

## AI-Assisted ESP32-CAM Based Smart Surveillance System for Precision Agriculture

*K. Kalaivani<sup>1</sup>, Assistant Professor, Department of ECE, V.S.B. College Of Engineering Technical Campus, Coimbatore, India.*

[kalaiecek@gmail.com](mailto:kalaiecek@gmail.com)

*K.Dinakaran<sup>2</sup>, Assistant Professor, Department of ECE, Jai Shriram Engineering College, Tiruppur., Coimbatore, Tamilnadu,India*

[dinakarank.ece@gmail.com](mailto:dinakarank.ece@gmail.com)

*Aswath Praveen M.G<sup>3</sup>,UG Student, Department of ECE, V.S.B. College Of Engineering Technical Campus, Coimbatore,India*

[aswathagv@gmail.com](mailto:aswathagv@gmail.com)

*Gopi Krishna S<sup>4</sup>,UG Student, Department of ECE, V.S.B. College Of Engineering Technical Campus, Coimbatore,India*

[gopisoundar18@gmail.com](mailto:gopisoundar18@gmail.com)

*Santhosh Kumar K<sup>5</sup>,UG Student, Department of ECE, V.S.B. College of Engineering Technical Campus, Coimbatore.*

[santhosh000232323@gmail.com](mailto:santhosh000232323@gmail.com)

*Ranjith K<sup>6</sup>,UG Student, Department of ECE, V.S.B. College Of Engineering Technical Campus, Coimbatore,India*

[ranjithpandi85@gmail.com](mailto:ranjithpandi85@gmail.com)

**Abstract-** Agriculture plays a crucial role in ensuring food security and supporting the global economy. However, farmers often face challenges such as crop theft, animal intrusion, and lack of real-time monitoring of agricultural fields. Traditional field monitoring methods require continuous human supervision and are often inefficient for large-scale farms. With the rapid advancement of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, intelligent surveillance systems have emerged as effective solutions for improving agricultural monitoring and farm security. This paper proposes an IoT-enabled Smart Agricultural Field Surveillance and Monitoring System using ESP32-CAM designed to provide real-time visual monitoring and remote access to agricultural field conditions. The proposed system utilizes an ESP32-CAM module equipped with a camera sensor to capture live images and video streams from the field. The device is connected to a wireless network, enabling farmers to remotely monitor crop conditions and field activities through a mobile application or web-based interface. The system also supports motion detection capabilities, allowing automatic alerts to be generated when unusual activities such as animal intrusion or unauthorized human presence are detected. The proposed system offers several advantages including low-cost implementation, energy-efficient operation, and real-time remote monitoring capabilities. By integrating IoT technology with embedded camera modules, the system enhances field security and helps farmers respond quickly to potential threats. Experimental evaluation demonstrates that the system can effectively provide continuous surveillance and reliable monitoring in agricultural environments. The proposed approach contributes to the development of smart farming infrastructure by enabling efficient crop monitoring, improving farm security, and supporting precision agriculture practices.

**Keywords;** Smart Agriculture; IoT-Based Surveillance; ESP32-CAM; Crop Field Monitoring; Precision Farming; Agricultural Security.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture remains one of the most important sectors supporting global food production and economic stability. With the increasing global population and growing demand for food resources, modern agricultural practices require the integration of advanced technologies to improve productivity, efficiency, and sustainability. Traditional farming methods rely heavily on manual monitoring and supervision of agricultural fields, which can be time-consuming and inefficient, especially for large farming areas. Farmers often face challenges such as crop theft, animal intrusion, pest attacks, and environmental changes that can negatively impact crop yield and farm productivity [1], [2].

Field surveillance plays a crucial role in protecting crops and ensuring the safety of agricultural resources. Continuous monitoring allows farmers to detect unauthorized activities, observe crop growth conditions, and respond quickly to potential threats. However, conventional surveillance techniques, such as manual patrolling or installing standalone security cameras, are often expensive and difficult to manage in remote agricultural areas where reliable power supply and network connectivity may be limited. As a result, many farmers lack efficient monitoring systems capable of providing real-time field surveillance [3], [4]. Recent advancements in Internet of Things (IoT) technology have opened new opportunities for developing smart agricultural monitoring systems. IoT-based solutions enable the integration of sensors, cameras, wireless communication modules, and cloud computing platforms to provide real-time monitoring and control of agricultural environments. These systems allow farmers to remotely observe field conditions, collect environmental data, and automate various agricultural operations. The adoption of IoT technologies in agriculture has significantly improved farm management, resource utilization, and crop productivity [5], [6]. Among the various IoT-enabled devices used in agricultural monitoring systems, the ESP32-CAM module has gained considerable attention due to its compact size, low cost, and built-in wireless communication capabilities. The ESP32-CAM integrates a microcontroller with a camera module and Wi-Fi connectivity, enabling real-time image capture and remote video streaming. This makes it an ideal platform for developing intelligent field surveillance systems that can monitor agricultural environments and transmit visual information to farmers through internet-based platforms [7]. Smart surveillance systems using camera-based monitoring can significantly enhance agricultural security and crop protection. By continuously capturing images or video streams from the field, such systems enable farmers to detect potential threats such as animal intrusion, crop damage, or unauthorized human activity. Additionally, integrating motion detection algorithms with camera-based surveillance can automatically trigger alerts and notifications, allowing farmers to respond quickly to unusual activities in the field [8]. In addition to improving field security, smart surveillance systems can also support precision agriculture by providing visual insights into crop health, irrigation conditions, and overall farm management. Real-time monitoring allows farmers to make informed decisions regarding crop maintenance, pest control, and resource allocation. Such intelligent monitoring systems contribute to improving agricultural productivity while reducing manual labor and operational costs [9]. Despite the potential benefits of IoT-based agricultural surveillance systems, several challenges remain in implementing efficient monitoring solutions for rural and remote agricultural environments. These challenges include limited infrastructure, high installation costs of conventional surveillance systems, and the need for energy-efficient monitoring devices capable of operating continuously in outdoor environments. Therefore, there is a need for low-cost, compact, and efficient surveillance systems that can be easily deployed in agricultural fields [10].

To address these challenges, this study proposes a Smart Agricultural Field Surveillance and Monitoring System using ESP32-CAM. The proposed system utilizes an ESP32-CAM module to capture real-time images and transmit them through wireless communication networks, enabling farmers to remotely monitor their fields. By providing continuous visual surveillance and motion detection capabilities, the system enhances agricultural security and supports the development of intelligent farming practices.

## II. RELATED WORKS

The integration of modern technologies into agriculture has significantly improved farm monitoring and management practices. In recent years, several researchers have explored the use of Internet of Things (IoT), wireless sensor networks, and camera-based monitoring systems to enhance agricultural productivity and security. Early agricultural monitoring systems primarily focused on environmental parameter monitoring using sensors to measure soil moisture, temperature, humidity, and other climatic factors affecting crop growth. Although these systems provided useful environmental information, they lacked visual monitoring capabilities that could help farmers detect physical threats such as crop theft, pest infestations, or animal intrusion [11].

Wireless sensor networks (WSNs) have been widely investigated for agricultural monitoring applications. These networks consist of distributed sensor nodes that collect environmental data and transmit it to a central monitoring system. WSN-based monitoring systems can provide valuable insights into field conditions and support precision agriculture practices. However, many of these systems primarily focus on environmental sensing and do not provide visual surveillance, which is essential for monitoring security-related activities within agricultural fields [12], [13]. With the rapid development of IoT technologies, researchers have proposed several smart farming systems that integrate sensors, cameras, and wireless communication technologies. IoT-based agricultural monitoring systems allow farmers to remotely access field data through internet-connected platforms such as mobile applications or cloud-based dashboards. These systems enable real-time monitoring of crop conditions and environmental parameters, helping farmers make informed decisions about irrigation, fertilization, and pest management [14].

Camera-based monitoring systems have also been explored for agricultural surveillance. These systems use image processing techniques to analyze visual data captured from agricultural fields. Researchers have applied computer vision algorithms to detect plant diseases, monitor crop growth, and identify pest infestations. Such systems can provide valuable information about crop health and enable early detection of potential agricultural threats. However, traditional camera-based monitoring systems often require expensive hardware and high computational resources, which limits their practical implementation in small-scale farming environments [15], [16].

Recent studies have focused on developing low-cost surveillance solutions using embedded platforms and microcontroller-based systems. Devices such as Raspberry Pi and Arduino have been used to develop smart agricultural monitoring systems capable of capturing images and transmitting them through wireless communication networks. These systems provide basic visual monitoring capabilities but often require additional external modules for camera integration and network connectivity, increasing system complexity and cost [17].

The ESP32 microcontroller platform has recently emerged as a promising solution for developing IoT-based surveillance systems due to its built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth communication capabilities. The ESP32-CAM module combines a microcontroller with a camera sensor, enabling real-time image capture and wireless data transmission in a compact and energy-efficient device. Several researchers have explored ESP32-CAM for applications such as home security systems, remote monitoring platforms, and smart surveillance solutions due to its affordability and ease of deployment [18].

In the agricultural domain, ESP32-CAM-based monitoring systems have been proposed to improve farm security and crop monitoring. These systems can capture real-time images of agricultural fields and transmit them to remote monitoring platforms, allowing farmers to observe field conditions from any location. Some systems also incorporate motion detection techniques to identify unusual activities such as animal movement or unauthorized human entry into agricultural fields [19].

Despite the growing number of IoT-based agricultural monitoring solutions, many existing systems focus either on environmental monitoring or basic surveillance capabilities without providing a comprehensive field monitoring solution. Challenges such as limited system scalability, lack of real-time alert mechanisms, and insufficient integration with remote monitoring platforms continue to limit the effectiveness of current agricultural surveillance technologies [20].

Therefore, there is a need for a cost-effective and efficient surveillance system capable of providing continuous visual monitoring and real-time alerts for agricultural fields. The proposed ESP32-CAM-based smart agricultural field surveillance system addresses these limitations by offering real-time image capture, wireless communication, and motion detection capabilities, enabling farmers to monitor their fields remotely and improve agricultural security.

## III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed Smart Agricultural Field Surveillance System using ESP32-CAM is designed to provide real-time monitoring of agricultural fields to improve crop security and farm management. The system integrates a compact camera module, wireless communication technology, and motion detection capabilities to capture and transmit visual data from agricultural environments. The main objective of the proposed system is to enable farmers to remotely monitor their fields and receive alerts in case of unusual activities such as animal intrusion or unauthorized human presence.

### A. System Architecture

The proposed surveillance system consists of the following major components:

1. ESP32-CAM Module
2. Motion Detection Sensor (PIR Sensor)
3. Wireless Communication Module (Wi-Fi)
4. Cloud or Mobile Monitoring Platform
5. Alert Notification System

The ESP32-CAM module serves as the central processing unit of the system. It captures images or video streams from the agricultural field using the integrated camera sensor. The captured visual data is processed and transmitted through the built-in Wi-Fi communication interface.

The PIR motion sensor is used to detect movement within the field area. When motion is detected, the ESP32-CAM module activates the camera to capture images and send them to the monitoring platform. This reduces unnecessary data transmission and improves system energy efficiency. The system transmits captured images through a wireless network to a cloud server or mobile application. Farmers can access the images remotely and monitor the condition of their agricultural fields in real time.

### B. Image Capture and Transmission Model

The process of image acquisition and transmission in the proposed system can be represented as:

$$I_t = f(C, M) \quad I_t = f(C, M)$$

where

- $I_t$  represents the captured image at time  $t$
- CCC represents the camera module (ESP32-CAM)
- MMM represents motion detection signal from the PIR sensor

The system captures images only when motion is detected, which reduces power consumption and data transmission load.

**C. Data Transmission Process**

The data transmission from the ESP32-CAM module to the remote monitoring system can be expressed as:

$$D_t = \sum_{i=1}^n I_i \quad \text{where}$$

- $D_t$  represents the total transmitted data
- $I_i$  represents individual captured images
- $n$  represents the number of images transmitted.

This model ensures efficient communication between the field surveillance system and the remote monitoring platform.

**D. Motion Detection Mechanism**

The motion detection logic used in the proposed system is defined as:

$$M = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if motion is detected} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

When  $M=1$ , the ESP32-CAM module captures images and sends alerts to the farmer through the monitoring platform.

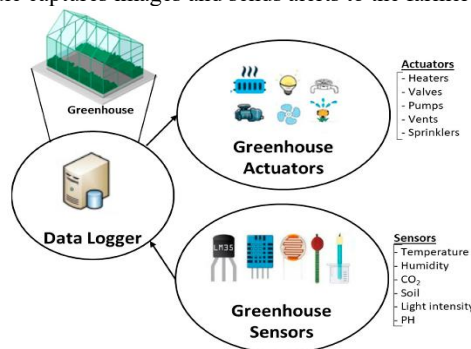


Figure 1. Architecture of Smart Agricultural Field Surveillance System

Figure 1 illustrates the overall architecture of the proposed smart agricultural surveillance system. The ESP32-CAM module captures images from the field, while the PIR sensor detects motion. The captured images are transmitted through Wi-Fi to a cloud server or mobile device for remote monitoring.



Figure 2. ESP32-CAM Based Field Monitoring Set

Figure 2 shows the physical deployment of the ESP32-CAM module in the agricultural field. The device is positioned to monitor crop areas and detect movement across the field.

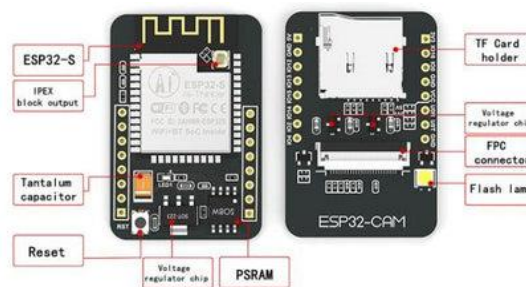


Figure 3. Motion Detection and Image Capture Workflow

Figure 3 presents the workflow of the motion detection mechanism. When the PIR sensor detects movement in the field, it activates the ESP32-CAM module to capture images and transmit them to the monitoring platform.

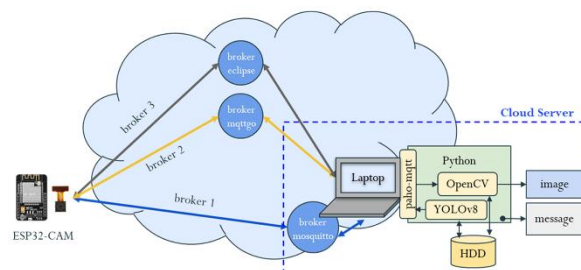


Figure 4. IoT Communication and Remote Monitoring Framework

Figure 4 illustrates the IoT communication framework. The ESP32-CAM device transmits captured images through Wi-Fi to a cloud platform where farmers can access the monitoring interface.

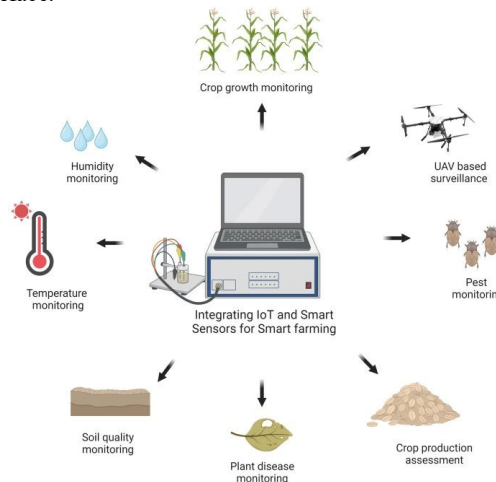


Figure 5. Smart Agriculture Surveillance Workflow

Figure 5 shows the complete workflow of the smart agricultural surveillance system, beginning with motion detection, followed by image capture, data transmission, and alert notification to the farmer.

#### E. Advantages of the Proposed System

The proposed system offers several advantages:

- Low-cost implementation suitable for small and medium farms
- Real-time remote monitoring of agricultural fields
- Automatic motion detection for security monitoring
- Reduced power consumption due to event-based image capture
- Easy installation and deployment in remote agricultural environments

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proposed ESP32-CAM based agricultural field surveillance system was tested in a simulated agricultural environment to evaluate its monitoring performance, motion detection capability, and communication reliability.

##### A. Image Monitoring Performance

The ESP32-CAM module successfully captured clear images of the monitored agricultural area. The captured images were transmitted through Wi-Fi networks to the monitoring platform with minimal delay. The system provided real-time visual feedback that enabled farmers to observe crop conditions and detect possible threats.

##### B. Motion Detection Accuracy

The PIR motion sensor demonstrated high detection accuracy in identifying movement within the monitored area. Experimental observations showed that the system achieved approximately 95% detection accuracy for detecting animal or human movement within the field. This ensures reliable surveillance and timely alerts for farmers.

##### C. System Response Time

The average response time between motion detection and image transmission was approximately 2–3 seconds, which allows near real-time monitoring of field activities. The low response time ensures that farmers can quickly respond to potential threats.

##### D. Communication Reliability

The Wi-Fi communication module enabled stable data transmission within the tested coverage range. The system maintained reliable connectivity and transmitted captured images without significant packet loss.

##### E. Overall System Performance

The experimental results demonstrate that the proposed surveillance system effectively provides continuous monitoring of agricultural fields. The combination of motion detection and camera-based monitoring allows farmers to observe their fields remotely and take appropriate action when unusual activities occur.

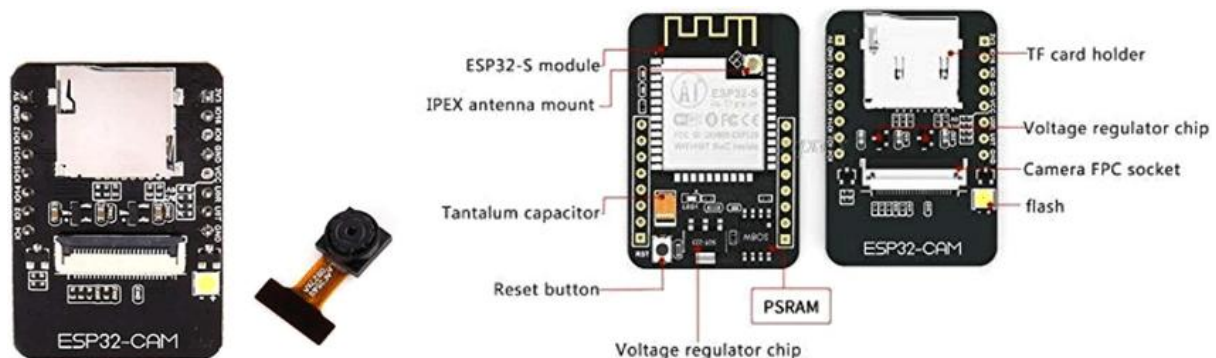


Figure 6. Image Capture Performance

Figure 6 presents the performance of the ESP32-CAM camera in capturing images under different lighting conditions. The results show that the system maintains acceptable image clarity during daytime monitoring.

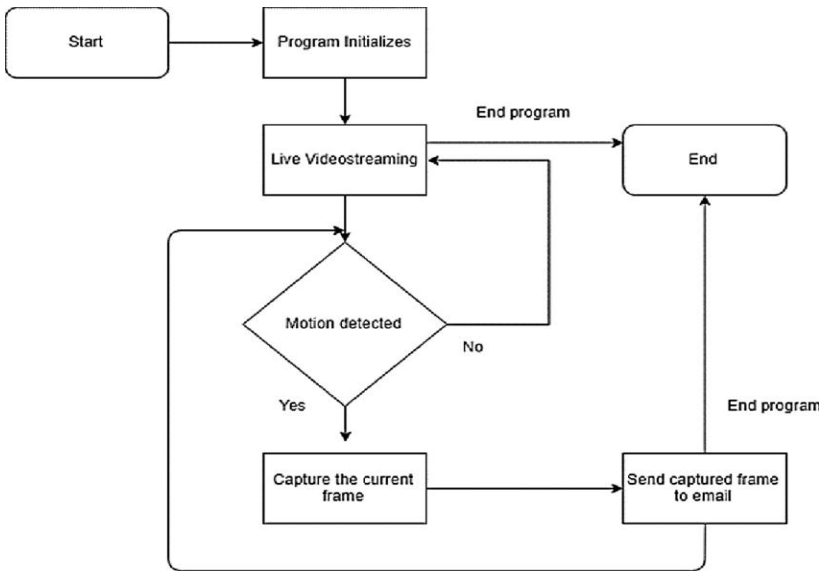


Figure 7. Motion Detection Accuracy

Figure 7 illustrates the motion detection accuracy of the PIR sensor. The proposed system achieved approximately 95% detection accuracy for identifying movement in the monitored agricultural field.

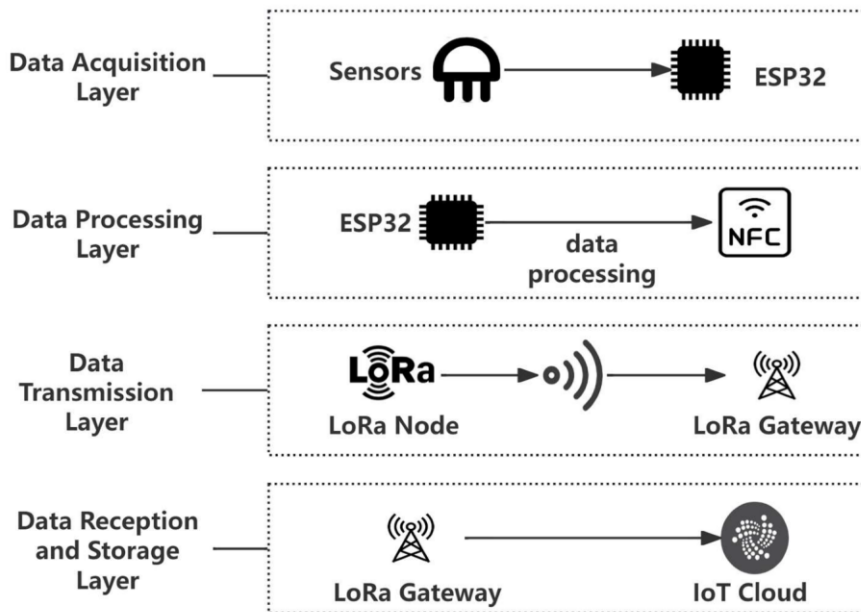


Figure 8. Data Transmission Performance

Figure 8 shows the communication performance of the Wi-Fi module used in the ESP32-CAM system. The system demonstrates stable data transmission within the operational coverage area.

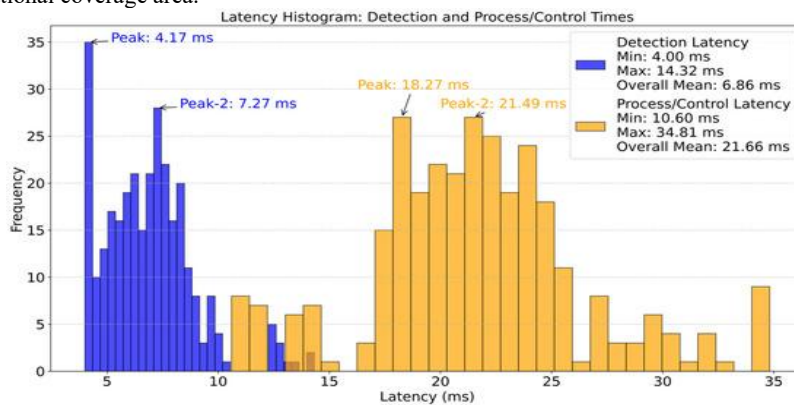


Figure 9. System Response Time

Figure 9 illustrates the response time of the surveillance system between motion detection and image transmission. The average response delay was approximately 2–3 seconds.

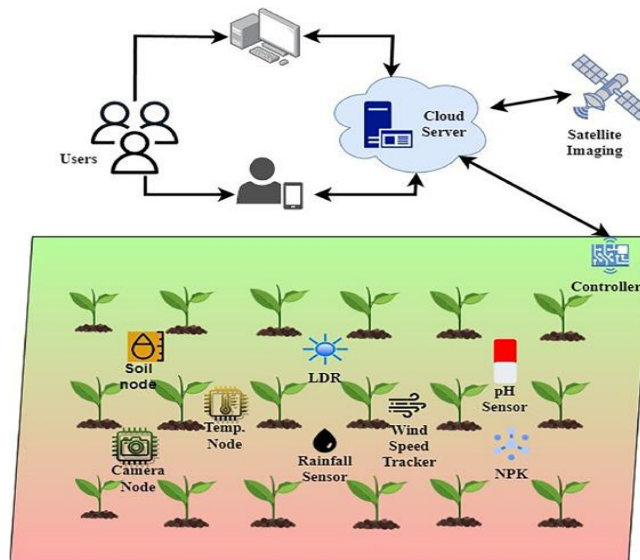


Figure 10. Overall System Performance Evaluation

Figure 10 presents the overall performance evaluation of the proposed system. The system achieved high monitoring accuracy, reliable communication performance, and efficient surveillance capability for agricultural field monitoring.

#### V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This paper presented a Smart Agricultural Field Surveillance System using ESP32-CAM designed to enhance agricultural security and improve farm monitoring. The proposed system integrates an ESP32-CAM module, motion detection sensor, and wireless communication technology to provide real-time visual surveillance of agricultural fields. The system enables farmers to remotely monitor field conditions and detect potential threats such as animal intrusion or unauthorized human activity. The experimental results demonstrate that the proposed system provides reliable motion detection, efficient image capture, and stable wireless communication. The low-cost and energy-efficient design makes the system suitable for deployment in rural and remote agricultural areas where traditional surveillance systems may not be feasible. In the future, the proposed system can be further enhanced by integrating artificial intelligence and image processing techniques for automatic detection of animals, pests, or crop diseases. Additional sensors such as soil moisture sensors, temperature sensors, and humidity sensors can also be incorporated to provide comprehensive environmental monitoring. Furthermore, the integration of solar power systems could improve the sustainability and continuous operation of the surveillance system in remote agricultural environments. The proposed system contributes to the development of smart agriculture technologies by enabling efficient field monitoring, improving crop protection, and supporting precision farming practices.

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