International Journal of Advances in Engineering and Management (IJAEM)
Volume 2, Issue 1, pp: 01-05 www.ijaem.net ISSN: 2395-5252

MICROCONTROLLER-BASED CONTROL SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATED POULTRY BATTERY CAGE

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Date of Submission: 05-10-2025 Date of Acceptance: 15-10-2025

ABSTRACT: This project presents a microcontroller-based control system for automated poultry battery cage management. The system features a conveyor belt system controlled by a motor, limit sensors for feed trough movement, and a cleaning mechanism. A pump is activated for sanitizing. The system operates in two modes: fully automated and semi-automatic, allowing users to manage the system from a tablet. The fully automated mode runs independently, utilizing real-time data from the tablet, while the semi-automatic mode enables control of any of the desired process from the tablet. Any of the modes can be easily selected from the tablet, depending on user preferences. This innovative system enhances efficiency, reduces labour costs, and improves hygiene in poultry farming operations.

Keywords: Microcontroller, Battery cage, automatic, semi-automatic, Innovative, conveyor belt.

I. INTRODUCTION

The poultry industry is a significant contributor to the global economy, with increasing demand for eggs and poultry products [1]. However, the industry faces challenges such as disease outbreaks, high labor costs, and inefficient management practices [2]. To address these challenges, there is a growing need for automated systems that can improve efficiency, reduce labor costs, and enhance animal welfare [3].

Traditional poultry farming methods often rely on manual labor for feeding, egg collection, and waste management [4]. These methods can be time-consuming, labor-intensive, and prone to errors [5]. Moreover, the health and well-being of the birds are crucial factors that affect productivity and profitability in poultry farming [6].

To overcome these challenges, this project aims to design and develop a microcontroller-based control system for automated poultry battery cage management. The system integrates advanced technologies, including sensors, motors, and pumps, to automate feeding, egg collection, and waste management [7].

The system consists of a conveyor belt system, limit sensors, and a cleaning mechanism. The conveyor belt system is designed to collect eggs and remove waste, while the limit sensors control the movement of the feed trough [8]. The cleaning mechanism ensures the conveyor belt is properly cleaned and sanitized [9].

The system operates in two modes: fully automated and semi-automatic. The fully

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automated mode allows the system to run independently, utilizing real-time data [10], while the semi-automatic mode enables manual control from a tablet [11]. This flexibility makes the system suitable for various poultry farming operations.

The benefits of this system include improved efficiency, reduced labor costs, and enhanced animal welfare [12]. The system also promotes a cleaner and healthier environment for the birds, which can lead to increased productivity and profitability [13].

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Patricket al. [14] created an automated poultry feeding system using Arduino boards and real-time clocks, dispensing feed at set intervals. Their system slashed labor costs and boosted feeding efficiency through automated scheduling. However, it relied on fixed schedules and didn't incorporate other vital poultry management tasks like egg collection, watering, or cage cleaning. This highlights the need for a more holistic system, like the current project, which automates feeding, manages egg collection, and waste removal, all controllable via a tablet interface in both automatic and semi-automatic modes, offering enhanced flexibility and functionality.

Sumitra Goswami [15] developed an Arduino-based system automating feeding and cooling processes via environmental monitoring. The system boosted resource efficiency and cut manual labor by adjusting operations based on sensor feedback. However, it omitted egg collection, faecal cleaning, and dual operational modes (automatic and semi-automatic). The current system bridges this gap by integrating feeding, watering, egg collection, and brush-and-water cleaning functions into a single microcontroller-controlled platform, remotely manageable via a tablet, offering a more comprehensive poultry management solution.

Arvin Anthony [16] developed a smart feeder system with mobile app control, enabling remote feed schedule management and feed level monitoring. This solution boosted operational flexibility and convenience for poultry farmers. However, it didn't incorporate other farm tasks like water dispensing, egg collection, and cage cleaning. The proposed system expands on this concept by integrating all core poultry management tasks, offering dual operational modes that let farmers toggle between fully automated routines and manual intervention as needed, providing enhanced control and adaptability.

Karun et al. [17] created an IoT-based poultry management system monitoring temperature, humidity, and feeding schedules. The automation cut labor and enabled data-driven decision-making. However, its reliance on internet connectivity and lack of mechanical automation for tasks like egg collection and faecal cleaning limited its practicality. The current work addresses these gaps by integrating environmental monitoring and mechanical automation within a centralized microcontroller system, reducing dependence on constant internet access while efficiently performing essential tasks, offering a more robust and self-contained solution.

Chinaeke-Ogbuka et al. [18] developed an automated feeding system delivering feed and water at timed intervals via microcontrollers. This reduced human labor and ensured timely feeding, but omitted egg collection, cage cleaning, and user override options. The current project builds on this by integrating egg collection via a motorized belt and scheduled cleaning using brushes and water, while offering a semi-automatic mode enabling manual tablet control, providing enhanced functionality and flexibility for poultry farmers.

Sasirekha et al. [19] implemented a smart poultry monitoring system leveraging IoT tech to automate farm management tasks. The system tracks environmental factors like temperature and humidity, ensuring optimal poultry health conditions, and provides real-time data and alerts. However, its complexity might necessitate specialized installation and maintenance know-how. The proposed system mitigates these limitations by consolidating multiple automated functions into a single, tablet-operable platform, reducing technical complexity for farm operators and making it more accessible and user-friendly.

A review by [20] underscored IoT and machine learning's potential in poultry automation, boosting productivity and resource optimization. However, implementation hurdles like high costs and limited comprehensive functionality persist. The proposed project addresses these gaps by delivering a cost-effective, multi-functional smart control system automating feeding, watering, egg collection, and cleaning, with manual override options, offering a more holistic and accessible solution for poultry farmers, and bridging the identified literature gaps.

Collectively, these studies illustrate that while existing systems have automated individual tasks like feeding or environmental monitoring, there is a clear gap in unified systems that manage all key functions in poultry battery cages. The proposed microcontroller-based smart control system uniquely addresses this by integrating auto and semi-auto modes, tablet control, and timed management of feeding, watering, egg collection, and cleaning, offering a comprehensive and practical solution for modern poultry farms.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. System Architecture:

The microcontroller-based control system for automated poultry battery cage consists of the following components:

1. Microcontroller Unit (MCU): The microcontroller ATMEGA328p nano is the microcontroller used and it is responsible for controlling and coordinating all functions.

2. Sensors:

- The Limit sensors (Reed switches) for feeding trough movement control enables the microcontroller to know when the feeding trough gets end of the feed holder.
- The Egg collection system is designed to get activated once the conveyor belt motor is activated in the fully automated mode.
- The Waste cleaning system also operates in sync with the conveyor belt. The droplets are cleaned into a container kept at both ends of the conveyor belt.

3. Actuators:

A total of 4motors was used to realize the system. The conveyor belt is driven by an Ac motor high tough and low speed. The motor responsible for the feeding trough move is a dc motor, which is driven by a H-Bridge motor driver. The other two motors control the brushes for the cleaning of the conveyor belt.

-The pump is used for cleaning and sanitizing system, ensure the health of the

4. User Interface:

- A Tablet is dedicated for the control of the system; users are required to connect to the Bluetooth communication module interfaced with controller. Once connected they can select their desired mode
- Graphical User Interface (GUI) for easy operation

5. Power Supply:

- The power supply to the system is solar energy power source for the system

6. Communication Module:

- Bluetooth Wireless communication module (H-06) was used to achieve the remote monitoring and control

System Operation:

1. The MCU receives input from sensors and user interface.
2. Based on the input, the MCU controls the actuators to perform tasks such as:
- Feed trough movement
- Egg collection
- Waste removal
- Cleaning and sanitizing
3. The system operates in two modes:
- Fully automated mode: The system runs independently, utilizing real-time data.
- Semi-automatic mode: Users can control the system from the tablet

System Benefits:

1. Improved efficiency and productivity
2. Reduced labor costs
3. Enhanced animal welfare
4. Increased egg quality and safety
5. Reduced waste and improved sanitation

Control Algorithm for the System
Initialization:
1. Initialize the microcontroller and its peripherals.
2. Configure the limit sensors, motor, pump, and conveyor belt motor.
3. Connect the Tablet Bluetooth to the Bluetooth module of the control system.
Main Loop:
1. Select the mode you want the system to run (Fully Automated or Semi-Automatic) from the tablet.
2. If Fully Automated Mode:
- Monitor the feed trough position using limit sensors.
- Control the feed trough movement to the desired position.
- Activate the conveyor belt to collect eggs and remove waste at the stipulated times.
- Activate the cleaning mechanism (rubbing and pumping water) at regular intervals.
3. If Semi-Automatic Mode:
- Using the User Interface (UI) activate any desired action like Controlling the feed trough movement, conveyor belt, and cleaning mechanism based on user input, received through the Bluetooth communication via the Bluetooth (H-06) module
Feed Trough Control:
1. If limit sensor 1 is triggered, move the feed trough to the other end.
2. If limit sensor 2 is triggered, move the feed trough to the initial end.
Conveyor Belt Control:
1. Activate the conveyor belt to collect eggs and remove waste.
2. When the cleaning mechanism is activated, the conveyor belt will rub against the cleaning surface to remove waste.
Cleaning Mechanism Control:
1. Activate the pump to supply water for cleaning.
2. Activate the rubbing mechanism to clean the conveyor belt.

Tablet Communication:
1. Receive system mode and user input from the tablet.
2. Send system status and alerts to the tablet.
Error Handling:
1. Monitor for errors such as limit sensor faults, motor failures, or pump failures.
2. Send error alerts to the tablet and take corrective action.

This control algorithm outlines the main logic for controlling the automated poultry battery cage system. It ensures the system operates efficiently and effectively in both

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fully automated and semi-automatic modes.

VI. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE AND PHYSICAL LAYOUT

Figure 1 Figure 1 illustrates the high-level description illustrating the system's architecture and operation.

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This system architecture provides a comprehensive framework for designing and developing a microcontroller-based control system for automated poultry battery cage management.

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Figure 2 provides a pictorial representation of the Automated poultry prototype

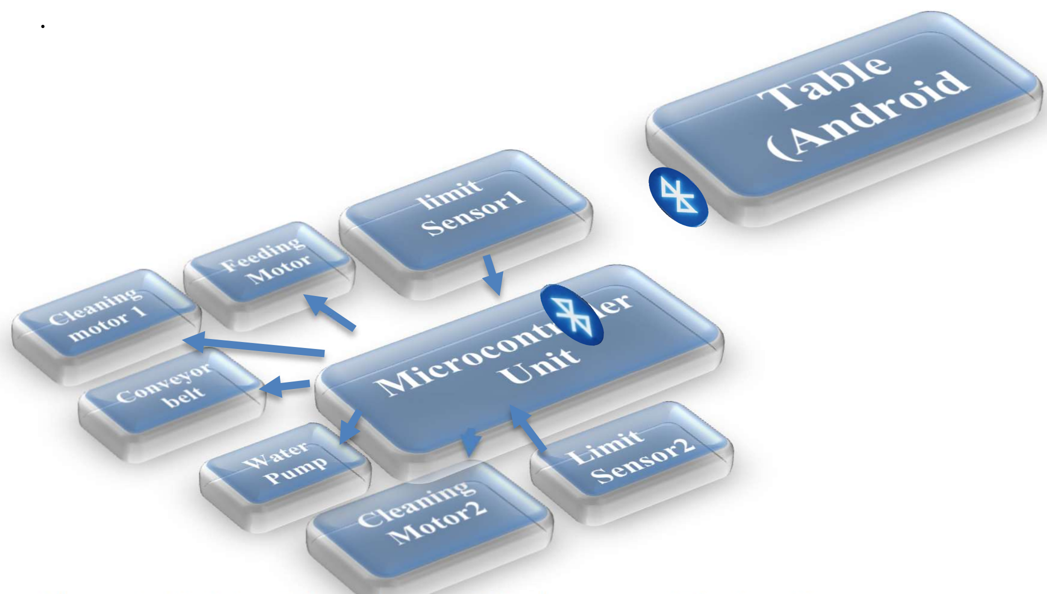

Figure 1. High level Description of the Automated Poultry Battery cage System

Figure 2 The pictorial representation of the Microcontroller-based Automatic poultry Battery cage system.

VII. RESULTS

The microcontroller-based control system for automated poultry battery cage is an innovative solution developed indigenously that streamlines poultry farming operations, improving efficiency, productivity, and animal welfare.

Key Features:

- Automated Feeding System: distributes feed precisely, minimizing waste and ensuring consistent nutrition.
- Egg Collection System: uses conveyor belts to transport eggs safely to a central collection point, reducing labour and potential damage.
- Manure Removal System: belt-driven systems ensure daily waste removal, improving air quality and reducing disease transmission risk.
- Water Supply System: nipple drinkers and pipeline water systems provide continuous access to clean drinking water.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

The microcontroller-based control system for automated poultry battery cage revolutionizes poultry farming by increasing efficiency, productivity, and animal welfare. The system's automation capabilities reduce labour costs and improve precision. However, the high initial investment cost and technical expertise required may be limitations. Future directions include integrating emerging technologies like IoT and AI to further enhance efficiency and productivity. Overall, the system has the potential to transform the poultry industry by providing a more efficient, sustainable, and humane farming solution. Its adoption can lead to improved egg production, reduced costs, and enhanced animal welfare.

IX. CONCLUSION

The microcontroller-based control system for automated poultry battery cage offers a transformative solution for the poultry industry. By leveraging advanced technologies, it enhances efficiency, productivity, and animal welfare. The system's automation capabilities reduce labour costs and improve precision, making it an attractive solution for modern poultry farming. With its potential to increase egg production, reduce costs, and promote sustainability, this system is poised to revolutionize the poultry industry. Its adoption can lead to improved profitability and competitiveness for farmers, while also promoting a more humane and sustainable farming practice.

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