

INTERNET OF THINGS SYSTEM THROUGH MESSAGE QUEUE
TELEMETRY TRACKING PROTOCOL FOR
MODERNIZING RED CHILI AGRICULTURE

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DEDICATION

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ABSTRACT

The rate of food imports of the country continues to show an increase from year to year especially red chilies. Malaysians still spend most of their income on food. At the same time, domestic food production for certain foods continues to decline. This situation in turn will lead to the problem of low-income ability and the country should continue to import food from foreign countries. A study in 2018 showed that the import dependency (IDR) rate of the Malaysian population for red chili is 73.1%. Although specific planning has been made through the National Agricultural Policy, but food imports continue to increase. In the era of technological development of the 4.0 industrial revolution, the country's agricultural sector needs to follow this revolution to maximize production and meet the demands of society in Malaysia currently. Cultivation areas that are far from facilities, especially electricity, make it difficult for crop farms to operate more modern in accordance with the current development era. The use of renewable energy, namely solar energy as the main source of energy is needed to make plantations equipped with modern equipment that requires a source of electricity to operate. This research proposed smart farming method studies the growth rate of plant roots based on soil factors namely pH and moisture. Data obtained from pH sensors and moisture sensors will be transmitted to cloud using MQTT protocol. The data will be analysed by Raspberry Pi and the system will determined the appropriate irrigation and fertilization to increase the growth rate of roots. This system will continuously monitor the environment crops include sources of electricity supply using photovoltaic system (PV) systems. The planting site is divided into two (2) zones to facilitate monitoring and control operations. From the results of the study conducted, the system will ensure that the soil pH rate is suitable for chili cultivation which is between 5.5 - 6.5 while the suitable soil moisture is between 55% - 70%. If that value is not reached, the system will turn on the necessary pump automatically. Manual control mode is also provided to give convenience to users. Users can also observe the system operating by using web access or android applications.

ABSTRAK

Kadar import makanan negara terus menunjukkan peningkatan dari tahun ke tahun terutamanya cili merah. Rakyat Malaysia membelanjakan sebahagian besar pendapatan mereka untuk makanan. Pada masa yang sama, pengeluaran makanan domestik untuk makanan tertentu terus menurun. Keadaan ini seterusnya akan menimbulkan masalah dan negara harus terus mengimport makanan dari negara asing. Kajian pada tahun 2018 menunjukkan bahawa kadar kebergantungan import (IDR) penduduk Malaysia bagi cili merah adalah 73.1%. Walaupun perancangan khusus telah dibuat melalui Dasar Pertanian Negara, tetapi kadar import makanan terus meningkat. Pada era perkembangan teknologi revolusi industri 4.0, sektor pertanian negara perlu seiring dengan revolusi ini untuk memaksimumkan pengeluaran dan memenuhi tuntutan masyarakat di Malaysia ketika ini. Kawasan penanaman yang jauh dari kemudahan, terutamanya bekalan elektrik, menyukarkan ladang tanaman untuk beroperasi lebih moden sesuai dengan era pembangunan sekarang. Penggunaan tenaga boleh diperbaharui, iaitu tenaga suria sebagai sumber tenaga utama diperlukan untuk ladang beroperasi dengan peralatan elektrik/elektronik moden. Kajian ini mencadangkan kaedah pertanian pintar dengan mengkaji kadar pertumbuhan akar tanaman berdasarkan faktor tanah iaitu pH dan kelembapan. Data yang diperoleh dari sensor pH dan sensor kelembapan akan dihantar ke awan menggunakan protokol MQTT. Data akan dianalisis oleh Raspberry Pi dan sistem akan menentukan pengairan dan pembajaan yang sesuai untuk meningkatkan kadar pertumbuhan akar. Sistem ini akan terus memantau tanaman persekitaran merangkumi sumber bekalan elektrik menggunakan sistem fotovoltai (PV). Tapak penanaman dibahagikan kepada dua (2) zon untuk memudahkan operasi pemantauan dan kawalan. Dari hasil kajian yang dilakukan, sistem akan memastikan bahawa kadar pH tanah diantara 5,5 - 6,5 sementara kelembapan tanah yang sesuai adalah antara 55% - 70%. Sekiranya nilai tersebut tidak tercapai, sistem akan menghidupkan pam yang diperlukan secara automatik. Mod kawalan manual juga disediakan untuk memberi kemudahan kepada pengguna. Pengguna juga dapat memerhatikan sistem beroperasi dengan menggunakan akses web atau aplikasi android.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
SSR	-	Subsistence Rate
IDR	-	Import Dependency Rate
IoT	-	Internet of Things
M2M	-	Machine to Machine
MQTT	-	Message Queuing Telemetry Transport Protocol
LPWAN	-	Low-Power Wide Area Network
LoRa	-	Long Range
LoraWAN	-	Long Range Wireless Area Network
PV	-	Photovoltaic
WSN	-	Wireless Sensor Networks
SMP	-	Soil matric potential sensors
VWC	-	Volumetric soil water content sensors
UAV	-	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
EC	-	Electrical Conductivity
PID	-	proportional–integral–derivative
ILP	-	integer linear programming
HGA	-	hybrid genetic algorithm
CCN	-	convolutionary neural network
YOLO	-	You Only Look Once
EI	-	embedded intelligence
SEH-WSN	-	solar energy harvesting wireless sensor network
FDR	-	Frequency Domain Reflectometry
TDR	-	Time Domain Reflectometer
CSS	-	chirp spread spectrum
DoD	-	depth of discharge
GUI	-	Graphical User Interface

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Increasing food security is one of the main goals of the national agricultural policy that was first established in 1984. Food security means that every person, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), can physically and economically obtain adequate, safe and nutritious food resources at all times to meet their dietary needs and food choices for active and healthy lives. There are four components of food security referred to by the FAO, namely food availability, food access, consumption and stability.

The subsistence rate (SSR) is an indicator used to explain the extent to which a country's agricultural commodity supply can meet domestic demand. SSRs that reach 100% or more show that production is sufficient to meet domestic needs and if SSRs do not reach 100%, the country needs to import the food supply to meet the demand and tastes of domestic consumers. Import dependency can be measured using the import dependency rate (IDR) indicator.

The import rate of red chillies to meet the needs of Malaysians is increasing every year as shown in Figure 1.1. As a challenge in bringing the current of modernization in red chilli cultivation, the use of the Internet of Things in cultivation management is in line with the industrial revolution 4.0. Based on a study in 2019, red chilli is an agricultural commodity item with the lowest SSR of

26.4% and this means that the country needs to import a total of 73.6% from foreign countries to meet the needs of the local market. Along with the era of technological revolution 4.0 industry development, the country's agricultural sector also needs to adapt this technology in order to maximize production and meet the current demand of the population in Malaysia.

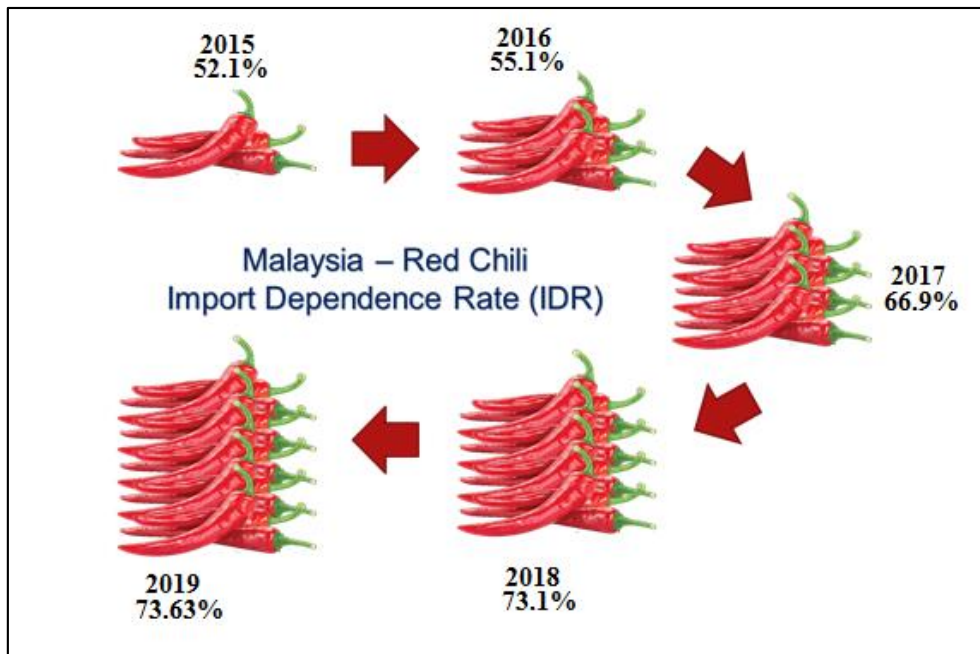


Figure 1.1 Red Chili – Malaysian Import Dependence Rate

This study will take into account the need for cultivation in rural areas with limited power supply resources and requires remote monitoring and control using cloud computing facilities. The plantation farm will be equipped with detection and control devices that will help increase fertility levels and root growth further increase red chilli production. Soil factors such as pH level and soil moisture will be measured, processed and sent to control devices to determine the level of fertilization, level of irrigation and level of pesticides required by soil and crops.

The main framework of the study will use the Raspberry Pi as the primary processor and supported by the use of low-power wide area networks for remote data transmission and reception. To ensure a stable and durable power supply source, this system will use a power source from solar energy and batteries. All of these systems will be remotely monitored and controlled by users with attractive and simple but multi-functional display settings.

A common concept now-a-days, the Internet of Things (IoT), describes a framework with the help of different kinds of sensors where the environment is connected to the Internet. It allows objects to be sensed or managed remotely via existing network infrastructure, creating possibilities for a more direct integration of the physical environment into computer-based systems and improving performance, accuracy and economic gain, in addition to decreasing human interference.

The agricultural IoT uses various sensor devices and sensing technologies to collect information on agricultural growth through wireless sensor networks, mobile wireless communications networks and the Internet. Cleaning, incorporation and processing of the vast knowledge gathered from agriculture. Crop treatment will be ensured by intelligent operating terminals, process control, scientific decision-making and real-time service in the whole industrial chain for the production of agricultural products. It is a major technical support for modern agriculture with a high degree of quality, accuracy and environmental protection, and is also essential for agricultural knowledge and intelligence.

Cloud Computing provides on-demand network access to a common pool of configurable computer resources. IoT systems generate massive quantities of data, and Cloud Storage paves the way for that data to reach its destination. Clouds and IoT have a relationship that is complementary, and our daily tasks can be more efficient. Different communication protocols for transmitting data exist in IoT and machine to machine (M2M) systems. As an abbreviation for Message Queuing

Telemetry Transport Protocol (MQTT), OASIS implemented MQTT in 2013. Now, this open standard is a commonly used communication protocol across a number of industries.

The consistency of the soil can be calculated in terms of plantations by calculating various soil parameters. Measurements of soil parameters are needed continuously to obtain information about the condition of the soil environment that has approached the real condition. Suitable crops are recommended to farmers on the basis of soil analysis, in order to improve crop productivity.

It is a challenge to cover a wide area that uses IoT, as typically required in agriculture and agriculture. To achieve efficient communication, Low-Power Wide Area Network (LPWAN) protocols such as LoRa are a perfect solution. A new agricultural information technology, called smart farming, has appeared in recent years, suggesting a service focusing on the wireless sensor network and LoRa.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Major problem is monitoring and controlling the irrigation, fertilization and pesticide of the plantation located at rural areas as they are requires a long and stable power supply source and high efficiency data received and trasmitted for the operation of sensor and control devices. To overcome this problem, designing a project combined with all the three element and the efficiency of data transfer between the receiver and transmitter are much higher, further and stable power supply.

From the technical perspective, major research gaps are how to improve the power supply sources including the selection of battery, selection of low power consumption devices and the efficiency of data received and transmitted and controlling irrigation, fertilization and pesticide for better crop productivity.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Followings are the objectives proposed for this study:

- i. To study and design Agriculture IoT framework using Raspberry Pi through MQTT Protocol
- ii. To analyse the system performance using Node Red
- iii. To test and validate the improve Agriculture IoT with the experimental work

1.4 Scopes

The determination of the scope of the study was identified based on the research gap of past studies as well as improvements in terms of the use of better sensors and at an affordable price. The chilli crop is the choice because the rate of dependence on the import of the material is increasing every year. The indentified scope of the project are listed as below:

- i. Design IoT framework using Raspberry Pi, MQTT Protocol, LoRa and PV

- ii. PV system using 200watt PV panel and 18Ah Sealed Lead Acid as power bank for powering sensors and LoRa devices
- iii. Hanging planting because of the original soil site contains unknown compounds and can cause disease to plants
- iv. Irrigation system using surface drip because it is much more efficient and save water resources
- v. Fertilization system using surface drip because more efficient and save fertilizer resources
- vi. Pesticide system using surface mist because of more practicable

1.5 Thesis Outline

Chapter 1 describes the background of the study which is related to the rate of importation of red chillies in the country which is increasing every year. The main factor of this increase is due to limited supply sources. The selection of the main topic of the study was based on observations against this background. Next in this chapter describes a statement of problems faced in increasing the production level of red chilli crops in the country. The use of high-tech devices is one of the ways in helping to increase crop yields. The objectives and scope of the study are also stated in this chapter.

Chapter 2 contains past studies related to the title of the study. The past studies mentioned in this chapter are divided into three sub-studies namely studies related to Agriculture IoT, Wireless Sensor Network and MQTT Protocol. Research in the field of smart agriculture has started since 2008 and is growing with current technology. Studies in Iot agriculture focus on the selection and comparison of the use of sensors, methods of monitoring and controlling resource requirements as well as the transmission of data directly to users. The study in the Wireless Sensor Network, on the other hand, leads to a smaller scope, which is to connect all the

sensing devices used wirelessly and without affecting the quality of the data sent to the receiver. A study of the MQTT protocol to obtain information related to the suitability of the use of this protocol in the transmission of data without errors in the delivery of information to the recipient

Chapter 3 describes in detail the methods in conducting the study. In this chapter will describe the framework of study and development of each node within the framework. There are 3 nodes developed in this study, namely sensor node, processing node and controlling node. In addition, this chapter also states the device selection factors as well as the advantages of the device.

The findings from the study are described in Chapter 4. This chapter will show the reading values received from digital type sensors installed on the crop medium as well as a comparison of those values with analogue type sensor readings. Apart from that, tests on the level of performance of the use of the MQTT protocol as a data transmission medium were also conducted. Display for users is also featured in this chapter.

The focus in chapter 5 is related to the discussion of the results of the study conducted as well as suggestions for improvement to the study in the future. The recommendations focus on the use of more high -tech devices as well as the addition of several new applications that can help improve the efficiency of IoT agriculture.

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