

A Review of Livestock Smart Farming for Sustainable Food Security

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Abstract— As the global community endeavours to reconcile the requirements of a burgeoning population with sustainable agricultural methodologies, challenges arise in sustaining large-scale food production to ensure food security. Food security is determined by the alignment of production capacity with population demand. Achieving food security necessitates the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices characterized by the integration of technologies. The implementation of smart farming practices for livestock farming can effectively optimize production capacity to meet the demands of the population. This endeavour aims to enhance both the productivity of food supply and agricultural sustainability within the smart livestock farming ecosystem by leveraging automation, data analytics, and advanced sensor technology towards fostering sustainable food security. This article reviews the techniques, parameters, IoT sensor technologies and data analysis using machine learning algorithms that will serve as the foundation for the development of the relevant livestock smart farming system for sustainable food security.

Keywords— food security; smart farming; livestock; automation; data analytics; sensor technology.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Amid the increasing global challenges in agricultural and food production management, there is a compelling need to enhance food security on a global scale. The concept of food security emphasizes the significance of concerted efforts among governments, organizations, and communities, utilizing data and technology adoption for automation and effective monitoring in smart farming. This involves optimizing production, distribution, and consumption processes, thereby augmenting adaptability to dynamic circumstances [1][2][3]. Research has indicated that the worldwide agricultural sector is confronted with a multitude of obstacles, one of which is the expanding global population, which drives up the need for food production and decreases already limited resources. The requirement for additional food to feed billions of people is made harder by this population rise. As a result, the strain on limited resources like crop land, water, and energy is more extensive. The nations have built their own comprehensive National Food Security Framework [4] to handle the difficulties in the agricultural and food production sectors that aim to safeguard the country's ability to produce, distribute, and receive adequate and healthy food. However, the traditional farming practices lack effective

monitoring tools, making it difficult to recognize and address livestock general well-being issues quickly which affects the livestock well-being and decrease the production. Furthermore, the current farming practices lack of data-driven insights and automation leads to inefficiency in resource utilization and management.

Hence, in order to implement livestock smart farming practices that guide livestock production by promoting an integrated, sustainable, and resilient approach and recognise the interconnection of various components within the food system, the study explores the nuanced dimensions of the pivotal role played by automation, data analytics, and cutting-edge sensor technology in shaping food security strategies. These unique aspects of the practices also necessitate the adoption of innovative practices to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of livestock farming on a global scale. This paper presents a review of academic research papers concerning the global challenges in livestock agricultural and food production management and discussing the suitable cutting-edge technologies and strategies needed for addressing the trend and gap. The study also proposes a decent framework and guideline to develop a livestock smart farming that utilizes advanced sensor technologies, data

analytics, and automation to monitor livestock health, behavior, and environmental conditions. The proposed framework has the potential to support increase production in wider scale across the agricultural sector to optimize resource utilization, decrease environmental impact, and modernize farming practices in order to contribute the long-term food supply sustainability and adaptability in the face of evolving global demands. The paper is presented as follows: Section I presents the introduction. Section II presents the materials and methods adopted in this study. Section III presents the discussion of results, some future works based on the limitations and gaps identified from the review and Section IV presents the conclusion.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The technique used for this study is the systematic literature review. The literature review conducted for this study identified the gaps and trends in the use of smart technologies in livestock farming practices, providing a foundation for the development of the livestock smart farming framework. The method requires a thorough and complete review of academic journals on livestock management, sustainability, and the use of smart technology. It examines research papers to determine the most recent developments, effective implementations, and issues involved with using smart technologies in livestock farming practices and draw significant findings from the variety of information in research journals. This approach not only facilitates the understanding of the existing level of knowledge, but it also allows for the discovery of gaps, trends, and areas that require further research.

A series of academic research papers and journals from verified indexes and resources about the current systems related to the title [5][6] was reviewed to understand livestock management and smart technology use in livestock farming for sustainability. The PRISMA guideline by [7] was used for performing and reporting systematic reviews in this investigation and included the guidelines published by [8] for software engineering and other relevant fields. The subsequent sections provide an overview of the review methodology employed in this paper.

A. Research Question

The aim of this study is to address the challenges that arise in achieving both sustainable livestock production and the well-being of farm animals by introducing a sustainable livestock smart farming practices that integrates advanced sensor networks, data analytics and automation as a solution through literature-driven assessment. Hence, the study is interpreted with the guidance of 4 research questions (RQ) as follows. RQ1: What specific domain are required to monitor in livestock farming practices to ensure the welfare of livestock and increase production for sustainable food security? RQ2: What specific IoT sensor technologies and platforms are suitable for implementing as an optimistic and less manpower-dependent technology in smart livestock farming practices? RQ3: How can data be collected through livestock farming practices to achieve sustainability and improve livestock welfare for greater production and food security? RQ4: What are the algorithms that have

demonstrated effectiveness in analysing data from livestock farming system to do prediction to enhancing productivity in livestock farming?

B. Digital Sources and Research Strategy

A search string using a keyword is constructed to accumulate and review relevant research papers, journals, and documents. The keywords “Smart Farming” and the keywords “Food Security” or “Farm Animals” are used as search terms. The entire literature review and research are enclosed in verified digital resources and databases including SCOPUS, IEEE Xplore, SCIENCE DIRECT, SPRINGER LINK, TAYLOR & FRANCIS, and PROQUEST.

C. Selection Criteria

The selection criteria describe a particular method used to choose relevant and appropriate research paper literature. To prevent and reduce bias and duplicate literature, proper inclusion and exclusion criteria are needed throughout the process.

D. Inclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria for the research study focused on peer-reviewed papers from 2013 to 2023 obtained from web resources. Additionally, only smart livestock (animal) farming systems are included in the study. In the smart livestock (animal) farming system approach, only ruminant animals (cows, sheep, and livestock) are included.

E. Exclusion Criteria

The exclusion criteria for the research study aimed to remove irrelevant articles. Journal papers that lack a comprehensive or significant part of their methodology are not considered for inclusion. Figure. 1 illustrates the PRISMA Flowchart used in this study.

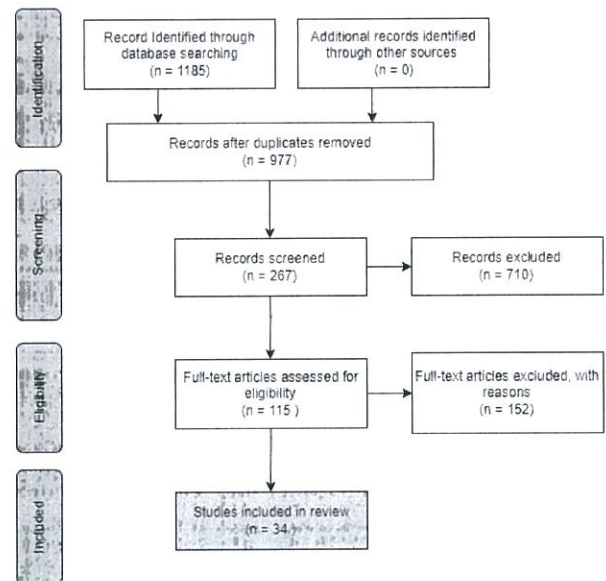


Fig. 1 PRISMA Flowchart

F. Data Extraction Process

A total of 34 papers were selected for the final literature review. The data extraction was conducted on these 34 papers.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section discusses the data gathered from the journals and summarizes the review's findings. Figure 2 displays the descriptive data of animal group categorization, revealing that cow, cattle, sheep, and livestock are the most widely studied ruminant animal groups.

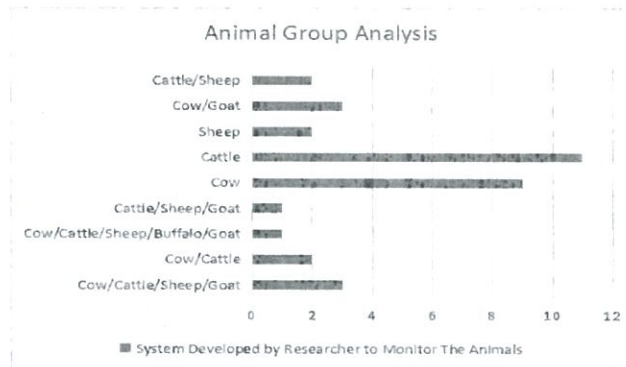


Fig. 2 Ruminant Animal-wise Analysis

Based on the data above, the ruminant animal group classification above indicates that the most extensively researched ruminant animal groups are cows and cattle based on the analysis of 34 publications. It can be concluded that that most research studies were carried out primarily with the cattle and cows category in mind; only a small number of studies were designed to research other ruminant species or to combine other species into their studies together. Thus, a greater degree of study approach diversification is needed by include all the ruminant animal group in the upcoming researches in order to achieve the research target of livestock smart farming for sustainable food security.

The following sections offer the results and observations of the systematic literature review based on the research questions.

RQ1: What specific domain are required to monitor in livestock farming practices to ensure the welfare of livestock and increase production for sustainable food security?

RQ1 focuses on understanding the specific domain used in the research of livestock farming practices, with a particular emphasis on protecting livestock welfare for the sake of food security. The assessment of the literature suggests essential to investigate strategies for completely monitoring essential elements such as livestock behaviour, health, and environmental conditions. This study attempts to uncover the broad range of tactics and technology used in the quest for sustainable and smart livestock farming by examining research papers.

The data extraction in Table I is based on the parameters of animal traits, animal behaviour, animal health, and environmental conditions. Animal traits refer to any physical characteristic or feature of a group of animals. Animal behaviour refers to the actions, reactions, or mannerisms of an animal in response to stimuli or situations in the environment. Animal health refers to the overall state of well-being of an

animal, encompassing physical, mental, and social dimensions under a medical approach. Environmental conditions refer to the various factors present in the external surroundings that can influence animals and their ecosystems of natural processes.

TABLE I
DATA EXTRACTION BASED ON RANGE OF DOMAIN

No	No of Authors	Animal Traits	Animal Behavior	Animal Health	Environment condition
1.	[9]	x	x	x	x
2.	[10]				x
3.	[11]				x
4.	[12]	x	x	x	x
5.	[13]	x	x	x	x
6.	[14]				x
7.	[15]	x	x	x	x
8.	[16]		x	x	x
9.	[17]	x			
10.	[18]			x	x
11.	[19]		x		x
12.	[20]		x	x	x
13.	[21]				
14.	[22]	x	x		
15.	[23]				x
16.	[24]			x	x
17.	[25]	x	x	x	x
18.	[26]		x	x	x
19.	[27]		x	x	x
20.	[28]		x	x	x
21.	[29]		x	x	
22.	[30]		x	x	
23.	[31]		x	x	
24.	[32]	x	x	x	x
25.	[33]	x	x	x	x
26.	[34]		x		x
27.	[35]	x	x	x	x
28.	[36]		x		x
29.	[37]		x	x	
30.	[38]	x	x	x	
31.	[39]		x	x	
32.	[40]	x	x	x	x
33.	[41]		x		
34.	[42]			x	x
Total Count		12	25	23	24

The authors have a variety of opinions on their study approach, which can be categorized into animal traits, animal behaviour, animal health, and environmental conditions. Distinctly, almost two-thirds of the researchers conduct their analyses on animal behaviour, animal health, and environmental conditions. The authors [9][12][13][15][17][22][25][32][33][35][38][40] emphasize their research study on animal traits. Age of ruminants, growth of the ruminants, weight gain of the ruminants, breeding status of the ruminants, and physical characteristics of the ruminants are some of the variables the authors explored and discussed in their respective journals. The study of animal behaviours is the most reviewed approach among the parameters by the researchers. The authors [9][12][13][15][16][19][20][22][25][26][27][28][29][30][31]

innovative and sustainable practices by adopting smart technologies including sensors technology and data analytics using machine learning. This approach will improve livestock welfare while also increasing production which will contribute to sustainable food security. Implementing sustainable agricultural practices should emphasise the critical components of integrating smart technology which are IoT devices and sensors, and data analytics. The conceptual framework must be designed for monitoring and optimising numerous critical variables which should include livestock health, behaviour and environmental conditions. It seeks to deliver real-time data, helping farmers to make better decisions and ensure efficient and sustainable livestock farming methods by adopting suitable technology. The conceptual framework for the upcoming livestock smart farming practices and system development includes the concept represented in Figure 3 [43][44].

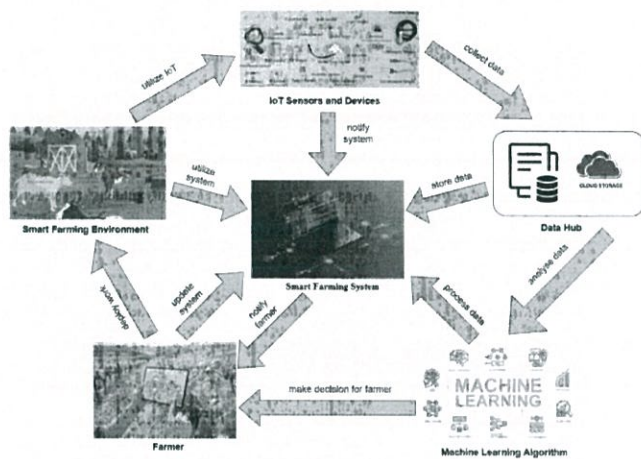


Fig. 3 Conceptual framework of the livestock smart farming ecosystem

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study reviews valuable insights and direct implications for food production that significantly influence food security. This paper executed a systematic research of scholarly works to address particular questions, objectives and research questions to serve as the foundation for research in this area. A systematic literature review that involved a thorough selection process of 34 articles was conducted and the selection was performed based on carefully derived inclusion and exclusion criteria. The findings from this study play a crucial foundation role in the future development and implementation of sustainable smart livestock farming, contributing to the overall goal of ensuring food security. However, few challenges arise and being obstacles to achieve the ultimate goal. A lack of infrastructure to gather, analyse, and deploy sensors is one of the technological issues facing agriculture today, making customised farming difficult to implement. The absence of skilled workers who are knowledgeable about and capable of implementing cutting-edge technology and policies hinders the growth of human capital. Workers in agriculture and farming need to be educated and exposed to contemporary methods and equipment. Trade restrictions and political instability make it more difficult to distribute food internationally, which highlights the need for resilient and

sustainable agricultural practices. The complications confronting government policy include creating and executing efficient policies that encourage the use of sustainable practices and technology. Comprehensive and flexible policies that support innovation while addressing resource constraints and environmental issues are required. To overcome these obstacles, government agencies, educational institutions, and technology suppliers must work together effectively. This review suggests that sustainable livestock smart farming systems should be thoroughly designed based on required criteria to meet any country's long-term food supply sustainability and adaptability to growing population and global demands. The absence of automation complicates process optimization, affecting overall efficiency and sustainability in livestock farming. This highlights the criticality of the development of thoroughly designed sustainable livestock smart farming systems that will be able to address these issues by proactively monitoring livestock activities, promising quick responses according to various parameters based on efficient machine learning data analytics that will encourage enhanced animal welfare and production. This initiative represents a critical step towards modernizing the industry, maintaining resilience and establishing progress towards the nation's long-term food security. Nevertheless, the growing deployment of interconnected IoT devices in urban environments heightens vulnerability to cyber threats. This study also highlights that IoT attacks have significant implications for the cybersecurity landscape within IoT-based implementation of livestock smart farming. In future work, the aspect of cybersecurity should also be taken into consideration to address the cybersecurity issue that could range from safeguarding the genuine IoT node sensors from malicious parties to network security issues in livestock smart farming. The adoption of blockchain technology is proposed as a measure to strengthen the access control mechanism for IoT devices and establish a reliable and robust solution [43][45][46][47][48][49].

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