

# IoT Enabled Real Time Monitoring System for Food Storage Conditions

MUKILAN N<sup>1</sup>, FRANGLIN B<sup>2</sup>, YOGESHWARAN M<sup>3</sup>, LAKSHMINARASIMMALU M<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assitant Professor, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Kongunadu College of Engineering and Technology Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India.

<sup>2,3,4</sup>UG Student, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Kongunadu College of Engineering and Technology Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India.

**Abstract-** Food storage is a critical aspect of post-harvest management that significantly influences the quality, safety and shelf life of agricultural and processed food products. Effective preservation depends on maintaining controlled environmental conditions, including temperature, relative humidity and air quality, to prevent spoilage, microbial growth and nutrient loss. Traditional storage monitoring methods are largely manual, relying on periodic inspections with basic instruments such as thermometers and hygrometers. These approaches are labor-intensive and provide only intermittent data, which can overlook sudden fluctuations caused by climatic changes, equipment failures, or poor ventilation. Such undetected variations can lead to rapid deterioration and microbial contamination of stored commodities like grains, fruits, vegetables and packaged foods. Recent technological advancements have enabled the integration of Internet of Things (IoT) solutions in storage management. IoT systems utilize environmental sensors, microcontrollers and wireless communication modules to continuously monitor and transmit data to cloud-based platforms. This real-time data is accessible remotely via web dashboards or mobile applications, enabling timely analysis and automated alerts when environmental parameters exceed predefined thresholds. By facilitating continuous, accurate monitoring and early detection of adverse conditions, IoT-based systems improve environmental control efficiency, reduce post-harvest losses, enhance food safety and optimize storage operations. Therefore, adopting IoT-enabled real-time monitoring is essential for minimizing food wastage and ensuring the consistent availability of high-quality food products throughout the supply chain.

**Keywords-** IoT-Based Food Storage Monitoring, Real-Time Environmental Monitoring Post Harvest Management, Temperature and Humidity Control Food Quality Preservation

## I. INTRODUCTION

Effective food storage is essential for maintaining the quality, safety and shelf life of agricultural and processed food products. Pulses such as chickpea,

pigeon pea and green gram are vital sources of plant protein, dietary fiber and essential micronutrients, playing a significant role in global food security. However, these commodities are highly susceptible to deterioration during storage due to fluctuations in environmental conditions. Key parameters such as temperature, relative humidity and air quality directly influence the physicochemical and microbiological stability of stored pulses. Elevated temperature and humidity accelerate respiration, enzymatic activity, microbial growth and insect infestation, resulting in spoilage, nutrient loss, discoloration and reduced market value. To ensure safe storage, pulses should be maintained at temperatures below 25 °C, relative humidity of 60–65% and grain moisture content below 12–13%. Deviation from these conditions can lead to moisture migration, fungal growth and contamination by mycotoxins such as aflatoxins, as well as infestation by pests like pulse beetles. Despite these risks, conventional storage monitoring methods are still largely manual, making them labor intensive, inconsistent and ineffective in detecting sudden environmental changes. Recent advancements in Internet of Things (IoT) technology provide an efficient solution for real-time monitoring of storage conditions. By integrating sensors, microcontrollers and wireless communication systems, environmental data can be continuously collected and transmitted to cloud platforms. This enables remote monitoring, data analysis and automated alerts when parameters exceed safe limits. Thus, IoT-based systems improve storage management, reduce post-harvest losses and ensure the long-term preservation of pulse quality and safety.

## Objective

- IoT-integrated continuous environmental monitoring system for pulses that ensures a controlled storage environment during post-

harvest storage

- To reduce post-harvest losses in pulses by monitoring critical storage parameters using a sensor-integrated system.

## II. METHODOLOGY

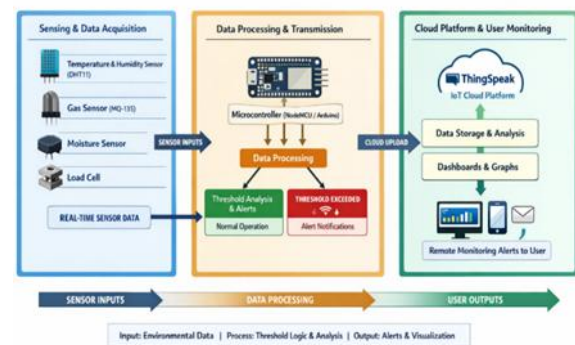
The development of the IoT-based real-time monitoring system for pulse storage conditions was carried out using a structured engineering approach consisting of problem identification, requirement analysis, system design, component selection, hardware integration, software development, IoT communication, data analysis and system validation. Initially, storage-related challenges such as temperature fluctuation, moisture variation and gas formation due to grain respiration and microbial activity were critically analysed. Based on these observations, system requirements were defined to ensure continuous monitoring and early detection of unfavorable storage conditions. A detailed system architecture was designed to integrate multiple sensors, a microcontroller and a wireless communication module for real-time data acquisition and transmission. Suitable components were selected based on parameters such as sensitivity, accuracy, response time, power consumption and cost-effectiveness. During hardware development, sensors including temperature-humidity, gas, moisture and load cell units were interfaced with the microcontroller using analog and digital communication protocols. Proper circuit design techniques such as voltage regulation, grounding and noise reduction were implemented to ensure stable and accurate signal transmission. Sensor calibration was performed to minimize measurement errors and improve system reliability.

Embedded programming was developed to acquire sensor data at regular intervals, process the signals and convert them into meaningful environmental parameters. Threshold limits were defined based on safe storage conditions and alert mechanisms were incorporated to notify users when parameters exceed permissible limits. The system was integrated with an IoT cloud platform to enable real-time data transmission, remote monitoring and visualization through dashboards. Data logging functionality was implemented to store historical data, allowing trend analysis and performance evaluation over time. Further, the system was optimized for energy efficiency and continuous operation in storage

environments. Error handling techniques were also incorporated to manage communication failures and sensor anomalies. Finally, the system was tested under different storage conditions using pulses such as chickpea, pigeon pea and green gram. The performance was evaluated based on accuracy, response time, data transmission reliability and consistency of monitoring. The results confirmed the effectiveness of the system in maintaining optimal storage conditions and reducing post-harvest losses.

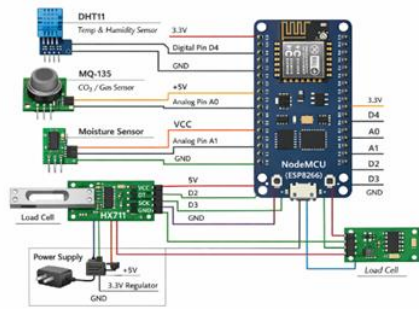
### 1. Conceptual System Design

Based on the identified problem and research insights, a conceptual design of the monitoring system was developed. The system architecture was designed to continuously monitor critical environmental parameters affecting pulses storage. The conceptual model includes multiple sensors for environmental monitoring, a microcontroller unit for data processing and an IoT communication module for transmitting real-time data to a cloud platform. The system was designed to ensure continuous monitoring, data logging and remote accessibility for improved storage management.



### 2. Sensor Integration and Circuit Development

Sensor modules including the DHT11 temperature and humidity sensor, MQ-135 gas sensor, moisture sensor and load cell were integrated with the microcontroller for continuous monitoring. The DHT11 operates using a thermistor and capacitive sensing to measure ambient conditions. The MQ-135 detects gases like CO<sub>2</sub> and ammonia based on resistance variation. The moisture sensor measures grain moisture through conductivity changes, indicating spoilage risk. The load cell, combined with an HX711 amplifier, measures weight using the strain gauge principle. All sensors were properly calibrated and interfaced through analog and digital pins, ensuring accurate data acquisition and reliable system performance.



### 3. System Assembly and Programming

After integrating all hardware components, the entire system was assembled into a functional prototype. Embedded programming was developed using a suitable programming environment to control sensor data acquisition, process environmental readings and manage communication with the IoT platform. The program was designed to collect sensor data at regular intervals and convert raw signals into meaningful environmental measurements.

**Step 1: Connect the Components**  
Assemble the hardware as shown in [schematic](#).

**Step 2: Install the Libraries**  
Install necessary libraries in the Arduino IDE.

```
#include <HX711.h>
#include <MQ135.h>
```

**Step 3: Write the Code**  
Program the NodeMCU with the following code:

```
void setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
  scale.begin(DI_PIN, SCK_PIN);
}

void loop() {
  float weight = scale.get_unit(10);
  int airQuality = analogRead(A0);
  Serial.print("Weight: ");
  Serial.print(weight);
  Serial.print("g, Air Quality: ");
  Serial.println(sprigplyf@r@quality);
}
```

**Step 4: Upload & Test**  
Upload the code to the NodeMCU & monitor the readings.

Serial Monitor Output: Weight: 25.45g, Air Quality: 350; Weight: 26.10g, Air Quality: 345; Weight: 24.85g, Air Quality: 340

Real Hardware Setup

### 4. IoT Cloud Platform Integration

To enable real-time monitoring and remote accessibility, the system was integrated with an IoT cloud platform. The sensor data collected by the microcontroller were transmitted to the cloud through a wireless communication module. The cloud platform stores, visualizes and processes the collected data, allowing users to monitor storage conditions

through an online dashboard. This integration enables continuous observation of environmental parameters from remote locations.

### 5. System Testing and Validation

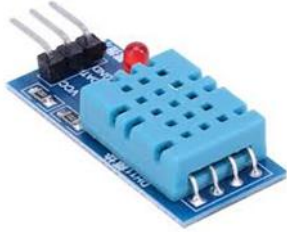
The final stage involved testing and validating the performance of the developed monitoring system. Experimental trials were conducted in a storage environment containing pulses to evaluate the system's monitoring accuracy and reliability. Sensor readings for temperature, humidity, gas concentration and other parameters were recorded and analyzed to assess system performance. The effectiveness of the system in detecting unfavorable storage conditions and providing real-time monitoring capability was verified

## III. COMPONENTS

The Arduino Uno functions as the central embedded processing unit of the IoT-based food storage monitoring system. It performs data acquisition by collecting environmental parameters from connected sensors such as temperature, humidity and gas sensors. The microcontroller processes these input signals through programmed algorithms and converts them into digital data. It also manages serial communication with the Wi-Fi module for cloud connectivity. Acting as the system controller, the Arduino coordinates sensor interfacing, data processing and wireless data transmission to ensure efficient real-time environmental monitoring.

#### 1. DHT11 Temperature and Humidity Sensor

The DHT11 is a digital sensor used to measure temperature and relative humidity in the storage environment. It contains a thermistor for temperature sensing and a capacitive sensor for humidity measurement. The sensor processes the data internally and provides a calibrated digital output using a single-wire communication. It operates in the range of 0°C to 50°C for temperature and 20% to 90% for humidity, with moderate accuracy. The sensor works on 3.3V to 5V supply, making it suitable for microcontroller-based IoT systems. In this project, the DHT11 is used to continuously monitor environmental conditions inside the storage unit. Proper control of temperature and humidity helps prevent moisture buildup, fungal growth and spoilage of stored pulses, thereby maintaining quality and shelf life.



## 2. MQ-135 Gas Sensor

The MQ-135 is a gas sensor used to monitor air quality by detecting harmful gases such as ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), benzene and other volatile compounds in the storage environment. It works based on a semiconductor sensing material (SnO<sub>2</sub>), whose electrical resistance changes when exposed to different gases. The sensor provides an analog output, which is read and processed by the microcontroller to estimate gas concentration levels. It typically operates at 5V and requires a preheating time for stable and accurate readings. In this project, the MQ-135 sensor is used to continuously monitor gas levels inside the storage unit. An increase in gas concentration indicates microbial activity, spoilage, or poor ventilation. Early detection of these gases helps in taking preventive actions to protect the quality and safety of stored pulses.



## 3. ESP8266 Wi-Fi Module

The ESP8266 is a low-cost Wi-Fi module used to provide internet connectivity for the IoT-based monitoring system. It supports TCP/IP protocols and connects the microcontroller to a wireless network. In this project, the ESP8266 receives sensor data from the Arduino through serial communication (UART) and transmits it to a cloud-based IoT platform in real time. The module operates at 3.3V and enables continuous data transfer over Wi-Fi. This wireless communication allows remote monitoring of temperature, humidity and gas levels inside the storage unit. It helps in real-time tracking, data logging and generating alerts when environmental conditions exceed safe limits,

improving overall storage management.



## 4. ThingSpeak IoT Analytics Platform

ThingSpeak is a cloud-based IoT platform used for real-time data storage, analysis and visualization. In this project, it receives sensor data from the ESP8266 module through internet communication protocols. The data is stored in channels and displayed using graphs and charts for parameters such as temperature, humidity and gas levels. This allows continuous monitoring of storage conditions from any remote location. ThingSpeak also supports data logging and basic analytics, helping to track variations in environmental conditions over time. This improves decision-making and ensures proper storage management of pulses.

## 5. Power Supply Unit

The power supply unit provides regulated electrical power required for the stable operation of the embedded monitoring system. It converts input electrical energy into appropriate DC voltage levels suitable for microcontrollers, sensors and communication modules. Voltage regulation and current stabilization ensure reliable performance and protect electronic components from fluctuations or overload conditions. A consistent power supply is essential for uninterrupted data acquisition, sensor operation and wireless communication within the IoT-based food storage monitoring system.

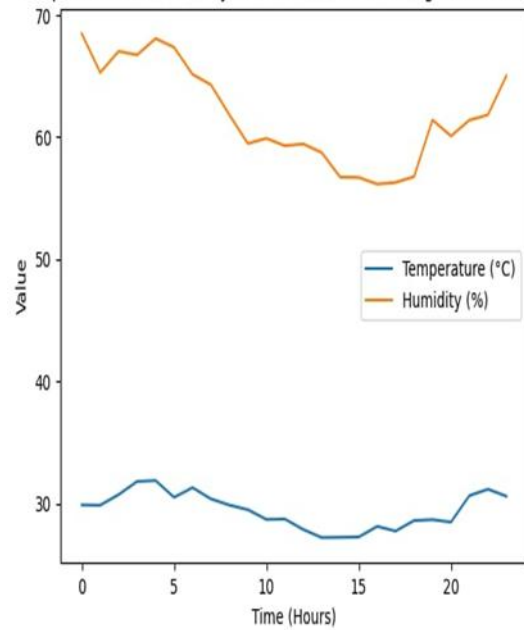
## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The IoT-based real-time monitoring system for pulses storage was successfully implemented and evaluated at the storage environment of Allay Foods Pvt Ltd. The system was designed to continuously monitor important environmental parameters affecting the quality of stored pulses such as chickpea, pigeon pea and green gram. During the experimental monitoring process, approximately 100–150 kg of pulses storage capacity was observed

under controlled storage conditions. The developed monitoring unit integrated multiple sensors to measure temperature, relative humidity, moisture condition, gas concentration and pulse weight inside the storage container. The recorded temperature of the storage environment ranged between 26 °C and 32 °C, while the relative humidity level varied between 55 % and 70 % RH during the monitoring period.

The moisture detection system identified grain moisture conditions within the safe storage range of approximately 10–13 %, which is suitable for maintaining pulse quality. Gas monitoring was performed using an air-quality sensor capable of detecting CO<sub>2</sub> and other storage gases, indicating possible respiration or microbial activity within the storage environment. All sensor data were processed using a microcontroller unit and transmitted through a Wi-Fi based IoT communication module to a cloud monitoring platform. The collected data were displayed in real time on a mobile device, allowing remote observation of storage conditions. If any parameter exceeded the safe storage limit, the system generated alerts to notify the user immediately. The experimental results demonstrate that the developed IoT monitoring system provides reliable environmental monitoring and enables early detection of unfavorable storage conditions. By continuously tracking storage parameters and enabling remote monitoring through a mobile interface, the system can significantly reduce post-harvest losses and improve the storage management of pulses.

Temperature and Humidity Variation in Pulses Storage (Realistic Data)



The graph illustrates the real-time variation of temperature and relative humidity inside the pulses storage system monitored using the developed IoT-based sensing unit. The data were recorded continuously over a 24-hour period under controlled storage conditions. From the graph, the temperature fluctuates between approximately 27°C and 32°C, which falls within an acceptable range for safe storage of pulses. Slight variations in temperature are observed due to ambient environmental changes and internal storage conditions, indicating that the system is capable of capturing real-time dynamics accurately. Similarly, the relative humidity varies between 56% and 68% RH during the monitoring period. The humidity trend shows moderate fluctuations, which may be attributed to moisture exchange between the stored grains and surrounding air. However, the values remain within the permissible storage limits, ensuring minimal risk of fungal growth and spoilage. The absence of extreme spikes or sudden drops in both parameters demonstrates the stability of the storage environment as well as the reliability of the sensor network. The continuous data acquisition and smooth variation patterns confirm that the IoT system effectively monitors environmental conditions without interruption.

Overall, the graph validates that the developed system successfully maintains and monitors optimal storage conditions, thereby helping in reducing post-harvest losses and preserving the quality of pulses.



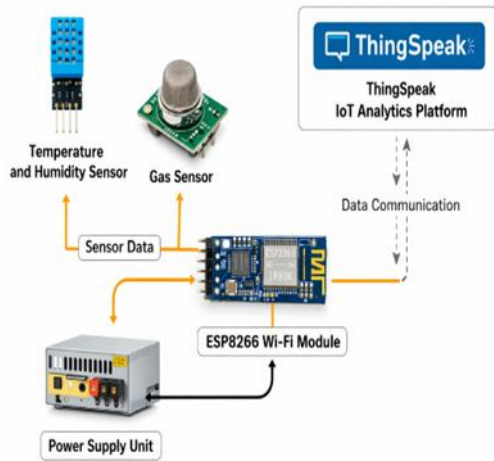
Fig: IoT-Based Pulses Storage Monitoring Alerts

The figure represents the real-time IoT-based monitoring dashboard developed for evaluating storage conditions of pulses. The system categorizes the storage environment into three distinct zones: Normal Condition, Warning Alert and Critical Alert, based on sensor data collected from temperature, humidity and gas concentration sensors. Under normal conditions, the system indicates safe storage parameters, where temperature (around 28.5°C), gas concentration (approximately 320 ppm) and humidity levels remain within permissible limits. This condition confirms that the storage environment is suitable for preserving pulse quality without any risk of deterioration. The warning alert zone is triggered when environmental parameters begin to deviate from optimal levels. For instance, gas concentration rising to around 580 ppm and humidity reaching about 70% indicates the onset of unfavorable conditions such as increased respiration or moisture accumulation. At this stage, the system recommends preventive actions like ventilation to avoid further deterioration. In the critical alert condition, the system detects extreme parameter values such as high temperature (around 36.5°C), elevated humidity (78%) and gas concentration nearing 950 ppm. These conditions indicate a high risk of spoilage due to microbial growth, fungal infestation, or excessive grain respiration. The system immediately generates alerts, prompting urgent corrective measures to prevent significant post-harvest losses. The integration of real-time data visualization with alert thresholds demonstrates the effectiveness of the IoT system in not only monitoring but also providing early warning and decision support. This intelligent alert mechanism ensures timely intervention, thereby enhancing storage safety, reducing losses and improving overall storage management efficiency.

The developed IoT-based monitoring system operates by continuously sensing, processing, transmitting and displaying environmental parameters critical for pulse storage. Initially, the system is powered through a regulated power supply unit which provides stable voltage to all electronic components including the microcontroller and sensors. Once powered, the ESP8266 Wi-Fi module initializes and establishes a connection with the available wireless network, enabling internet-based communication. The sensing stage involves multiple sensors integrated into the system. The DHT11 sensor measures temperature and relative humidity inside the storage environment, which are key factors influencing moisture migration and microbial growth in pulses. Simultaneously, the MQ-135 gas sensor detects the concentration of gases such as carbon dioxide and ammonia, which indicate spoilage or respiration activity within stored pulses. These sensors continuously collect real-time data and send analog/digital signals to the ESP8266 microcontroller. The microcontroller processes the incoming data, converts it into meaningful units and prepares it for transmission. In the next stage, the processed data is transmitted to the cloud platform (ThingSpeak) via Wi-Fi. The platform stores the data and presents it in graphical format, allowing remote monitoring of storage conditions over time. The system operates in a loop, where data acquisition, processing and transmission occur at regular intervals. If any parameter exceeds the predefined safe threshold limits, the system can be configured to generate alerts, enabling timely corrective actions such as ventilation, drying, or inspection of stored pulses.

Thus, the system ensures continuous monitoring and helps in maintaining optimal storage conditions, reducing post-harvest losses and improving the quality and shelf life of pulses.

## V. WORKING



## VI. CONCLUSION

The IoT-based real-time monitoring system for pulses storage was successfully developed to monitor and maintain suitable environmental conditions during the post-harvest storage period. The system was tested in a storage environment containing approximately 100–150 kg of pulses, including chickpea, pigeon pea and green gram. Various sensors were integrated to continuously measure important storage parameters such as temperature, relative humidity, moisture condition, gas concentration (CO<sub>2</sub>) and pulse weight. During the monitoring period, the recorded temperature ranged from 26 °C to 32 °C, while the relative humidity varied between 55 % and 70 %. The moisture content of pulses was detected between 10–13 %, which falls within the safe range for pulse storage. The gas sensor was used to detect CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, which helps identify possible respiration or microbial activity inside the storage container. The collected data were processed using a microcontroller and transmitted through a Wi-Fi based IoT communication module to a cloud platform, allowing real-time monitoring through a mobile phone. The developed system demonstrated reliable monitoring and effective data transmission, enabling early detection of unfavorable storage conditions.

Furthermore, the system can be extended with automated control mechanisms such as ventilation or drying units to maintain optimal storage conditions without manual intervention. The integration of advanced data analytics and predictive algorithms can further enhance decision-making for

storage management. This technology can be scaled for in warehouses and large scale storage facilities in the agricultural sector. Hence, the proposed system offers a cost-effective and smart solution for modern post-harvest management.

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