



## Multi Feature Grain Repository Structure with Security

Ranjitha.V<sup>1</sup>, ShivaPrasada.K.H<sup>2</sup>, Dayanand Lal.N<sup>3</sup>, Asha.G<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1-4</sup>Department of CSE, GITAM School of Technology Bengaluru, India,

<sup>1</sup>rvenkate@gitam.edu, <sup>2</sup>sgowda@gitam.edu, <sup>3</sup>dnarayan@gitam.edu, <sup>4</sup>agujjara@gitam.edu

### ABSTRACT

India is comparatively the second largest country in population, food grains are the main requirement for all and hence about 50 percent of the population is involved in farming. About 40 percent of food grains are wasted in post-harvest because of traditional storage systems and other external factors that influence food grains for spoilage, according to the UNDF (United Nations Development federation). Farmers make use of traditional storage systems like Earthbins, pots, silos etc. where most of the food grains are wasted by the insects and other external commodities like temperature, humidity, CO<sub>2</sub> levels are the various factors that influence the quality of grains but this wastage is to be avoided by making use of modern grain repository structure. Modern Grain repository structure is feasible for grain storage and to the maximum it avoids the wastage and spoilage of the food grains by making use of various sensors like DHT11, MQ5, and MQ135 which is majorly IOT sensors for monitoring grains quality. The modern multi-feature grain structure comes with various features that help in avoiding insects, rodents, molds and even secure enough from thefts by thieves. So this paper contributes towards the prevention of grain wastage and safety of grains which helps the farmer for his benefits. Notifying the farmer can be done using an application called cayenne and it periodically updates the farmers regarding the crop levels and any other suspicious activities. According to experimental results, this modern repository system requires very little human intervention.

**Key words:** DHT11, MQ5, MQ135, Cayenne, Grains Quality.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Cultivation is the main occupation for the people since the entire world depends on the food grains either directly or indirectly even the economy of the country depends on agriculture where indirectly depends on the wastage of food which influences the economy hence there is need to avoid wastage. The issues that occur in traditional storage systems are maintaining the temperature, CO<sub>2</sub> levels and other factors that influence grain quality. According to the research, the temperature between 25 and 30 degrees is very supportive for mold growth in the storage repositories and with respect to

insect reproduction the temperature which is sufficient is 15 degrees Celsius and above so the grains should be stored in 30 to 40 Fahrenheit depending even on the aeration of bins is also important. There is a scenario to explain this condition very well considering a farmer who has cultivated food grains and stored them in a bin which is a traditional repository. Farmers need to check the bin three times a day, but few farmers won't even check it for months, preferably in the top portion, which should be checked at least week wise. If Farmer notices any smell or rise in the temperature due to damaged grains or wet grains or premature grains present in the bin and that portion of grains should be removed from the bin or else the entire bin will be wasted. Rise in temperature even because of high metabolic activity of insects. Farmer activities vary according to seasons that are in summer, checking bins multiple times in winter, checking it for less time, etc. several gases are released from the metabolic activity of insects like mycotoxins which naturally in foods, feeds and our environment. Mycotoxins are classified as hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, vomitoxin and neuro-musculotoxin, some of which are potentially carcinogenic and mutagenic. [1] This mycotoxin is the reason for CO<sub>2</sub> levels production in the bins and even in rise in temperature.






### 2. LITERATURE SURVEY



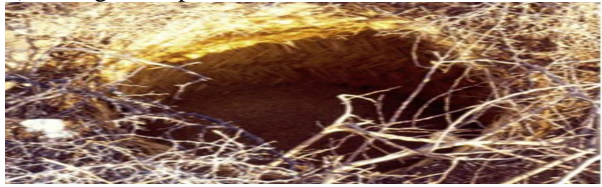




Authors Adesina Jacobs Moboladea, Nameirakpam Bunindro, Dinabandhu Sahoo, Yallappa Rajashekar, as given idea of traditional repository system and how the system works, to what level the grains wastage occurs etc. below is the table to describe about the traditional storage system used in those days [2] . Figure 1 depicts the procedure cleaning grains manually and Table 1 shows the various traditional practices that are implemented to store the grains.






**Figure 1:** Before storing food grains need to be cleaned for impurities(Source: Ranjitha V)

**Table 1:** Traditional Practices and storage systems

Traditional grain storage practices and methods	Description
<p>1)Solarization</p>  <p><b>Figure 2:</b> Solarization of grains</p>	<p>1) Solarization is the process of drying the grains in the Sun so that insects are being killed. In the picture we can see the maize grains on the normal plastic bags which are spread and exposed to sun rays. Solarization is the oldest practice which is followed even in the current era. It is believed that grains are chewed and checked for crispness if it is crispy then it dried to a satisfactory level. Figure 2 shows the Solarization of grains</p>
<p>2)Open Fireplace</p>  <p><b>Figure 3:</b> Storage of grains in open fireplace (based on resource book <a href="https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/seed-storage.pdf">https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/seed-storage.pdf</a>)</p>	<p>2) Open FirePlace: This practice is currently in use where most of the farmers from rural background will follow. In this Practice storing the grains near the kitchen so that no insects or larva forms because of heat from the kitchen and the temperature will be high. Figure 3 depicts storage grains in open place</p>
<p>3)Gourds</p>  <p><b>Figure 4:</b> Represents the pic of Gourds[2]</p>	<p>3) Gourds: This special part-like structure is made up of hard dried fruits and has the capacity to store 5 to 30 kilo-grams, usually seen in the kitchen or indoors. These gourds are polished with varnish and closed with a mud lid which is in airtight condition for restricting insects and larvae growth. It can be seen in Figure 4</p>
<p>4)Palmyra leaf</p>  <p><b>Figure 5:</b> Palmyra leaf basket for grain storage (Based India mart)</p>	<p>4) Palmyra leaf: Baskets made up of labelifier leaves which are double woven to avoid the entry of insects and used to store grains in good amounts ranging from 10 to 500 kilo-grams leaves of plants such as Psidium guajava, Vitex negundo etc., are used as the inner lining of the bin and the top lid is made up of the same material shown in Figure 5</p>
<p>5)Cribs</p>  <p><b>Figure 6:</b> Cribs (4)</p>	<p>5) Cribs :It is enclosed rectangular shape platform which is above the ground can see Figure 6 which is in height of 0.5 to 1m above the ground with maize in it. Entire cribs are made up of wood, bamboo, wire mesh or metal. Grains inside the cribs are aerated. It is cheap but not pests or insects free</p>
<p>6)Bamboo basket</p>	<p>6) Bamboo basket: Traditional way of storing grains in</p>

 <p><b>Figure 7:</b> Bamboo basket(source:Traditional ways of Storing Grains, by Muriel Kakani, 2015)</p>	<p>bamboo basket which is shown in the Figure 7, bamboo basket is made up of bamboo splits, straw, opening at the top for filling grains in it. The exterior can be varnished with mud or cow dung which is kept in the open space. Storage capacity may vary based on the size of the basket</p>
<p>7) Earthen pots</p>  <p><b>Figure 8:</b> Earthen pots( based on resource book <a href="https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/seed-storage.pdf">https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/seed-storage.pdf</a>)</p>	<p>7) Earthen pots: Earthen pots may vary in size and can store grains from 0 to 25 kilo-grams depending on size. This structure is made up of clay. Figure 8 depicts earthen pots stored one above the other perfectly without any air gaps so that no insects can go in, and the top pot is closed with a clay lid. This is one of the oldest practices even though it is now also on the move,</p>
<p>8) Underground pit</p>  <p><b>Figure 9 :</b> Underground pit(based on [2])</p>	<p>8) Underground pit: Farmers use this storage very frequently in lands where water levels are low and this can be in the shape of a bell where more grains can be stored. This structure is disadvantageous because of the rise in moisture content there may be possibilities of mold. Storage capacity depends on size. Figure 9 shows underground pit with bamboo inside fitting</p>
<p>9) Mud house</p>  <p><b>Figure 10:</b> Mud house(mercycorps.org Nepal, Re-enforcement of Mud Grain Storage and Mud Houses, 2010)</p>	<p>9) Mud house: this structure can store up to 1000 to 2500 kg and is made up of mud alone or can be mixed with cow dung for building walls and can be covered with bamboo sticks and palm leaves on the roof. Figure 10 shows the mud house for storing the grains in it.</p>
<p>10) Seeds are stored with cow dung</p>  <p><b>Figure 11:</b> Seeds stored with cow dung(based on by saurabhlevin,2011)</p>	<p>10) Seeds are stored even with cow dung to preserve the seeds for the next seasonal sowing and it acts as one of the best pesticides to prevent it from insects Figure 11 shows seed in the cow pat.</p>
<p>11) Thatch silo</p>  <p><b>Figure 12:</b> Thatch silo (source:<a href="http://home.alphalink.com.au/~taraka/e14.html">http://home.alphalink.com.au/~taraka/e14.html</a>)</p>	<p>11) Thatch silo: This is basically in the cylindrical form and made up of stones, leaf sticks etc. and the top is covered with various leaves. It is 2m high from the ground. It has a capacity of more than 2000 kilo-grams and it is 2mtrs above the ground level. Figure 12 depicts the thatch silo</p>
<p>12) Plastic container</p>  <p><b>Figure 13:</b> Plastic container</p>	<p>12) Plastic container: Figure 13 shows the grains in the plastic container which is commonly used nowadays in rural areas. It basically avoids rodent entry and is covered with a plastic lid. Capacity depends on the size of the container.</p>

<p>13)Metal silo</p>  <p><b>Figure 14:</b> Metal silo(by Joilene Rasmussen,2019)</p>	<p>13) Metal silo: Figure 14 shows how metal silo looks and it is basically made up of a metal called iron which is used to store cereals and other grains for longer duration. They are the best containers for grains but should be placed in shady areas because of condensation problems</p>
<p>14)Mud silo</p>  <p><b>Figure 15:</b> Mud silo(based on JuJu films, 2017)</p>	<p>14) Mud silo: As shown in the Figure 15 Mud silo is of Spherical shape and can be seen above four or more stones. It is for a shorter duration and it is closed with leaves.</p>
<p>15)Plastic silo</p>  <p><b>Figure 16:</b> plastic silo(4)</p>	<p>15) Plastic silo: It is basically made up of PVC which is like a container basically used for water but nowadays such structure is used even for storing grains. Figure 16 shows a plastic silo.</p>

There are even various insects and other external calamities that affect the grains quality; few among them are considered in this paper. Storage insects have various categories, few main among them are 1) Primary storage pests under these two sub categories are presents

a) External: insects feed on germs and endosperms from the outside. Whole seeds get damaged and especially the germinal portion or feed on the seeds, which initially have been damaged by other insects which are broken into pieces mechanically. b)Internal insect pests: laying eggs on the surface or inside the grains, entire life stages of the insect from egg to last stage or part of life stage is spent inside the grains. The loss of germination cannot be identified from the outside. [5][6]

2) Secondary storage pest [6].

1) Primary Storage pest: Insects that occur in grains for the first time that is in initial times

2) Secondary storage pest: occurs on the grains which are already damaged

1)Primary storage pests

a) Rice weevil: Found worldwide which belongs to internal feeders it appears on grains like wheat, rice, sorghum, maize, barley. Rice weevil can be seen in Figure 17.



**Figure 17:** Rice weevil Adult (based on [5-6])

b) Lesser grain borer: Found in few places like India, Greece, US, Japan, Nepal etc. seen in foods and grains like wheat, rice, maize, sorghum, barley, lentils, army biscuits, ship biscuits, stored, corn flour, beans, pumpkin seeds, tamarind seeds and millets. This is an internal feeder. Lesser grain borer shown in Figure 18.



**Figure 18:** Powdery substance revealing damage occurred by lesser grain borer (left) and adult beetle (right) [5, 6]

b) Angoumois grain moth: Found worldwide and seen in grains like paddy wheat oats maize etc. breeding takes place in the month of April to October. This is an internal feeder. Figure 19 shows Angoumois grain moth with its stages.



**Figure 19:** Angoumois grain moth with its stages [5]

d) Red flour beetle: Found worldwide, and this is an external category feeder where it concentrates on endosperm of grain. This insect is found on grains like wheat flour, dry fruits, pulses etc. Figure 20 shows Depicts the stages of Red flour beetle [5]



**Figure 20:** Depicts the stages of Red flour beetle [5]

e) Indian meal moth: Found worldwide and again this is an external category feeder which is seen in breakfast food, meals, dry fruits, nuts etc. Figure 21 shows Indian meal moth stages from egg.



**Figure 21:** Indian meal moth stages from egg [5]

f) Rice moth: Found majorly in Asia, Africa, and Europe this is an external feeder, it is seen in rice maize, groundnut etc.



**Figure 22:** Rice moth eggs and larvae [5]

2) Secondary storage pest

a) Saw toothed grain beetle: It is dark in color which is found in any damaged grains like rice, wheat, maize, cereals etc. shown in the Figure 23 shows it



**Figure 23:** Saw toothed grain beetle [5]

b) Long headed flour beetle: It attacks cereals flour packaged food etc. it is a secondary feeder shown in Figure 24.



**Figure 24:** Shows long headed flour beetle [5]

c) Grain lice: as seen in the starchy material, it lays 7 to 59 eggs approximately. It comes under a secondary feeder, shown in 25.



**Figure 25:** shows Grain lice [5]

All this are pest insects that can be seen in the storage of food grains to avoid this, we are with a new modern storage structure where the main objective is maintaining the quality of grains. There are ample of papers related to the grain storage monitoring system which is with some gap areas like it may be with respect to controlling the carbon dioxide levels or it may with reaching the farmer are triggering the events, few among such related work is to reduce grain loss by making use electronic and information technology[7][3]. By making use of Arduino microcontroller, temperature and humidity sensors, and a GSM module, an automated warehouse is created successfully by[8], a same type structure for grain storage is given by [9].Automation warehouse is enhanced with Wi-Fi model given by[10]. Similarly, monitoring the CO2 level of the stored grain and applying a machine learning algorithm was done for data analysis, obtained from the sensors -installed in the storage bin [11]. Applying Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) technology with bee radio transceivers inside the bin was successfully done by [12]. Rodents are one of the major factors responsible for stored grain losses [13], with respect to sub regions; an automatic grain monitoring system is given by [14]

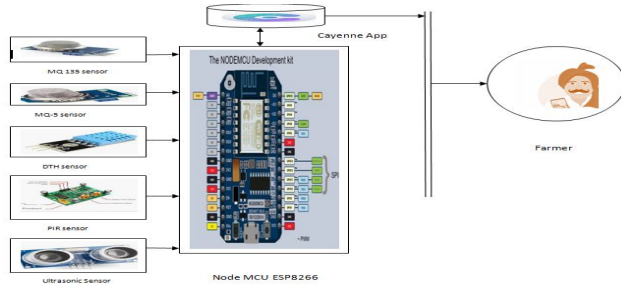
### 3. METHODOLOGY

The modern grain repository structure makes use of a few hardware components to monitor the food grains inside the structure; mainly we make use of a few iot sensors. The proposed system is cost effective for farmers and mainly focuses on grain safety. Hardware components like

- 1) Microcontroller: Node MCU ESP8266
- 2) Sensors are MQ135, MQ5, DHT11 and PIR sensor
- 3) Electronic alarm, Fan, is used which will be notifying the farmer

The architecture looks like it is shown in the Figure 26 that

depicts the model parts and its way of communication with the farmer.



**Figure 26:** Architecture of the model

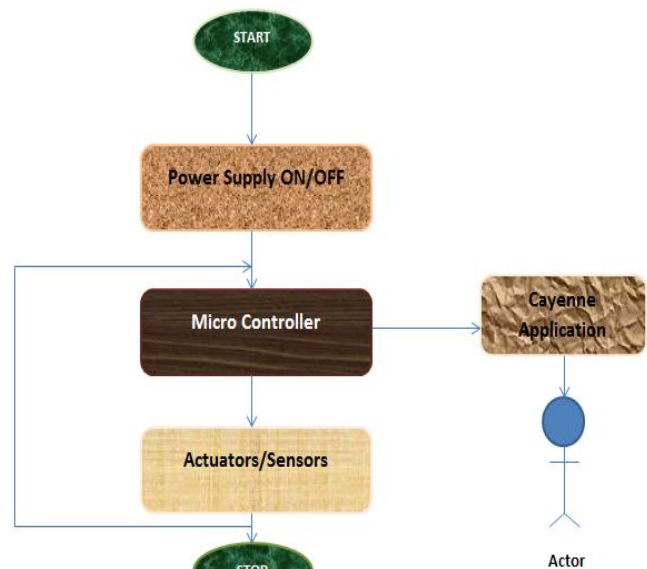
1)The Node MCU (Node Microcontroller Unit): A firmware which is of open source type with interaction, from Espressif systems and the hardware is of type ESP\_12 with Wi-Fi module supports various components, WSN that is for monitoring the surroundings and even TCP/IP protocol [15][16][17]. For selecting Node MCU, there are various research studies which say NodeMCU is stable and a successful few among them are: detecting the fire in the forest[18], Robot controlled by Wi-Fi[19], Power transformer monitoring system[20], Tomato sorting machine[21], air quality control based on automated system[22], automated electricity billing system[23], Body temperature and heart rate detecting system[24], LPG gas leakage detection and alert System[25].

2)Sensors are MQ135, MQ5,DHT11,Ultrasonic and PIR sensor : The Sensors like MQ135 and DHT11 selected for the security grain system which successful in detecting CO2 levels with respect humidity [27], Passive Infrared sensor (PIR) can identify easily.[26]PIR was successful in detection given by [30][31][32][33][34] . MQ5 is successful in detecting the natural gases [28]. Ultrasonic sensors are used to detect levels of grain in the repository structure, and are successfully given by. [36][37][41]

3)Electronic alarm, Fan, is used which will be notifying the farmer: In order to notify the farmer regarding abnormal state of repository structure we are using an electronic alarm and also fan to regulate the temperature and also the entire module is set as a relay module. Running Time Alarms Monitoring is given by [39]

Software required for this application are Cayenne Application: Application is required to alert the farmer and this is success in [29] [38]. Arduino IDE: By making use of embedded C language code is developed and can be dumped into micro controller. [35]

### Data Flow Analysis



**Figure 27:** Data flow analysis

Data flow analysis shown in the Figure 27 where it depicts the complete flow of repository structure where microcontroller is dumped with code operates with power supply and with the help of cayenne application the actor is notified by sensors or actuators readings so that the abnormal state is controlled, here abnormal state is like variation in the temperature, movements of rodents, mold growth etc. Even insects can be avoided by making use of a few procedures inside the repository like sanitization of the repository structure when it is empty.[40]

### 4. RESULT ANALYSIS

Complete readings of sensors are detected simultaneously and with respect to variation in the state of Repository structure electric alarm and notifications are sent through cayenne application to farmers, the sensors that we are using are meant for various applications like MQ135 for atmospheric gases, MQ5 for LPG gas and other smoke, PIR sensors for detecting rodents and other warm grainy cells. Table 2 shows the results.

**Table 2:** Results

Attempt number	Results	Status
Attempt 1: By varying the Temperature in the repository structure	Detected	Success
Attempt 2: By inserting insects in the grains and storing wet seeds in the repository	Detected : with insect and mold growth initializa tion and notified the farmer	Success
Attempt 3: By reducing the levels of grain in the structure	Detected and Notified	Success
Attempt 4: By varying the humidity levels	Detected	Success
Attempt 5: Others abnormal activities like CO <sub>2</sub> gas in the repository	Detected	Success

## 5. CONCLUSION

Since, large amounts of grains are wasted every year because of lack of maintenance and even a traditional way of storage (seen in section 3) also leads to poor quality crops, hence the attempt is made to assist the farmers from various parameters like temperature variation because of various insects (mentioned in section 3) that releases different gases due to metabolic activity, which affects the crops and other rodents etc. In this paper, maintaining the quality of grains is achieved, where this Multi features grain repository structure uses NodeMCU and other sensors. Readings of sensors are displayed on the mobile of the farmer where the entire control of the structure will be in farmer's hands, since temperature, carbon dioxide and humidity levels are all continuously monitored by the model, simultaneously notifying the farmer. The output can be seen on mobile and desktop. Future enhancement is for increasing the monitoring activity for large structures with less cost for farmers and avoiding wastage of crops.

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