

Development of a Sustainable Polyhouse System for Small Scale Farmers

BHAVADHARANI B¹, SARANNATH V², SIVARAMAN A³

¹ Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Kongunadu College of Engineering and Technology, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India.

^{2,3} UG Student, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Kongunadu College of Engineering and Technology, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India.

Abstract- A roof of plastic will changes crop growing, protecting greenery when skies turn harsh. Since warmth and damp stay steady, yields will increase in both amount and health. Still, simpler versions may overheat, their poor venting to blame. Stale air creeps through some units, dragging plant progress down. Moisture slips away needlessly if irrigation lacks precision behind the scenes. Small farmers often avoid these systems because fixing them takes too much time. Problems in actual use tend to weaken their appeal. Changes will be improved how greenhouses control temperature and resource use after the deeper study. Air moves through gaps on walls and roofs, helping stabilize humidity and warmth inside. As conditions shift outside, the openings adjust naturally, relying only on wind and pressure differences. Drop by drop, water moves to plants, reducing loss through precise delivery. When structures copy natural patterns, balance indoors improves naturally. Runoff drops off because nourishment holds steady near roots. On compact farms, this method spreads fast since big spending is not required. With shelters overhead, growth shifts toward predictability, fewer surprises show up. What boosts output isn't more tools, rather fixing what's broken. Gains appear in tangible places - how rich the earth stays, how well crops thrive, how little gets used along the way.

Key words - Polyhouse, Protected Cultivation, Natural Ventilation, Drip Irrigation, Sustainable Agriculture.

I. INTRODUCTION

Across the world, farming remains a way to nourish people and support families. With climate behaving less predictably, fresh methods are becoming essential simply to maintain consistent yields. Rather than letting crops face storms directly, certain growers now protect them using enclosures - glass walls, sheets of plastic, or mesh canopies - to deflect gusts, drenching downpours, or sudden scorching. Inside these covers, small zones form where humidity, warmth, and

brightness hold level despite outdoor chaos. Wrapped in clear plastic, a polyhouse shelters plants from outdoor extremes. Though open to sky, its interior holds heat like a bubble during cool spells. Sunlight will moves through the covering in soft waves, feeding growth without harsh surges. When rain falls beyond the walls, moisture inside should be shift slowly, never swinging too far. Even as winds will change, conditions stay close enough for healthy development. Cold months matter less when shelter shields crops are protect from storms. Healthier soil support means stronger plants, so harvests crop are grow without waiting longer. Fewer interruptions while growing lets output rise above open yield field Still, most family plots avoid plastic houses despite gains seen elsewhere. High starting prices scare off hopeful beginners. A well-kept structure performs as critically as its initial construction. When air cannot move freely, warmth gets locked in, rising without delay. How might such problems be addressed? Through designing an improved polyhouse - affordable yet effective. Stable conditions require careful environmental control, thoughtful irrigation, since crops respond best to consistent attention. Starting differently, the approach now favors natural airflow rather than mechanical systems along with precise irrigation techniques.

II. OBJECTIVE

Where spaces are opens field and fresh design walks beside strong components, held together through careful space. Through these openings, airflow are steady, controlled -shaping motion without any force. Light shifts through the surfaces as daylight moves, altering warmth inside the each zone. Growth responds well under such conditions, shortly improving hours. If storms occur or temperatures

adjustments follow close behind, smooth and timely. Stability remains, even while foundational elements settle gradually downward. Costs stay low since local resources reach the site reliably, arriving piece by piece. Ventilated air through openings helps manage warmth and dampness inside the polyhouse. Ways that let breezes flow reduce reliance on machines doing the job. Using wind patterns shapes how spaces are planned around airflow needs.

- To integrated drip irrigation systems for sustainable water management.
- To improve crop productivity under protected cultivation conditions.
- To promote a sustainable farming practice to higher yield.

III. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

Few small-scale operators continue using them, despite growing drawbacks. Stagnant conditions persist since ventilation lacks strength within these enclosures. Excess humidity lingers, interfering with progress once levels rise too far. Development drags on when moist, still air dominates. Despite challenges, some view them as manageable. Later in the day, water shows up where it should not, vanishing just as quickly - poor timing plays a role. Through outdated routines, parts of soil soak completely while close areas stay dusty and cracked. Growth slows down because roots face one spot are more irrigation, another starved. Efficiency drops when supply spreads unevenly across land. Results fall short, by routine choices that avoid better patterns. Small farms often avoid standard greenhouses - the cost alone stops most before they begin. Once constructed, weak structures gradually undermine performance without warning. If ventilation lags behind humidity levels, progress halts by itself. A gradual start offers little benefit when poor planning stacks up quickly.

IV. MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS

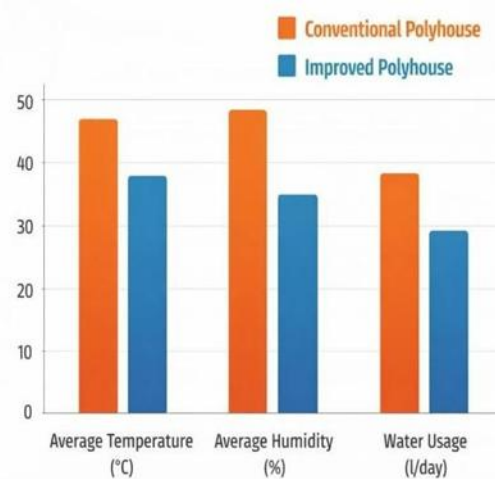
1. Structural Materials

A frame of steel tubes stands unchanged across changing months. Light enters softly through wide panels of transparent film, softened on its way down. Protection comes from above, shielding green life

when storms blow outside. Strength lies buried in stiff supports driven far into soil, locked tight below ground. Balance appears without noise - sunlight travels easily though walls stay fixed, shifting together as part of something larger.

2. Ventilation Components

A draft enters slowly through gaps along the side, climbing upward when the roof lifts above. Where light touches down, a textured screen draws inward, blocking harshness but allowing space for plants beneath. Movement of air never stops, although sharp rays soften on their way to low-level foliage.



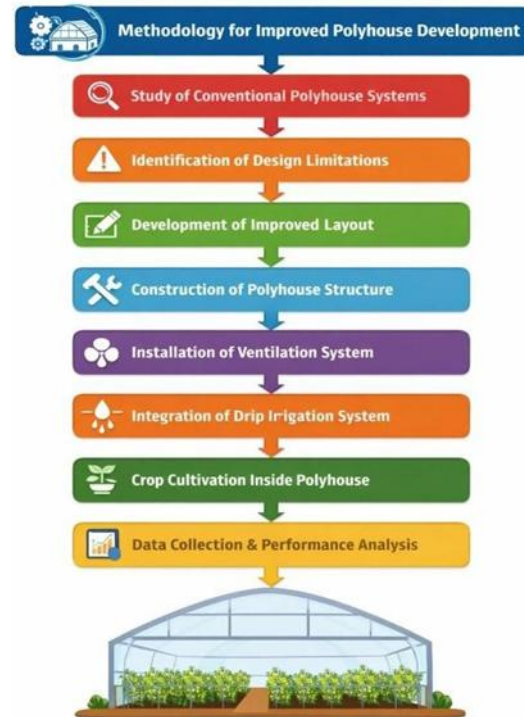
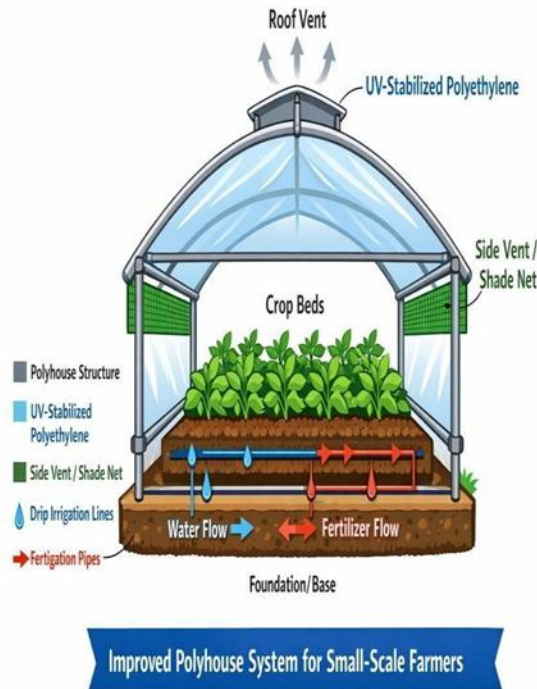
3. Irrigation Components

Pieces connect quietly, managing sound so sudden snaps never happen. Moisture content moves slowly, slipping through narrow channels near plant root. Instead of flowing fast. When demand rises somewhere, dampness appears exactly within the time. Supplies stay locked in place at every station one part settle in. Right away, once past the edge, motion slows. Guided by gravity, the flow moves only as far as required. As one phase finishes, another begins - nothing extra escapes. Absorbed in time, waste never accumulates supply match demand. Collections remain contained, secured firmly at their limits. Underground, movement guides flow while barriers stop debris from moving further. Near the center, velocity increases compared to areas farther out. Connections fit tightly together, preventing escapes at joints. Hidden beneath soil, transport happens without sound. Minimal loss occurs due to since structure

limits provide leakage. A sequence unfolds, each arrival fitting precisely into place. Nearby vegetation draws just enough, never reaching beyond its limit. Movement begins before arrival, prompted by an earlier shift. Stability depends on properly connected.

than attaching afterward. Moisture arrives at every point without interference - no barriers stand in its path. Only when connections does equilibrium remain undisturbed; growth shifts gently, never pushed.

V. METHODOLOGY



4. Monitoring Instruments

A tiny gauge within the glass enclosure marks today's warmth. Near leaf level, another device reports dampness without delay. At the root zone, data flows directly from every position. Though plain in appearance, the readings remain sharp.

5. Design meets process integration

Heat rises through roof openings, vanishing into the sky over the upgraded greenhouse. Below, cold advances from below, sliding laterally without mechanical support. Movement depends on spatial design each zone links but remains individual. Design guides motion, location outweighing force. Routes develop naturally, driven by span, not propulsion. Through empty spaces, roots move slowly on persistent currents. Since earlier trails hold moisture, seepage follows worn grooves left behind. A single structure emerges if pieces develop into one rather

Performance and Evaluation

Inside, the air behaved unpredictably - shifting in texture based on location. Scientists observed variations - not just in temperature and moisture - but also in plant development beneath the updated greenhouse cover. Most striking was the question: did ventilation combined with irrigation improve performance? Over time, clusters of vapor emerged alongside sudden heat surges, forming irregular sequences. One phase unfolded without aligning to what followed. Cool air slipped through narrow openings on the edges and small cracks above, pushing aside the thick warmth that had sunk into the space. As temperatures shifted more gently, crops got moisture right when needed - yield gains followed the updated cover layout. Humidity remained even, irrigation grew accurate; problems at planting and gathering almost disappeared. Young plants felt light airflow while earth held consistent wetness below. On chilly

stretches, the structure held soft warmth inside; yet when sunlight intensified, excess warmth escaped without trouble. Steadiness in light happened naturally - the shade remained untouched, preventing sudden temperature shifts. Since roots received water right on time, messy runoff common in ordinary beds never showed up. Moisture moved at a slow pace through drips, keeping soil consistently damp across stretches of days. Yield per plot climbed past what typical setups usually deliver. When winds rushed in, the structure stood its ground, while weaker covers tend to bend or break under pressure. Morning tasks flowed more smoothly - fewer adjustments were required. Possibly, the material blocked insects; sightings dropped noticeably.

VI. LITERATURE SURVEY

Growers gain more control over plant environments through covered cultivation, which sharpens how precisely crops develop. Temperature, moisture, and light inside polytunnels shift intentionally - this leads to more consistent yields. Research by Sethi and Sethi [1] reveals vegetable production indoors improves under stable conditions. Likewise, work from Randhawa and Saini [2] highlights enclosed areas create tailored climates where crop reliability rises. Lately, more people are focusing on improving how indoor farms handle their environment. Because heat combines with steady moisture levels, plants grow more vigorously indoors - at least according to findings by Kozai and colleagues. Soon afterward, airflow became a key point when Kumar began working with Singh on open-air field systems. Since breezes move freely in those settings, crop performance improves; however, excessive warmth tends to vanish quickly. Maintaining proper water levels demands attention in closed farming environments. At plant bases, moisture arrives through drips - research by Singh combined with work from Kumar supports this method [5]. Spillage drops when precision shapes application. With supply consistent, root uptake of nutrients improves noticeably. Crops raised indoors paired with efficient irrigation cut resource use; results show increased yields according to Gupta [6]. Fresh air flows better through thoughtfully designed polyhouses, research indicates. Because ventilation openings play a key role in temperature control, Sethi and Sharma emphasized

their importance [7]. When airflow is adjusted precisely, excessive heat becomes less likely, according to Boular d and Draoui's findings [11]. Certain vent shapes help indoor warmth exit quickly. Affordable polyhouse designs seek broader reach among small-scale farmers. Research led by Sethi [12], later confirmed via Nelson's findings [13], suggests reduced costs open doors for low-income cultivators. Inside such setups, consistent climate conditions support stronger crop development - evidence collected by Bailey [15] backs this effect. When funds are limited, simpler construction methods still allow entry into systems previously seen as distant. Later on, Sharma teamed up with Gupta to study how small-scale greenhouses help maintain sustainable agriculture practices.

Meanwhile, research led by Patel together with Shah revealed that improved irrigation techniques within such systems increased crop yields even as they reduced water consumption. Earlier studies suggest improvements in structure, ventilation, and irrigation often lift output in greenhouse agriculture. Instead of following that lead, this project explores a different route - designing a fresh type of polyhouse powered by wind flow and precise water supply.

VII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fresh air enters the renovated polyhouse as vents open, letting built-up heat drift out. Unlike earlier versions that struggled, today's builds allow thermal shifts to exit via adaptable wall sections. Moisture spreads slowly, slipping into earth through thin pipes laid parallel to crop rows. When roots take in precise amounts of water, development rises, steady despite shifting climate patterns. Shipments come at longer intervals because optimized loops stretch resource use while sustaining peak environments. Notable is the ease with which small-farm operators weave this method into daily tasks - low maintenance makes it stick. Over time, better planning quietly reduces excess materials as well as effort spent.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Not shaped like regular models, greenhouses shift the way indoor farming works. Because air moves across open flanks instead of tight enclosures, temperature

shifts unfold slower. Roots receive moisture via focused pathways, not outdated spray systems. These tweaks help plants thrive better when covered. Despite differences, function stays central. A single saved dollar gains speed fastest when beginning almost empty-handed. When budgets stretch thin yet goals extend wide, this method works smoothly. Certified seeds into sheltered soil -mistakes fade, setbacks shrink. Future yields rise simply because tools already exist nearby. A look into the research shows a clear purpose: creating a better polyhouse fit for small farms. Instead of complex equipment, prevent conditions by directing airflow through opening vents while providing moisture straight to plant roots. Because these elements combine well, heat and dampness stay steady inside the polyhouse. When surroundings change less often, plants grow more easily, resulting in higher yields per every cycle. Built simply, the updated design allows affordable greenhouse farming with simpler upkeep.

REFERENCES

- [1] N. N. Sethi and I. Sethi, *Protected Cultivation of Vegetables*. New Delhi, India: Kalyani Publishers, 2018.
- [2] G. S. Randhawa and S. S. Saini, "Greenhouse technology for protected cultivation," *Indian Journal of Horticulture*, vol. 75, no. 1, pp. 1–10, 2018.
- [3] T. Kozai, G. Niu, and M. Takagaki, *Plant Factory: An Indoor Vertical Farming System for Efficient Quality Food Production*. San Diego, CA, USA: Academic Press, 2015.
- [4] S. Kumar and R. K. Singh, "Performance evaluation of naturally ventilated polyhouse for vegetable cultivation," *International Journal of Agricultural Engineering*, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 350–356, 2018.
- [5] P. Singh and S. Kumar, "Drip irrigation management in protected cultivation," *Agricultural Water Management*, vol. 187, pp. 1–10, 2017.
- [6] R. K. Gupta, "Protected cultivation for sustainable agriculture," *Journal of Agricultural Science and Technology*, vol. 20, no. 3, pp. 421–430, 2019.
- [7] Sethi and N. Sharma, "Design and development of naturally ventilated polyhouse," *International Journal of Engineering Research and Technology*, vol. 8, no. 6, pp. 105–110, 2019.
- [8] FAO, *Protected Cultivation in Agriculture*. Rome, Italy: Food and Agriculture Organization, 2017.
- [9] M. Kacira, N. Sase, and L. Giacomelli, "Environmental control strategies in greenhouse production," *Biosystems Engineering*, vol. 84, no. 1, pp. 1–10, 2016.
- [10] S. K. Dubey and R. Tiwari, "Microclimate management in greenhouse cultivation," *Agricultural Engineering International*, vol. 21, no. 3, pp. 120–128, 2019.
- [11] J. Boulard and B. Draoui, "Natural ventilation of greenhouse structures," *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology*, vol. 86, pp. 221–234, 2017.
- [12] P. Sethi, "Low-cost polyhouse technology for small farmers," *Journal of Protected Cultivation*, vol. 6, no. 2, pp. 45–52, 2018.
- [13] R. Nelson, *Greenhouse Operation and Management*. New Jersey, USA: Prentice Hall, 2016.
- [14] Kumar and S. Verma, "Evaluation of drip irrigation efficiency in protected cultivation," *International Journal of Agricultural Science*, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 560–566, 2018.
- [15] J. Bailey, "Greenhouse climate control systems," *Acta Horticulturae*, vol. 797, pp. 13–20, 2017.