

DESIGNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF FARMBOT

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Abstract: Farmbot is the combination of farming and robot technology which is designed for the smooth and scalable automated precision machine to make agriculture more convenient and techno savvy. As the world population is growing and with that growth we must produce more food. Conventional agricultural methods are unsustainable. Farming robot and software package from the ground up with today's technologies. Similar to today's 3D printer, Farmbot hardware employs linear guides in X, Y, and Z directions that allow for plows, seed injections, watering nozzles and sensors to be positioned and used on plants and soils. We can expect the farmbot performing agricultural operations autonomously watching the farms day and night for an effective report. It is designed to minimize the labor of farmers and increasing the speed and accuracy of the work.

IndexTerms – Ploughing, Seed sowings and Water spraying.

I. INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this research study is to decrease the manual effort and increasing the efficiency of farmers in farming. Agriculture is the cultivation and breeding of animals and plants to provide food, fiber, medicinal plants and other products to sustain and enhance life. The history of agriculture records a lot of hardwork, extra efforts and usage of animal resource at large scale. Similarly agriculture required a lot of caring and planning to get the desired results of fruitful crops. Over the years there have been many cycles of development in this sector which were more of traditional methods gained from ancestors and utilizing it to gain the maximum output. As the decades passed we have seen some of the phenomenal changes owing to technological improvements. This has brought an entire new scene of convenience, productivity, quality improvements, reducing manual efforts & creativity.

II. WORKING PRINCIPLE

Farmbot hardware employs linear guides in the X, Y, and Z directions that allow for tooling such as plows, seed injectors, watering and sensors to be precisely positioned and used on the plants and soil. All the components are placed on the base frame of wood. There is a rack and pinion assembly on the base frame to move in the X direction; here I have used a stepper motor for the accurate operation of moving in the X direction as well in the Y direction. The stepper motor is known by its property to convert a train of input pulses into a precisely defined increment in the shaft position. Each pulse moves the shaft through a fixed angle. For the Z direction a linear actuator is used as it creates motion in a straight line, in contrast to the circular motion of a motor.

For the seeding, water spraying and to check the water content in the soil I have used the soil moisture sensor. To pick the seed and place it inside the soil, vacuum technology has been used. Water spraying is done by the water nozzle which is operated through a pressure water tank and a soil moisture sensor is used to check the moisture of soil. Automation is done by using the Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) and Human Machine Interface (HMI). So automatically the motor moves in X direction, Y direction and Z direction. Giving appropriate commands in PLC programming to pick and place the seed through Z direction.

III. DESCRIPTION OF EQUIPMENT

Description of various equipment used in the research work.

3.1 Rack and Pinion.

A rack and pinion is a type of linear actuator that comprises a pair of gears which convert rotational motion into linear motion. Circular gear called the pinion engages teeth on a linear gear bar called the rack. Rotational motion applied to the pinion causes the rack to move relative to the pinion, thereby translating the rotational motion of the pinion into linear motion.

3.2 Stepper Motor

Stepper motor or step motor is a brushless DC electric motor that divides a full rotation into a number of equal steps. The motor's position can then be commanded to move and hold at one of these steps without any position sensor for feedback as long as the motor is carefully sized to the application in respect to torque and speed.

3.3 Water Pressure Tank

As water is pumped for the tank, it compresses the air in the tank until it reaches a preset level. When someone turns on a faucet, air pressure in the tank forces water through the plumbing until the pressure drops to the preset trigger pressure.

3.4 Vacuum cleaner

To pick and drop the seed inside the soil I have used the vacuum cleaner for the vacuum mechanisms.

3.5 Linear Actuator

A linear actuator is an actuator that creates motion in a straight line, in contrast to the circular motion of conventional electric motor. Linear actuators are used in machine tools and industrial machinery, in computer peripherals such as disk drives and printers, in valves and dampers, in many other places where linear motion is required. Hydraulic or pneumatic cylinders inherently produce linear motion.

3.6 Soil moisture sensor

Soil moisture sensors measure the volumetric water content in soil. Since the direct gravimetric measurement of free soil moisture requires removing, drying and weighing of sample, soil moisture sensors measure the volumetric water content indirectly by using some other property of the soil.

3.7 Wecon PLC

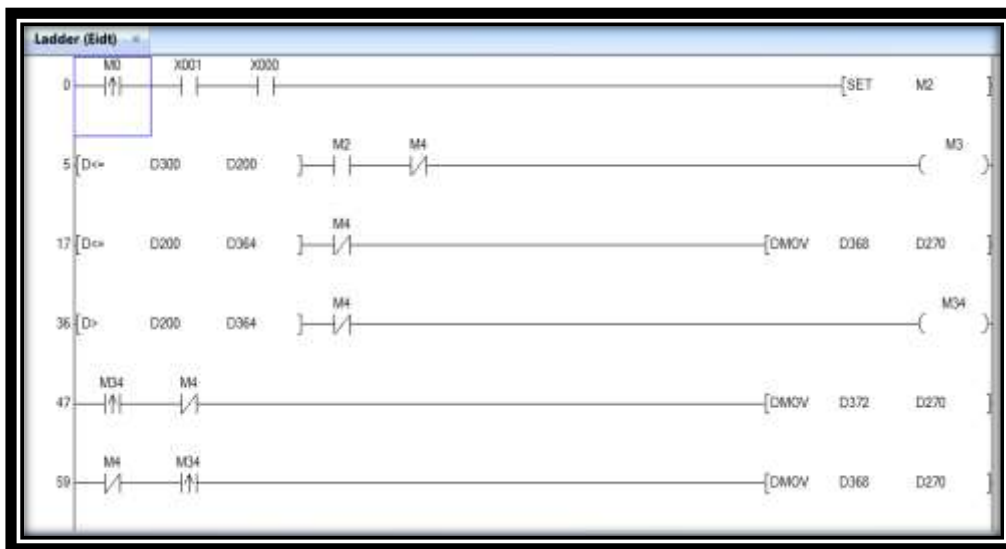
WECON Technology Co Ltd is a Chinese high technology company. Here I have used the Model no LX3V-0806MR which has 8 Input and 6 outputs. It is used for controlling the motors and to make automation in a farmbot.

3.8 Human Machine Interface

WECON LEVI 430T series HMI is used for the interface, it has USB printer/Serial port printer for the communication. and its screen size is 4.3 inches.

IV. CONTROLLING AND HUMAN MACHINE INTERFACE

Wecon plc is used for controlling the various parameters in the farmbot, which consists of 8/6 I/Os. Motors' drive is connected through the plc programming in such a way that we can move the stepper motor position in various directions.



“Figure 1 : Programming screen of PLC”

In main operating screen of farmbot shows the stepper motor position because through which we have create the automation .Start and stop button for to command the machine run/stop.if stepper motor is runniig that indication also show by red led. Other parameter like forward and reverse position of motor is also show by red led.



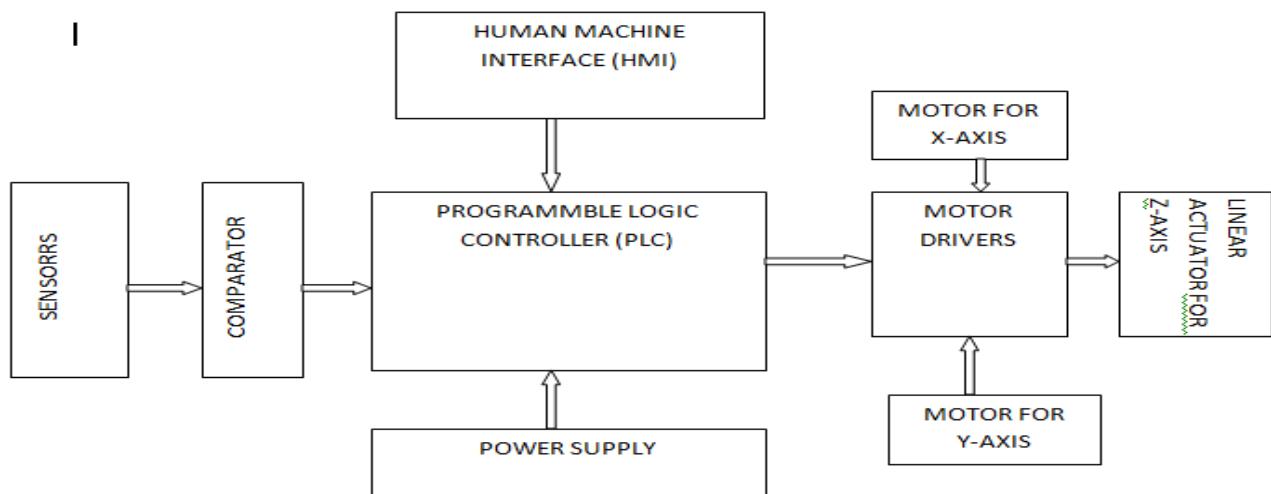
“Figure 2 :Human machine interface operating system”

Abbreviations and Acronyms PLC- Programmable logic controller, HMI- Human Machine Interface, PC- personal computer, I/O- Input and Output.

Units

Motor forward and reverse position in mm,stroke of linear actuator in mm.

V. BASIC BLOCK DIAGRAM OF FARMBOT



”Figure 3 : Basic block diagram of farmbot”

VI. WORKING DIAGRAM AND RESULTS

In our project all the components are placed on the base frame of wooden. Rack and pinion used for the smooth movement of stepper motor. The spraying nozzle is coupled with the motor to spray the plant. Then water is pumped from the water tank to spray nozzle. Seed are available in the seeder train to pick and drop the seed inside the soil I have used vacuum system. When all their motors are switched ON then farmbot will move in X-Axis, Y-axis and Z axis in the agricultural field.

When farmbot is started first it will check the moisture level inside the soil for the requirement of water level to spray the plant. Then seed is sprayed after that to the plowed field.



“Figure 4 : Basic wooden frame for component placed”



“Figure 5: Ready to use farmbot prepared by Author”

VII. CONCLUSION

The project “DESIGNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF FARBOT” was undertaken with a aim of reducing the cost, make it more convenient and producing quality output to the end users. There were quite a few challenges while executing this project in terms of its designing, operational aspects. Learn many technical things while executing this Project work. Thus it was a wonderful experienced to complete this project work successfully.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDMENT

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