMATED HYDROPONIC SYSTEM
USING NODEMCU**

MUHAMMAD ZULHILMI BIN FAZLI

**A project report submitted
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Technology (Industrial Automation & Robotics)
with Honours**



Faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technology

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I declare that this project report entitled “Development Of IoT-Based Automated Hydroponic System Using Nodemcu” is the result of my own research except as cited in the references. The project report has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted in candidature of any other degree.

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ABSTRACT

Hydroponics is a way to grow plants that doesn't use soil. Instead, the roots of the plants are exposed to a particular nutrient-rich water solution. This field of study focused mostly on monitoring and controlling the nutrient, water level, and moisture of the plant growth. Increasing IoT and automation features in hydroponics will solve the issues associated with regulating these resources. In this project, the water solvent was equipped with sensors that were linked to a microcontroller, allowing the presence of nutrients to be monitored. This project utilized the TDS sensors, water level sensor as well as soil moisture sensor. All of the sensors are managed and controlled by a microcontroller, known as the NodeMCU ESP32 microcontroller. The data is transmitted to the server and will be viewed and accessible through smartphones. In addition, the acquired data will be evaluated for a variety of applications.



ABSTRAK

Hidroponik ialah suatu kaedah atau cara menanam tumbuhan yang tidak memerlukan penggunaan tanah. Sebaliknya, akar tumbuhan tersebut akan terdedah kepada larutan air yang kaya dengan nutrien. Kajian di dalam bidang hidroponik ini kebanyakannya tertumpu kepada pemantauan dan kawalan nutrient, paras air, dan kelembapan yang menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan tumbuhan tersebut. Peningkatan ciri-ciri IoT dan automasi di dalam bidang hidroponik akan menyelesaikan isu yang berkaitan dengan mengawal sumber-sumber ini. Pelarut air yang dilengkapi dengan penderia yang dihubungkan dengan mikropengawal, membolehkan kehadiran nutrien dipantau secara sistematik. Projek ini menggunakan penderia paras air, penderia kelembapan tanah dan juga penderia TDS. Kesemua penderia ini diuruskan dan dikawal oleh mikropengawal dikenali sebagai NodeMCU ESP32. Data dihantar ke pelayan dan boleh dilihat dan dihubungkan kepada telefon pintar pengguna. Data yang diperoleh boleh dinilai untuk pelbagai aplikasi.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
APPROVAL	
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF APPENDICES	xiii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	2
1.3 Project Objectives	3
1.4 Scope of Project	3
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 Overview	4
2.2 Current Hydroponic System's Technology	4
2.2.1 A Nutrient Film Technique	5
2.2.2 Ebb and Flow System	5
2.2.3 Wick system	6
2.3 Studies Related to Automated Hydroponic system's Component	7
2.3.1 Arduino IDE Software	7
2.3.2 Node MCU ESP-32 Microcontroller	8
2.3.3 Sensors	9
2.3.4 Display Unit	10
2.3.5 Blynk	11
2.4 Previous Related Research Work	12
2.4.1 Raspberry pi vs Arduino vs NodeMCU (ESP8266 or ESP32)	12
2.4.2 Design and Construct Intelligent Tank "Water Level Sensor"	13
2.4.3 The control system for the nutrition concentration of hydroponic using web server	13
2.4.4 IoT-based temperature and humidity monitoring system for smart garden	14
2.4.5 A sensor based system for automatic environmental control in hydroponics	14

2.4.6	Design and Development of IoT based Hydroponic Farming Setup for Production of Green Fodder	15
2.4.7	Automated Hydroponic system	15
2.5	Previous Researcher Works Comparison	16
2.6	Summary	17
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY		18
3.1	Overview	18
3.2	Project Milestone	19
3.3	Milestone 1: Hardware Development	20
3.3.1	System Architecture	20
3.3.2	Components Selection	21
3.3.2.1	NodeMCU ESP 32 microcontroller	21
3.3.2.2	Ultrasonic sensor	23
3.3.2.3	Relay Module	24
3.3.2.4	Soil Moisture sensor	25
3.3.2.5	TDS Sensor	26
3.3.2.6	Temperature And Humidity Sensor (DHT22)	27
3.3.2.7	Solenoid Valve	28
3.3.2.8	Submersible Water Pump Brushless 25W	29
3.3.2.9	Submersible Water Pump 3W	29
3.3.2.10	Jebao Auto Dosing Pump DP-2	30
3.3.2.11	3 Gang Extension Trailing Socket	31
3.3.3	System Component Configuration	32
3.3.3.1	LCD IO Pins Circuit	32
3.3.3.2	Soil Moisture sensor IO pins Circuit	33
3.3.3.3	Temperature and Humidity (DHT22) sensor IO pins Circuit	34
3.3.3.4	TDS sensor IO pins Circuit	34
3.3.3.5	Ultrasonic sensor IO pins Circuit	35
3.3.3.6	5V Relay IO pins Circuit	36
3.3.3.7	Output Integrate with Relay	37
3.3.4	Sketch Of the project	38
3.4	Milestone 2: Software Development	39
3.4.1	Basic Algorithm	39
3.4.1.1	LCD Coding	40
3.4.1.2	Soil Moisture Sensor Coding	41
3.4.1.3	Temperature and Humidity (DHT22) Coding	41
3.4.1.4	TDS sensor Coding	43
3.4.1.5	Ultrasonic sensor Coding	46
3.4.1.6	Relay Coding	47
3.4.1.7	Integration of IOT-Blynk Coding	47
3.4.2	Flowchart Of the System	51
3.5	Milestone 3: System Performance Analysis	54
3.5.1	Observation Method	54
3.5.2	Experiment Method	54
CHAPTER 4 RESULT AND ANALYSIS		55
4.1	Overview	55

4.2	Result of Hardware	56
4.2.1	Virtual Hardware Design	56
4.3	Experimental Result and Analysis of Automated Hydroponic System	57
4.3.1	Nutrient dozer pump calibration test	58
4.3.2	EC calibration test	59
4.3.3	Solenoid Valve calibration	61
4.3.4	Water level calibration at the nutrient tank	63
4.3.5	Soil moisture value result measurement	64
4.3.6	Graph system analysis	64
4.3.6.1	EC Value	65
4.3.6.2	Water Level Tank	66
4.3.6.3	Environment Temperature	68
4.3.6.4	Humidity	69
4.3.6.5	Soil Moisture	71
4.3.7	The Blynk's Alert Notification	73
4.4	Summary	74
CHAPTER 5	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	75
5.1	Overview	75
5.2	Conclusion	76
5.3	Recommendation	77
REFERENCES		78
APPENDICES		80



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 UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	TITLE	PAGE
Table 2.1	Previous Researcher Works Comparison	16
Table 4.1	Description of all Complete Part List in Hydroponic System	55
Table 4.2	Nutrient dozer pump A calibration test	58
Table 4.3	Nutrient dozer pump B calibration test	58
Table 4.4	EC Calibration test	60
Table 4.5	time taken for water filled the 6 liter bottle	62
Table 4.6	Water level calibration at the nutrient tank	63
Table 4.7	Soil moisture Result	64



LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	TITLE	PAGE
Figure 1.1	Hydroponic Plants	2
Figure 2.1	Nutrient Film Technique	5
Figure 2.2	EBB And Flow System	6
Figure 2.3	Wick System Technique	7
Figure 2.4	OLED Display	10
Figure 2.5	LCD Display	11
Figure 2.6	Blynk	11
Figure 3.1	Stages in The Waterfall Method	18
Figure 3.2	Flowchart for Project Methodology	19
Figure 3.3	System Architecture Design	20
Figure 3.4	NodeMCU ESP 32	21
Figure 3.5	NodeMCU ESP 32 Pinout Diagram	22
Figure 3.6	Ultrasonic Sensor	23
Figure 3.7	Relay Module	24
Figure 3.8	Soil Moisture sensor	25
Figure 3.9	TDS Sensor	26
Figure 3.10	DHT22	27
Figure 3.11	Solenoid Valve	28
Figure 3.12	Submersible Water Pump Brushless	29
Figure 3.13	Submersible Water Pump 3W	29
Figure 3.14	Auto Dosing Pump DP-2	30
Figure 3.15	Extension Trailing Socket	31

Figure 3.16 Circuit Diagram for LCD Module Test	32
Figure 3.17 Circuit Diagram for Soil Moisture sensor Test	33
Figure 3.18 Circuit Diagram for DHT22 sensor Test	34
Figure 3.19 Circuit Diagram for TDS sensor Test	34
Figure 3.20 Circuit Diagram for Ultrasonic sensor Test	35
Figure 3.21 Circuit Diagram for Relay Module Test	36
Figure 3.22 Circuit Diagram for Output's RelayTest	37
Figure 3.23 Top view of Tinkercad Drawing	38
Figure 3.24 3D-View of Tinkercad Drawing	39
Figure 3.25 LCD setup code	40
Figure 3.26 Setup of Moisture Sensor	41
Figure 3.27 Setup of DHT22	41
Figure 3.28 Get Temperature value data	42
Figure 3.29 Setup of TDS sensor	43
Figure 3.30 Calculation of EC Value	45
Figure 3.31 Calculation of measurement distance	46
Figure 3.32 Relay activation coding	47
Figure 3.33 Setup of Blynk	48
Figure 3.34 Combination of LCD and DHT22 in Blynk	49
Figure 3.35 Loop Blynk Coding	50
Figure 3.36 Flowchart Of The Whole Process Of The System	51
Figure 3.37 Nutrient Auto Dosing Pump Flowchart	53
Figure 4.1 Schematic Diagram of Complete Circuit	56
Figure 4.2 Measurement Result Hydroponic System	57
Figure 4.3 Nutrient Mixing Label	59

Figure 4.4 Calibration of Solenoid Valve	61
Figure 4.5 Full Data of 1 Day's result	64
Figure 4.6 EC Value Data At The Beginning Of The Day	65
Figure 4.7 Value Data At The End Of The Day	66
Figure 4.8 Water Level Data At The Beginning Of The Day	66
Figure 4.9 Water Level Data At The End Of The Day	67
Figure 4.10 Temperature Data At The Beginning Of The Day	68
Figure 4.11 Temperature Data At The End Of The Day	69
Figure 4.12 Humidity Data At The Beginning Of The Day	69
Figure 4.13 Humidity Data At The End Of The Day	70
Figure 4.14 Soil Moisture Data At The Beginning Of The Day	71
Figure 4.15 Soil Moisture Data At The End Of The Day	72
Figure 4.16 Blynk Notification Alert	73
Figure 5.1 Completion of Hydroponic System's Box	75

LIST OF SYMBOLS

V – Voltage

t – Time

ℓ - Liter

s – seconds

°C – Degree Celsius



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC - Alternating Current

AM - Ante Meridiem

DC - Direct Current

EC - Electrical Conductivity

GPIO - A general-purpose input/output

I2C - Inter-Integrated Circuit

IOT – Internet Of Things

LCD - Liquid crystal display

PM - Post Meridiem

USB - Universal serial bus

SCL - Serial clock

SDA - Serial data

WIFI - Wireless fidelity



LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
Appendix A	Internal Parts of the Hydroponic System	80



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Hydroponics is a method of growing plants without using soil. Instead, the technique is by using a mineral nutrition solution dissolved in water. The first commercial usage of hydroponic cultivation occurred in the 1920s or the 20th century due to American research works. According to the first approach, plant roots were nourished via a perforated support in a single container. The regulated atmosphere of hydroponics makes it easier to cultivate plants that are not typically grown in specific climates, resulting in a recent surge in the popularity of hydroponics as a method of plant cultivation. Hydroponic systems consume less water, allow for greater control of fertilizer levels, produce healthier plant growth, and are easier to keep pest- and disease-free. Despite these benefits, hydroponic require substantial supervision. Pumps, pipes, lights, filtration, water levels, all of these need to be monitored and adjusted accordingly to promote plant growth. If the plants are left to fend for themselves in their dry, plastic homes, the results can be catastrophic. If certain plant disease appears, all plants in the system will be affected. Not only that, two major factors in hydroponic farming are electricity and water. Hence, unless it has adequate water or stable electricity, the hydroponic system will not thrive as well. While growing plants in this system, it also needs the requirement to ensure proper safety precautions to be carried out so that the plant growth will not be affected at any stage.



Figure 1.1 Hydroponic Plants

The advancement of IoT has fortunately become one of the most essential technologies of the 21st century in recent years. Nowadays, users can connect commonplace objects such as plants to the internet via embedded devices using low-cost computing, analytics, and mobile technologies that can able to share and gather data with minimal human intervention, as such users can connect such objects to the internet. With the installation of many sensors and transducers, such as water level, soil moisture, temperature and humidity sensor, it is possible to develop a device for regulating, monitoring, and ensuring the safety of hydroponic plants. Using the Arduino software, the NODEMCU microcontroller will be utilized for controlling and monitoring purposes, where the information will then be shown and displayed on a mobile phone via a Wi-Fi connection.

1.2 Problem Statement

The pressure on the agriculture industry lead to the introduction of hydroponics production method as a potential solution for the growing the populations' own food. However, there are several problems with hydroponics that may encounter such as nutrient deficiency, plant growth, dehydration, diseases, and low quality plants. In the conventional hydroponic system, the farmer needs to monitor the water's tank level, nutrient, and moisture of the plant manually. Meanwhile the current existing automated hydroponic system is quite expensive and required a large amount of electricity to fully operated the system itself with different setting for various kind of plants.

Thus, it is necessary to design and develop an Automated Hydroponic System Using NodeMCU microcontroller that is affordable and functionable to detect, monitor and control the nutrient, water level and moisture of the plant systematically.

1.3 Project Objectives

The objectives of this study are as follows:

- a) To design a hydroponic system by using microcontroller.
- b) To develop an automated hydroponic system that can control EC, water level and moisture with the implementation of IoT-based integration.
- c) To analyze the performance of the Automated Hydroponic System.

1.4 Scope of Project

The scope of the project is applicable for agriculture industries that using hydroponics production method. This device can help the farmer to control the EC, water level and moisture of the plant hydroponic system via the user's phone application, using various type of sensors that have been programmed into the particular microcontroller.

Thus, the scope of this study is as follow:

- a) The design of the system is using low cost and accurate components.
- b) The parameters of the system such as EC, water level and moisture can be manually adjusted by the user.
- c) The component of the system need to setup in a right place and the information of the parameters can be viewed through the user's phone apps.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Overview

This section examines and summarizes the overall concept and philosophy of the project's automated hydroponic system. The primary argument of this chapter was elaborated using prior research and current research. This chapter explored the philosophy and concept utilised to overcome the difficulty posed by this project. Journals, articles, and case studies are the primary sources of information, and these sources were chosen based on their resemblance to the project's purpose.

2.2 Current Hydroponic System's Technology

Hydroponics is a form of horticulture in which plants are grown in nutrient-rich water without soil. In this technique, water containing minerals and nutrients is exposed directly to the plant's roots, which can be supported by a variety of media such as coco-peat, perlite, etc. Environmental and nutrient control, water conservation, and labour reduction are the primary advantages of it. This method utilises a number of technologies to which the concepts of automation can be used to increase yield and consistency.

2.2.1 A Nutrient Film Technique

The Plants are cultivated in a grow tray that is slightly inclined and positioned over a water-nutrient mix reservoir. This allows a thin trickle of water to pass through plant roots, providing enough water, nutrients, and aeration for the plants, before being drained back into the reservoir. Today's most popular hydroponic system is the nutrient film technology. It is used to grow lettuce, spinach, and other leafy greens, Plenty and Bowery. It is easy to build and maintain but If the flow of nutrient solution stops, the roots will dry out and become stressed quickly.

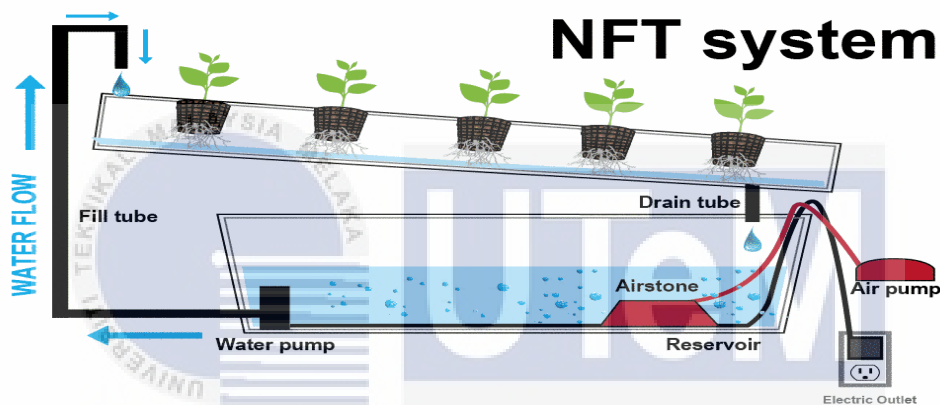


Figure 2.1 Nutrient Film Technique

2.2.2 Ebb and Flow System

The Ebb and Flow technology allows plants to be flooded with nutrient-rich water, and then the water is aggressively drained back into a reservoir to be reused when the plant roots have absorbed the nutrients. The system is reasonably inexpensive to set up and maintain, although it does need some advanced competence. This strategy allows to simply change the look of the garden by adding or removing plants without damaging the surrounding crops. The fundamental premise is similar to other systems in that plants are placed in a tray that is periodically supplied with nutrient-rich water pushed from a reservoir below. Gravity is employed to return the water to the reservoir so that it can be reused. A submersible pump attached to a timer is typically used for this task. Depending on the size and type of plants, temperature, humidity, and the type of growing medium used, the timer is set to come on

multiple times throughout the day.

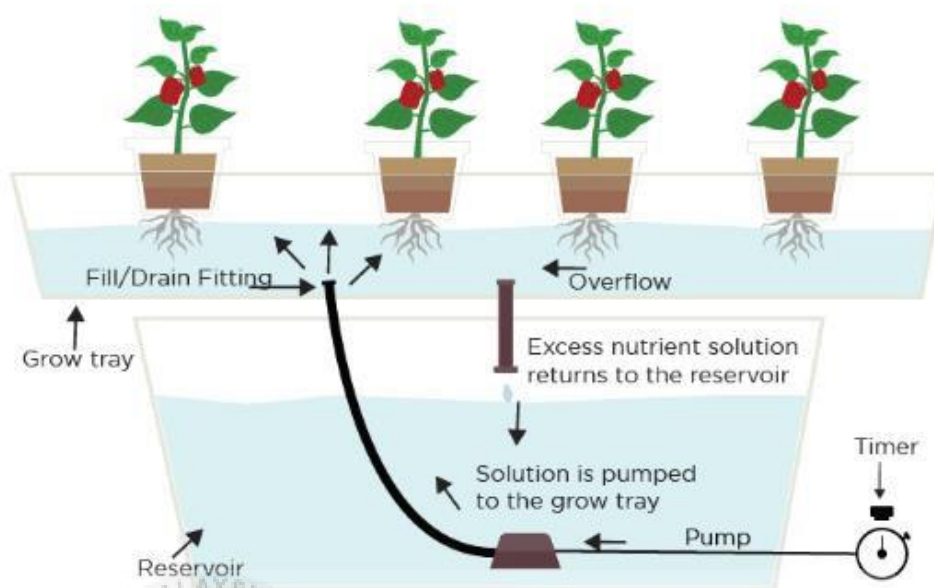


Figure 2.2 EBB And Flow System

2.2.3 Wick system

The wick system is the most basic of them all, as nutrients are passively delivered to the plant via a wick or piece of string that runs up from the water reservoir to the plant. Plants are cultivated in this manner in an inert growing media like sand, rock, wool, or clay balls, which helps anchor the plant roots. In essence, the wick system works in the same way that an oil lamp does. A wick system is passive, which means it has no moving parts, unlike most other hydroponic systems. That means it's not only cheap to put up, but also easy to maintain and less prone to malfunctions.