WIRELESS MOTOR STARTER WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT USING SOLAR ENERGY FOR AGRICULTURAL APPLICATIONS

P.MADHAVI [1] P. PUNYAVATHI [2], M. RAMA KRISHNA [3], B. BHARGAVA NAIDU [4], A. VEHITH VARMA [5], G. UDAY SHANKAR [6]

1.P.MADHAVI , Associate Professor, Department of EEE, AVANTHI'S ST. THERESSA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHONOLOGY, GARIVIDI, (CHEEPURUPALLE), ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA.
E-MAIL :pmadhu.229@gmail.com.

2.P.PUNYAVATHI , Btech final year, Department of EEE, AVANTHI'S ST. THERESSA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, GARIVIDI, (CHEEPURUPALLE), ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA.
E-MAIL: punyapalleda83@gmail.com

3.M.RAMAKRISHNA , Btech final year,Department of EEE, AVANTHI'S ST. THERESSA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, GARIVIDI, (CHEEPURUPALLE), ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA.
E-MAIL: rebleramki@gmail.com

4.B.BHARGAVA NAIDU , Btech final year,Department of EEE, AVANTHI'S ST. THERESSA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, GARIVIDI, (CHEEPURUPALLE), ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA.
E-MAIL: bongubhargav0@gmail.com

5.A.VEHITH VARMA , Btech final year,Department of EEE, AVANTHI'S ST. THERESSA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, GARIVIDI, (CHEEPURUPALLE), ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA.
E-MAIL: vehithvarma2002@gmail

6.G.UDAY SHANKAR , Btech final yearDepartment of EEE, AVANTHI'S ST. THERESSA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, GARIVIDI, (CHEEPURUPALLE), ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA.
E-MAIL: udaydarling251@gmail

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ABSTRACT

The Wireless Motor Starter with Acknowledgement Using Solar Energy for Agricultural Applications is an advanced irrigation control system designed to improve the efficiency and convenience of agricultural motor operation. In traditional irrigation systems, farmers are required to travel long distances to manually switch ON or OFF irrigation motors, which is time-consuming, labour-intensive, and sometimes unsafe, especially during night time or adverse weather conditions. Additionally, in rural areas, irregular electricity supply creates difficulties in operating irrigation systems effectively. To overcome these problems, the proposed system integrates wireless communication technology and solar energy to provide a reliable and efficient solution for agricultural motor control.

The system uses a solar panel as the primary power source to generate electrical energy, which is stored in a rechargeable battery. A microcontroller acts as the central control unit, which receives commands from the farmer through a wireless communication module such as GSM. Based on the received command, the microcontroller controls the relay circuit to start or stop the irrigation motor. After executing the command, the system sends an acknowledgement message to the farmer confirming the motor status. This acknowledgement feature helps the farmer to know whether the motor is ON or OFF without visiting the motor location.

The proposed system reduces manual labour, saves time and energy, improves irrigation efficiency, and promotes the use of renewable energy in agriculture. It also improves safety by allowing farmers to operate motors remotely. Overall, the system provides a cost-effective, reliable, and eco-friendly solution for modern agricultural irrigation management.

Keywords: Wireless Motor Starter, Solar Energy, GSM Module, Arduino Microcontroller, Relay Driver Circuit, Irrigation Motor Control, Renewable Energy, Remote Monitoring, Smart Agriculture, Acknowledgement System.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Agriculture plays a vital role in the economy of many countries, especially in developing countries like India, where irrigation is essential for crop production. Electric motors are commonly used to pump water for irrigation from wells, bore wells, and reservoirs. However, traditional irrigation systems require manual operation of motors, which is time-consuming and inconvenient for farmers, especially when the motor is located far from their residence. Farmers often have to travel long distances to switch ON or OFF the irrigation motor, which results in wastage of time, energy, and labour.

To overcome these difficulties, wireless communication technologies and renewable energy systems can be used to develop smart irrigation systems. A wireless motor starter allows farmers to control irrigation motors remotely without physically visiting the pump location. By using wireless communication modules such as GSM, RF, or IoT-based systems, signals can be transmitted between the farmer and the motor control unit effectively.

Solar energy is one of the most abundant renewable energy sources available and can be used to power irrigation systems, especially in rural areas where grid electricity is unreliable. Solar panels convert sunlight into electrical energy, which can be used to operate irrigation motors and control circuits. The integration of solar energy with wireless motor control systems provides an efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly solution for agricultural irrigation management.

Thus, the Wireless Motor Starter with Acknowledgement Using Solar Energy system is designed to allow farmers to remotely control irrigation motors while using solar energy as the primary power source, thereby improving irrigation efficiency and reducing manual effort.

1.2 Problem Statement

In traditional irrigation systems, farmers are required to manually switch ON or OFF the irrigation motor by visiting the pump location. This process is inconvenient, time-consuming, and sometimes dangerous, especially during night time or adverse weather conditions. Additionally, in rural areas, power supply may be irregular or unavailable for long periods, which affects irrigation operations and crop productivity.

Another major problem is the lack of remote monitoring and feedback systems in conventional motor starter systems. Farmers do not receive confirmation whether the motor is ON or OFF, which may lead to water wastage, motor damage, or inefficient irrigation. Also, traditional systems depend heavily on grid electricity, which may not be available in remote agricultural areas.

Therefore, there is a need for a system that can remotely control irrigation motors, provide acknowledgement feedback to the farmer, and operate using renewable energy sources such as solar energy to ensure continuous operation even in remote locations.

1.3 Scope of the Research

The scope of this project is to design and develop a wireless motor starter system powered by solar energy for agricultural applications. The system uses a microcontroller, GSM module, relay circuit, and solar power supply to control irrigation motors remotely.

The system allows farmers to send commands to start or stop the motor using wireless communication and receive acknowledgement messages indicating the motor status. The system also includes solar panels and battery storage to provide continuous power supply, making it suitable for rural and remote agricultural areas.

The project can be further extended by integrating sensors such as soil moisture sensors, water level sensors, and IoT monitoring systems to make irrigation fully automatic and intelligent.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

1. Solar Powered Irrigation System for Agricultural Applications

Author: M. R. Hasan et al.

Description:

This paper presents the design and implementation of a solar-powered irrigation system that uses photovoltaic panels to generate electrical energy for operating water pumps in agricultural fields. The authors explain that solar energy can be used as an alternative power source in rural areas where grid electricity is unreliable or unavailable. The system includes solar panels, battery storage, charge controller, and motor pump. The study demonstrates that solar-powered irrigation systems reduce electricity costs, improve irrigation efficiency, and provide a sustainable solution for farmers. The research also highlights that solar energy availability matches irrigation demand during daytime, making solar irrigation systems highly efficient for agricultural applications. This work supports the use of solar energy as the primary power source in the proposed wireless motor starter system.

2. GSM-Based Wireless Motor Control System for Irrigation

Author: S. R. Patel and K. Mehta

Description:

This research paper discusses a GSM-based wireless motor control system that allows farmers to control irrigation pumps remotely

using SMS commands. The system uses a GSM module connected to a microcontroller that receives SMS commands from the user and controls the motor using relay circuits. The authors explain that this system reduces the need for farmers to travel to the pump location and helps in efficient irrigation management. The system also sends acknowledgement messages to the farmer confirming the motor status. The study shows that GSM-based motor control systems improve irrigation efficiency, reduce labour effort, and provide real-time feedback to the user. This research directly supports the wireless communication and acknowledgement feature implemented in the proposed system.

3. Microcontroller-Based Motor Starter with Protection System

Author: J. K. Sharma et al.

Description:

This paper presents a microcontroller-based motor starter system designed to control and protect irrigation motors. The system uses a microcontroller to process input commands and control the motor through relay circuits. The authors explain that microcontrollers can be used to automate motor control operations and implement protection features such as overload protection, dry run protection, and voltage monitoring. The study demonstrates that microcontroller-based systems provide reliable and efficient motor control compared to traditional motor starter systems. This research supports the use of Arduino microcontroller in the proposed wireless motor starter system.

4. Remote Monitoring and Control of Agricultural Pumps Using IoT

Author: A. Kumar and R. Singh

Description:

This research paper focuses on the use of IoT technology for remote monitoring and control of agricultural irrigation systems. The system uses sensors to monitor soil moisture, water level, and pump status and sends data to a cloud server using wireless communication. Farmers can monitor irrigation conditions and control pumps remotely using mobile applications. The study shows that remote monitoring systems improve water management, reduce manual labour, and increase crop productivity. This research supports the concept of remote monitoring and automation used in the proposed system.

5. Wireless Sensor Network-Based Smart Irrigation System

Author: P. K. Mishra et al.

Description:

This paper presents a smart irrigation system based on wireless sensor networks that monitor environmental parameters such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity. The system automatically controls the irrigation pump based on sensor readings. The authors explain that wireless sensor networks provide efficient communication between sensors, controllers, and monitoring devices. The study demonstrates that automated irrigation systems help conserve water and improve agricultural productivity. This research supports the future scope of integrating sensors into the proposed system.

6. Solar Powered GSM-Based Automatic Irrigation System

Author: R. K. Gupta and S. Verma

Description:

This research presents a solar-powered GSM-based irrigation system that combines renewable energy with wireless communication technology. The system uses solar panels to power the irrigation pump and GSM module to control the motor

remotely. The authors explain that integrating solar energy with wireless communication reduces dependency on grid electricity and allows irrigation systems to operate in remote locations. The study demonstrates that solar-powered wireless irrigation systems are cost-effective, reliable, and environmentally friendly. This research supports the integration of solar energy and wireless communication in the proposed system.

7. Relay-Based Motor Control System Using Embedded Systems

Author: T. Ramesh et al.

Description:

This paper discusses the use of relay circuits in motor control applications. The authors explain that relay driver circuits are used to control high-power electrical loads using low-power microcontroller signals. The relay provides electrical isolation between the control circuit and the motor circuit, ensuring safe operation. The study shows that relay-based motor control systems are reliable and widely used in industrial and agricultural applications. This research supports the relay driver circuit used in the proposed wireless motor starter system.

8. Smart Agriculture Using Renewable Energy and Automation

Author: L. N. Rao and P. S. Reddy

Description:

This paper presents a smart agriculture system that integrates renewable energy, automation, and wireless communication technologies to improve agricultural productivity. The authors explain that automation reduces manual labour and improves irrigation efficiency. Renewable energy sources such as solar energy reduce operational costs and promote environmentally friendly farming practices. The study demonstrates that integrating automation and renewable energy is essential for modern agriculture. This research supports the overall concept of the proposed system.

3. EXISTING SYSTEM

In traditional agricultural irrigation systems, electric motors are commonly used to pump water from wells, bore wells, and water reservoirs to agricultural fields. These motors are usually operated manually by farmers by visiting the motor location and switching the motor ON or OFF physically. This manual method of motor operation has been in use for many years in rural agricultural areas. However, this method requires significant time, effort, and labour from farmers, especially when the agricultural fields are located far from their homes. Farmers often need to travel long distances to operate the irrigation motor, which becomes difficult during night time, rainy seasons, or extreme weather conditions. This manual process reduces irrigation efficiency and increases labour workload for farmers.

In many rural areas, irrigation motors operate using grid electricity. However, the power supply in rural areas is often irregular and unreliable. Frequent power cuts, low voltage conditions, and voltage fluctuations affect the operation of irrigation motors. Sometimes the motor may not run due to low voltage, and sometimes it may get damaged due to voltage fluctuations. This unreliable power supply affects irrigation schedules and may lead to crop damage due to insufficient water supply.

Some existing systems use GSM-based motor control systems where farmers can send SMS commands to control the irrigation motor remotely. These systems

reduce the need for manual motor operation, but they still depend on grid electricity for motor operation. Additionally, many of these systems do not provide proper acknowledgement feedback to the farmer. As a result, the farmer may not know whether the motor is actually turned ON or OFF, which may lead to water wastage or motor dry running conditions.

Therefore, existing irrigation motor control systems have several limitations such as manual operation, dependency on grid electricity, lack of acknowledgement systems, and lack of proper monitoring systems.

3.2 Disadvantages of Existing System

The existing irrigation motor control systems have several disadvantages that affect agricultural productivity and irrigation efficiency. One of the major disadvantages of traditional systems is manual motor operation. Farmers are required to travel to the motor location to start or stop the irrigation pump, which is time-consuming and labour-intensive. This process becomes more difficult when the pump is located far away from the farmer's residence or when irrigation needs to be done at night time. This not only wastes time and energy but also increases physical effort for farmers.

Another major disadvantage of existing systems is the dependency on grid electricity. In many rural areas, electricity supply is not continuous and power cuts are very common. Due to irregular power supply, irrigation motors may not operate at the required time, which affects crop growth and agricultural productivity. In addition, voltage fluctuations and low voltage conditions may damage the motor and reduce its life span. This increases maintenance costs for farmers.

Existing systems also do not provide acknowledgement or feedback to the farmer regarding the motor status. When a farmer starts the motor manually or through a basic wireless system, there is no confirmation whether the motor is actually running or not. This may lead to problems such as dry running of the motor, water wastage, and inefficient irrigation. Lack of proper monitoring systems makes it difficult for farmers to manage irrigation effectively. Another disadvantage of conventional systems is the high operational cost. Many irrigation systems use diesel pumps or grid electricity, which increases fuel and electricity costs. In addition, traditional irrigation systems do not use renewable energy sources, which increases environmental pollution and operational expenses. Safety is also a major concern in existing systems. Farmers often operate motors in wet agricultural fields or during night time, which increases the risk of electric shocks and accidents. Manual motor operation near electrical equipment in wet conditions can be dangerous and may cause serious injuries.

Due to these disadvantages, there is a need for an improved irrigation motor control system that can operate remotely, provide acknowledgement feedback, use renewable energy sources, and improve irrigation efficiency.

4. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system, **Wireless Motor Starter with Acknowledgement Using Solar Energy for Agricultural Applications**, is designed to provide an efficient and reliable method for controlling irrigation motors remotely using wireless communication while utilizing solar energy as the primary power source. The system integrates solar power generation, battery storage, microcontroller-based control, wireless communication module, relay

driver circuit, and motor pump to perform irrigation operations efficiently.

In this system, the solar panel converts sunlight into electrical energy using photovoltaic cells. The generated electrical energy is used to charge a rechargeable battery through a charge controller. The battery acts as an energy storage unit and provides continuous power supply to the control circuit and communication module when solar energy is not available, such as during night time or cloudy weather conditions. This ensures uninterrupted operation of the system.

The microcontroller acts as the central control unit of the system. It receives commands from the farmer through the wireless communication module such as GSM. When the farmer sends a command like “Motor ON” or “Motor OFF,” the GSM module receives the message and forwards it to the microcontroller. The microcontroller processes the command and sends a control signal to the relay driver circuit. The relay acts as an electrical switch that turns the motor ON or OFF. One of the important features of the proposed system is the acknowledgement system. After the motor operation is completed, the system sends a confirmation message back to the farmer indicating the motor status such as “Motor ON” or “Motor OFF.” This acknowledgement feature helps the farmer to know the exact motor status without visiting the motor location.

The proposed system reduces manual labour, saves time, improves irrigation efficiency, and promotes the use of renewable energy in agriculture. The system also improves safety by allowing farmers to operate motors remotely from a safe location.

4.2 Advantages of Proposed System

The proposed wireless motor starter system offers several advantages compared to traditional irrigation motor control systems. One of the major advantages of the proposed system is remote motor control. Farmers can control irrigation motors from a remote location using wireless communication, which eliminates the need to travel to the motor location. This saves time and reduces physical effort. Another important advantage of the proposed system is the use of solar energy as the power source. Solar energy is renewable, environmentally friendly, and available in abundance in agricultural areas. By using solar energy, the system reduces dependency on grid electricity and ensures continuous operation even during power cuts. This also reduces electricity costs and operational expenses for farmers.

The acknowledgement feature is another major advantage of the system. The system sends a confirmation message to the farmer after executing the motor control command. This helps the farmer to know whether the motor is actually turned ON or OFF, which prevents water wastage and motor dry running conditions. The proposed system also improves safety because farmers do not need to go near electrical equipment in wet agricultural fields or during night time. The system allows remote operation of the motor, which reduces the risk of electric shocks and accidents.

The system is cost-effective and suitable for rural agricultural areas where electricity supply is unreliable. It also supports the concept of smart agriculture by integrating wireless communication and renewable energy technologies.

Circuit Diagram Explanation

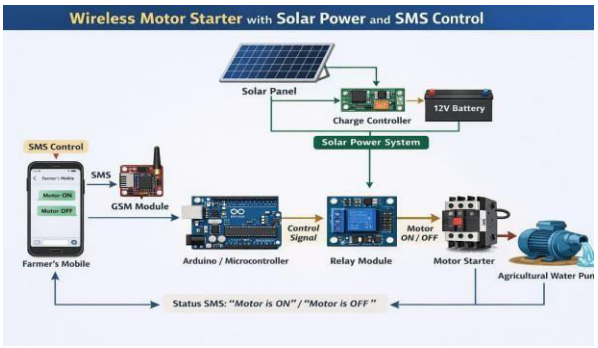

Fig1: Circuit Diagram

The circuit diagram of the Wireless Motor Starter with Solar Energy system consists of several important sections such as the solar power supply unit, battery charging circuit, voltage regulation circuit, microcontroller unit, GSM module, relay driver circuit, and motor pump. Each section performs a specific function in the operation of the system.

Solar Power Section

The solar panel converts sunlight into electrical energy using photovoltaic cells. The generated DC power is sent to a charge controller, which regulates the charging of the battery. The charge controller prevents overcharging and protects the battery from damage. The battery stores electrical energy and supplies power to the system when solar power is not available.

Voltage Regulation Section

The voltage regulator circuit (such as 7805 regulator) is used to convert the battery voltage (12V) into a regulated 5V DC supply required for the microcontroller and GSM module. The voltage regulator ensures stable voltage supply and protects electronic components from voltage fluctuations.

Microcontroller Section

The microcontroller is the main controlling unit of the system. It receives input signals from the GSM module and processes the commands according to the program. Based on the received command, the microcontroller sends a control signal to the relay driver circuit to start or stop the motor.

GSM Module Section

The GSM module is used for wireless communication. It receives SMS commands from the farmer and sends the data to the microcontroller through serial communication. After the motor operation is completed, the GSM module sends an acknowledgement message back to the farmer.

Relay Driver Circuit

The relay driver circuit is used to control the relay switch using the microcontroller output signal. Since the microcontroller operates at low voltage, a transistor driver circuit is used to activate the relay. A diode is connected across the relay coil to protect the circuit from back EMF. When the relay is activated, it connects the motor to the power supply and the motor starts running. When the relay is deactivated, the motor stops.

Motor Pump Section

The motor pump is used to pump water from the water source to the agricultural field. The motor is controlled by the relay switch. When the relay is ON, the motor runs, and when the relay is OFF, the motor stops.

5. RESULTS

The proposed Wireless Motor Starter with Acknowledgement using Solar Energy was successfully designed, implemented, and subjected to a series of tests to evaluate its performance, reliability, and operational characteristics. The primary objective was to validate the system's ability to enable remote control of agricultural irrigation motors while ensuring energy efficiency through solar power.

A. System Implementation and Functional Testing

The implemented system comprises a transmitter unit for user commands and a receiver unit integrated with the motor control circuitry. During the testing phase,the system demonstrated reliable performance in controlling the motor wirelessly. The transmitter unit effectively communicated control signals to the receiver unit, which subsequently activated the relay mechanism to switch the motor ON and OFF. The wireless communication link maintained stability within the designated operational range, confirming its suitability for typical agricultural field environments.

A critical feature of the system is the integrated acknowledgement mechanism. Following the execution of a command, the system generates and transmits a feedback signal indicating the motor's operational status. This two-way communication protocol significantly enhances system reliability by confirming successful command execution to the user. This feature effectively mitigates operational uncertainty and minimizes the need for unnecessary physical trips to the field for status verification.

B. Power System Evaluation

The integration of solar energy constitutes a major advantage. The photovoltaic panel was observed to efficiently power the control circuitry, rendering the system independent of the conventional electricity grid. This operational independence is particularly beneficial for rural and remote agricultural areas characterized by unreliable or unavailable grid power. The utilization of renewable energy enhances the system's environmental sustainability and contributes to its long-term cost-effectiveness.

C. Relay and Load Management

The relay switching mechanism demonstrated high accuracy and ensured safe handling of the motor load. The system was subjected to repeated ON/OFF cycles and operated without any perceptible delay or malfunction. The overall response time from command transmission to motor actuation and acknowledgement was deemed satisfactory for the intended application.

D. Observed Limitations

Despite the successful outcomes, certain limitations were observed during the testing phase. The system's operational efficiency exhibited a dependency on solar irradiance, with performance potentially affected during periods of extended cloud cover or inclement weather. Furthermore, the effective wireless communication range was susceptible to degradation due to physical obstacles such as dense foliage or structures, as well as environmental electromagnetic interference.

6. CONCLUSION

The Wireless Motor Starter with Acknowledgement Using Solar Energy for Agricultural Applications is an efficient and innovative solution designed to improve irrigation motor control in agricultural fields. Traditional irrigation systems require farmers to manually operate motors by visiting the pump location, which is time-consuming, labour-intensive, and sometimes unsafe. In addition, irregular power supply in rural areas affects irrigation operations and crop productivity. The proposed system overcomes these limitations by integrating wireless communication technology with solar energy to provide a reliable and efficient irrigation control system.

The system uses solar panels to generate electrical energy and stores it in a rechargeable battery to ensure continuous power supply. A microcontroller acts as the central control unit that receives commands from the farmer through a GSM module and controls the irrigation motor using a relay driver circuit. One of the important

features of this system is the acknowledgement mechanism, which sends confirmation messages to the farmer regarding the motor status. This helps in preventing water wastage, motor dry running, and improves irrigation management.

The proposed system reduces manual labour, saves time, improves safety, and reduces dependency on grid electricity. The use of solar energy makes the system environmentally friendly and cost-effective for farmers. The system is particularly useful in rural and remote agricultural areas where electricity supply is unreliable.

In the future, the system can be further improved by integrating sensors such as soil moisture sensors, water level sensors, and IoT-based monitoring systems to make irrigation fully automatic and intelligent. Overall, the proposed system provides a practical, reliable, and eco-friendly solution for modern agricultural irrigation and contributes to the development of smart farming technologies.

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