

Analyzing the Influence of Automated Water Distribution Systems on Precision irrigation for Orchids A Case Study Using Dendrobium Phalaenopsis Orchid Group

R. P. G. S. Maleesha (Reg. No.: MS23005358)

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

I certify that I have read this thesis and that in my opinion, it is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a
thesis for the degree of Master of Science.
Ms. Suranjini Silva
J
Approved for MSc. Research Project:
MSc. Programme Co-ordinator, SLIIT
Approved for MSc:
Approved for Mise.
Head of Graduate Studies, FoC, SLIIT

DECLARATION

This is to certify that the work is entirely my own and not that of any other person unless explicitly acknowledged (including citation of published and unpublished sources). The work has not previously been submitted in any form to the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology or any other institution for assessment for any other purpose.

Sign:

R. P. G. S.. Maleesha

Date:12/11/2024.....

ABSTRACT

Analyzing the Influence of Automated Water Distribution Systems on Precision irrigation for Orchids

A Case Study Using Dendrobium Phalaenopsis Orchid Group

Maleesha R.P.G.S.

MSc. in Information Technology

Supervisor: Ms. Suranjini Silva

December 2024

This research seeks to establish the efficiency of an automated water treatment of the Dendrobium Phalaenopsis orchids using remote monitoring and controlling through a dash- board in Audino Cloud. Soil moisture, temperature and humidity levels in the terrain are Other environment factors monitored and the application controls water discharge in response to the results. Water is only added once the soil moisture level gets to a low level of 30 percent as to avoid unnecessarily using water. The system Water Use Efficiency was 60 to 95 percent, thus the system was good at maintaining the moisture level without wasting much water. Temperature ranged from 22-28 and humidity ranged from 40-95 percent affected water demand but the system took into consideration the soil moisture values. It operated correspondingly under principles of precision irrigation that is they provided water where it was needed and when it was needed. , which might be added in the future to the algorithm parameters, include temperature and humidity, as well as predictions of possible changes to environmental climates for even greater water savings. Through the results, it is noticed the prospect for automation supply systems to reestablish the cultivation practices of orchids, having special concern with the rational use of resources and sustainability in the agricultural activity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

While at Sri Lanka Institute Information Technology, I have benefited from having great advisors who seem to agree about very little. Ms. Suranjini Silva was a great mentor, providing advice, constant constructive criticism of my ideas and writing, access to her web of contacts and friends, and the freedom to work on my own projects on her research account's time. Special thanks to my colleagues and peers for their encouragement and collaboration during this journey. Sri Lanka Institute Information Technology for providing the resources and support needed to complete this research. Finally, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my family and friends for their unwavering support and encouragement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
List of Figures	vii
List of Tables	viii
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Significance of Orchid Cultivation and the Need for Optimized Irrigation	3
1.3 Problem Statement	4
1.4 Dendrobium Phalaenopsis Orchid Group	5
1.4.1 Water Requirements and Sensitivity	7
1.4.2 Environmental Conditions and Growing Challenges	7
1.4.3 Dendrobium Phalaenopsis in Orchid: Importance of the Research	8
1.5 Justification for Choosing Dendrobium Phalaenopsis	8
1.6 Objective	10
1.7 Research Questions	11
Chapter 2 Literature review	12
2.1 Orchid species	12
2.2 Implications for orchid health and growth	13
2.3 Integration of technologies in orchid cultivation	13
2.4 Automation Based Irrigation System	15
2.5 Orchid cultivation practices and water requirements	16
2.6 Challenges in maintaining optimal water levels for orchid cultivation.	18
2.7 Gap Identification	22
Chapter 3 Research Design	25
3.1 Components of System Design	25
3.2 Key Features of the Arduino Cloud Dashboard	29
3.3 System Configuration	31
3.4 Data Collection and Monitoring	32
3.4.1 Data Collection	32
3.5 Control and Monitoring	35
3.6 Performance Metrics	37
3.7 System Performance	39
3.8 Justification for Chosen Methods	39
3.9 Ethical Considerations	42

Chapter 4 Results	44
4.1 Descriptive Statistics	
4.2 Trend Analysis:	45
4.3 Correlation Analysis	47
4.4 Water Use Efficiency (WUE)	50
Chapter 5 Discussion	51
5.1 Limitations	54
Chapter 6 Conclusion	56
6.1 Future Recommendations	57
References	60
Appendix	62
Appendix 1: Code Generated for Arduino IoT Cloud	62
Appendix 2: Code generated for the system	64

List of Figures

Figure 1.1 Dendrobium Phalaenopsis Orchid	6
Figure 2.1 Irrigation Systems	
Figure 3.1 Soil Moisture Sensor	25
Figure 3.2 Temperature and Humidity Sensor	26
Figure 3.3 Water Flow Sensors	26
Figure 3.4 Solenoid Valve	
Figure 3.5 ESP32 Board	28
Figure 3.6 Dashboard Development	28
Figure 3.7 System Development	
Figure 3.8 Data Handling	
Figure 3.9 System Overview	36
Figure 4.1 Changes in Temperature Levels	45
Figure 4.2 Changes in Temperature Levels	
Figure 4.3 Line 01 Soil Moisture Level	
Figure 4.4 Line 02 Soil Moisture Level	47
Figure 4.5 Correlation Matrix	
Figure 4.6 Correlation Analysis	

List of Tables

Table 3.1 Automated Irrigation System Components for Precision Orchid Care	28
Table 4.1 Descriptive Statistics	
Table 4.3 Water Use Efficiency Calculation	