iJRASET
International Journal For Research in Applied Science and Engineering Technology

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 13 **Issue:** VI **Month of publication:** June 2025

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2025.72669

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International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 13 Issue VI June 2025- Available at www.ijraset.com

Automatic Weed Killing and Plant Protection Robot

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***Abstract:** This system aims to provide a sustainable solution for weed management, particularly for small and medium sized farms. A more cost-effective, precise, and environmentally responsible approach, it promises to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals and manual labor. The primary objective of the project is to create a functional prototype that can autonomously kill weeds using a motor pump or other mechanical means while navigating through agricultural fields. The robot's design allows for Bluetooth control, enabling farmers to remotely monitor and operate the robot. The outcome of this project could significantly improve productivity, reduce costs, and promote sustainable farming practices, contributing to the growing demand for precision agriculture.*

I. INTRODUCTION

For millennia, agriculture has served as the foundation of human civilization, providing food for billions of people worldwide. However, in the modern era, farming faces an increasing array of challenges due to the growing global population, environmental concerns, and changing climatic conditions. One of the most significant challenges faced by farmers is the management of weeds, which are unwanted plants that grow alongside crops and compete for essential resources like water, sunlight, and nutrients. Weeds can have a detrimental impact on agricultural productivity, and without effective management, they can reduce crop yields and degrade soil quality. The use of chemical herbicides, which can be harmful to human health and the environment, as well as the labor-intensive and time-consuming manual weeding, are both traditional methods of controlling weeds. The overuse of herbicides has led to the development of herbicide-resistant weeds, soil contamination, and water pollution. As a result, there is a growing need for alternative, more sustainable methods of weed control that can reduce dependence on chemicals and manual labor.

The development of automation and robotics in agriculture presents an exciting opportunity to address these challenges. Automated systems can be designed to perform tasks such as planting, irrigation, harvesting, and weed control without the need for human intervention. These systems have the potential to improve farming practices' precision, reduce expenses, and increase efficiency. Particularly, autonomous weed-killing robots have the potential to change the way agriculture manages weeds. The Automatic Weed Killing Robot is a solution for controlling weeds that combines robotics, automation, and environmentally friendly farming methods. By leveraging advanced technologies such as Arduino microcontrollers, Bluetooth communication, DC motors, and motor pumps, the robot can autonomously navigate agricultural fields, detect weeds, and apply herbicides or mechanical methods to eliminate them. This system aims to reduce the need for manual labor and minimize the environmental impact of herbicide use. The robot's scalable, cost-effective, and efficient design make it suitable for both small and large farms. In this paper, we will discuss the problem of weed management in agriculture, the existing systems and technologies used to address this issue, and the proposed solution of an automatic weed-killing robot. We will also explore the methodology, working principles, and objectives of the project, as well as the hardware and software components that make up the system.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Escalating demand for precision agriculture, which aims to maximize the utilization of resources, cut costs, and encourage environmental sustainability. Using automation, robotics, and cutting-edge sensors, a number of systems have been developed to address the problem of controlling weeds. Robotic Weed Control Systems Weed control systems that can autonomously detect and eliminate weeds have been the subject of numerous studies and prototypes. Computer vision, machine learning, and advanced image processing are frequently used in these systems. For instance, EcoRobotix, a Swiss company, has developed a robotic weed control system that uses optical sensors to identify weeds and selectively apply herbicides. The robot reduces herbicide use by up to 90% and works autonomously. However, such systems are expensive and require sophisticated algorithms for weed detection, which can be challenging for small-scale farmers. Technologies for Weed Detection In autonomous systems, various kinds of sensors can be used to detect weevils. Optical sensors, like cameras and infrared sensors, are commonly used to differentiate between crops and weeds based on visual characteristics such as shape, size, and color.

These sensors enable high precision but often require complex processing power. On the other hand, simpler sensors like ultrasonic or infrared sensors are less expensive and require less computing power, but they may produce results that are less accurate. According to the findings of the research, weed detection efficiency and accuracy can be enhanced by combining various types of sensors. Mechanical and Herbicide-Based Weed Control Robots Automated weed control systems typically use two primary methods: herbicide spraying and mechanical weeding. Mechanical weeding is used by some robots, like the University of Sydney's AgBot II, which uses specialized tools to uproot or cut weeds. While this method reduces chemical use, it requires a more complex mechanical design and is better suited for certain types of crops. Robots that spray herbicides, like the Robocrop system, can selectively spray herbicides on weeds while avoiding crops. This reduces the amount of chemicals used, but it still uses chemicals. Bluetooth-Controlled Agricultural Robots Bluetooth technology has been successfully integrated into agricultural robots for remote monitoring and control. This technology enables farmers to operate and track the robot without needing to be physically present in the field. The integration of Bluetooth with simple microcontrollers such as Arduino allows for lowcost and accessible solutions, especially for small-scale farmers. Challenges in Weed Control Automation Despite the advancements in robotic weed control, many challenges remain. High costs, complexity of implementation, and the need for advanced image processing are some of the major issues preventing the widespread adoption of these systems. Moreover, environmental factors such as dust, weather conditions, and soil variations can affect the accuracy and efficiency of sensors, leading to potential failures in weed detection. In summary, while there are many automated systems aimed at weed control, most are either too expensive, too complex, or still rely on harmful chemical herbicides. Using fundamental components like Arduino, Bluetooth, and DC motors, the Automatic Weed Killing Robot seeks to address these issues by developing a low-cost, effective, and friendly to the environment solution.

III. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this project is to design and develop an Automatic Weed Killing Robot that can autonomously detect and eliminate weeds in agricultural fields. An automated, eco-friendly, and effective method for controlling weeds will be provided by the robot, which will make use of cutting-edge technologies like the Arduino microcontroller, Bluetooth communication, DC motors, a motor driver, a relay, and a motor pump.

The main objectives are:

1) Autonomous Weed Detection and Elimination: To create a robot that can navigate agricultural fields, detect weeds, and kill them using a motorized system (either spraying herbicide or applying mechanical methods). By providing precise and targeted weed control, the goal of minimising herbicide use is accomplished.

2) Cost-Effective and Energy-Efficient: To develop a system that is affordable for small and medium-scale farms and minimizes energy consumption.

3) Remote Control and Monitoring: To enable farmers to monitor and control the robot remotely via Bluetooth, allowing for easier management of the robot's operation.

4) Sustainability: To provide a more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional weed management methods, such as manual weeding and chemical herbicides.

IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed Automatic Weed Killing Robot aims to address the limitations of existing weed control systems by providing an affordable, efficient, and sustainable solution for weed management in agriculture. The system is made to be simple to use on small and medium-sized farms, where traditional weed control methods may not be practical or cost too much. The robot is able to autonomously detect and eliminate weeds in agricultural fields by utilizing a motor pump, a DC motor, a motor driver, Bluetooth communication, an Arduino microcontroller, and other components. The central unit that controls the robot's operation, including motor movement, sensor inputs, and Bluetooth communication, is the Arduino Microcontroller, one of the system's key components. Bluetooth Module: Enables remote control and monitoring of the robot from a mobile device or computer. DC Motors and Motor Driver: Control the movement of the robot, allowing it to navigate through the field autonomously.

Weed Detection Sensors: Sensors such as infrared sensors, ultrasonic sensors, or simple cameras detect the presence of weeds in the robot's path. The relay controls the activation of the motor pump, which is used to spray herbicides or water on the weeds. The robot will move autonomously through the agricultural field, scanning for weeds using the sensors. The weed-killing mechanism, which can be mechanical removal or herbicide spraying, will be activated by the robot when a weed is detected. The system is made to use less energy, can be used on small to medium-sized farms, uses fewer harmful chemicals, and costs less to hire workers.

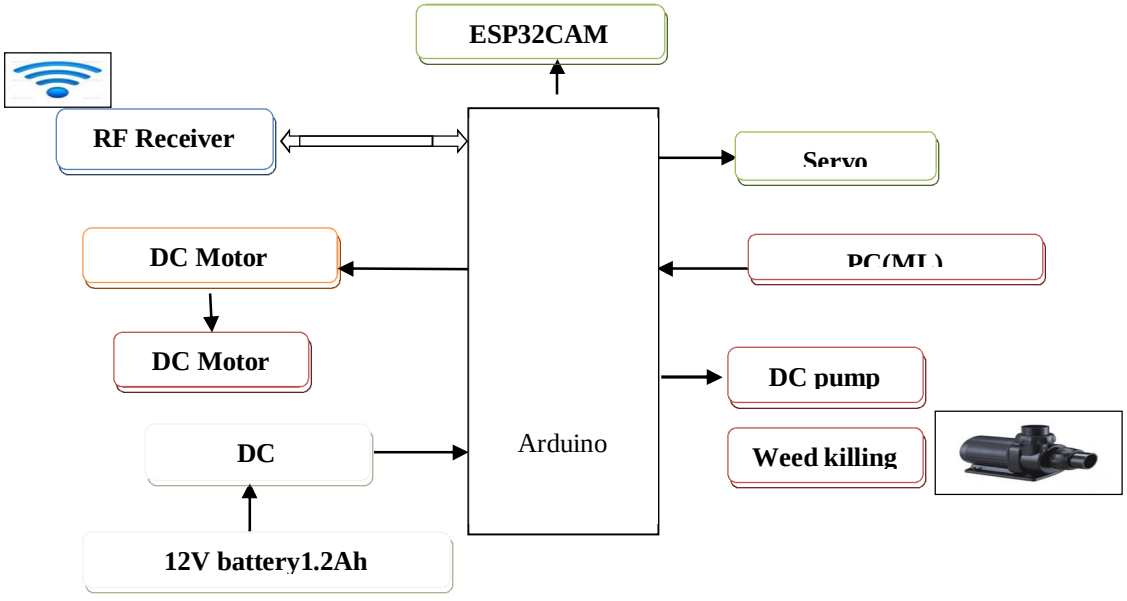
Farmers will be able to remotely monitor and control this robot thanks to Bluetooth control. It is adaptable to various crops and fields, ensuring adaptability and scalability.

V. METHODOLOGY

The methodology for developing the Automatic Weed Killing Robot involves both hardware and software components that work together to create a fully functional, autonomous system for weed detection and elimination.

1) System Design and Architecture The robot will be designed to include the following core components: Arduino Microcontroller: The central processing unit responsible for controlling all robot operations, including motor movement, sensor inputs, and Bluetooth communication. Bluetooth Module (HC-05): This module allows remote control and monitoring of the robot through a mobile phone or computer. It provides a user-friendly interface for farmers to control the robot. DC Motors and Motor Driver (L298N): The DC motors drive the movement of the robot in the field. The L298N motor driver is used to control the speed and direction of the motors. Relay and Motor Pump: The relay controls the activation of the motor pump, which sprays herbicides or water onto weeds.
2) Weed Detection Sensors: Sensors such as ultrasonic or infrared will be used to detect obstacles or weeds in the robot's path. These sensors will help the robot navigate the field and identify areas that need attention. Weed Detection Mechanism The robot will be equipped with sensors to detect the presence of weeds. The sensors will work by detecting changes in the robot's path, signaling the presence of an obstacle (weed). Upon detection, the robot will stop and trigger the herbicide spraying mechanism. Ultrasonic or infrared sensors will be used to detect obstacles, and their readings will be processed by the Arduino to decide whether the robot should stop and activate the weed-killing mechanism.
3) Bluetooth Communication for Remote Control: The robot will be controlled remotely via Bluetooth using an Android application or a computer interface. The Bluetooth module will enable bidirectional communication between the robot and the user, allowing for monitoring and control of its operation in real-time. The user will be able to control the robot's movement, activate the motor pump, and adjust settings via the Bluetooth interface.
4) Movement and Navigation: The robot will move autonomously through the field using DC motors. The L298N motor driver will regulate the motors' speed and direction based on the signals from the Arduino. The robot will follow a predetermined path and continuously scan for weeds or obstacles. When a weed is detected, the Arduino will trigger the relay to activate the motor pump for weed elimination.
5) Weed Killing Mechanism: The motor pump will be activated through a relay, which will spray herbicides or water on the detected weed. The robot will use a small tank to hold the herbicide, and the pump will release a controlled amount of the solution onto the weed. Energy Efficiency The robot will be powered by a rechargeable battery, making it energy-efficient and environmentally friendly. The Arduino will manage the power supply and ensure that the system operates optimally, reducing energy consumption and extending battery life.
6) Software Development: The software for the Arduino microcontroller will be programmed to handle inputs from the sensors and control the motors, relay, and motor pump. The software will also include Bluetooth communication protocols to allow remote monitoring and control. The code will be written to ensure smooth robot movement, precise weed detection, and accurate weed killing.

A. *Block Diagram*



B. Working

The Automatic Weed Killing Robot operates autonomously in an agricultural field, navigating using DC motors and sensors. The robot's operation is broken down step by step: Initialization: After the robot is turned on, the Arduino sets up the system. When the Bluetooth module is paired with a computer or mobile device, the user can remotely monitor and control the robot. Navigation and movement: The L298N motor driver directs the robot's DC motors, which propel it forward. Utilizing the sensors, such as ultrasonic or infrared sensors, the robot continuously searches for weeds or obstacles. The robot's sensors inform the Arduino of any obstacles in its path as it moves. Weed Detection: When the sensors detect a weed, the Arduino processes the sensor data and determines whether or not the weed is present. After that, the robot comes to a stop and starts the weed-killing mechanism. Weed killing: The relay is triggered to start the motor pump, which sprays the weed with herbicide or water. The Arduino controls the relay and ensures that the motor pump works only when a weed is detected. Remote Control: The user can control the robot remotely via Bluetooth. They can start or stop the robot, adjust settings, or monitor the robot's status from a mobile phone or computer. End of Operation: The robot continues to move through the field, repeating the process of weed detection and killing. The battery ensures the robot can operate for an extended period, and it can be recharged when needed.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We have provided a summary of the bot's operation in this paper. This bot cuts the weed and the ultrasonic sensor in the bot performs the work of detecting and avoiding obstacles. The bot moves forward and backward thanks to the dc motor connected to the wheel. The metal blade is designed so sharp in such a way to cut the weed. In order for the bot to cut the weed at the bottom, we designed it with a very low ground clearance between the blade and the ground. We can use Bluetooth terminal software to connect the bot to our mobile devices by using a Bluetooth module. The feed and design algorithms that this bot uses to find and get rid of weeds can make it better. Image processing makes this feasible.

VII. FUTURE WORKS

In future this robot can be implemented to permanently remove weeds from the soil. Instead of an ultrasonic sensor we can also use the method of FPV to control the bot. However, controlling the bot in this manner requires human intervention. In this method we can insert a camera to the bot. Therefore, we locate the weeds and use a gripper with an arrow-shaped end tip to completely remove them. We can also use image processing to distinguish between crops and weeds. By incorporating artificial intelligence into the bot, we can make it completely self-sufficient by feeding it a battery. Farmers will benefit greatly from this revolution in agriculture. Their time spent manually removing weeds is slashed thanks to this. This also helps healthy farming by avoiding pesticides, weedicides etc.

VIII. CONCLUSION

We'll learn how to build a useful product that can help farmers solve their problems using an integrated approach from mechanical, electronics, and control engineering. With the help of the project, there is a good chance that the farm will limit the use of chemicals and get rid of other negative effects like the contamination of ground water and the loss of land fertility caused by too many chemicals. The technology will be much more human friendly and the electronics can be used for betterment of farmers to increase the productivity. The farmers will be better able to manage their farms, allowing them to concentrate more on management and increasing yield. There will be a phase of rapid development. The Farmers will be able to reduce chemical use resulting in reduced expenditure and higher profits. Also lesser use of chemicals increase soil quality and prevent ground water contamination. Not only will farmers be able to use and increase their productivity, but so will government agencies, businesses, and other members of the public and private sectors. The overall benefits this system holds is countless. In addition, in the coming years, machines that are more precise and accurate will be seen, and engineering students and professionals will advance them. This system makes use of mechanical, electronic, and computer science knowledge. The system has more room for development because it combines scientific knowledge with knowledge from each stream.

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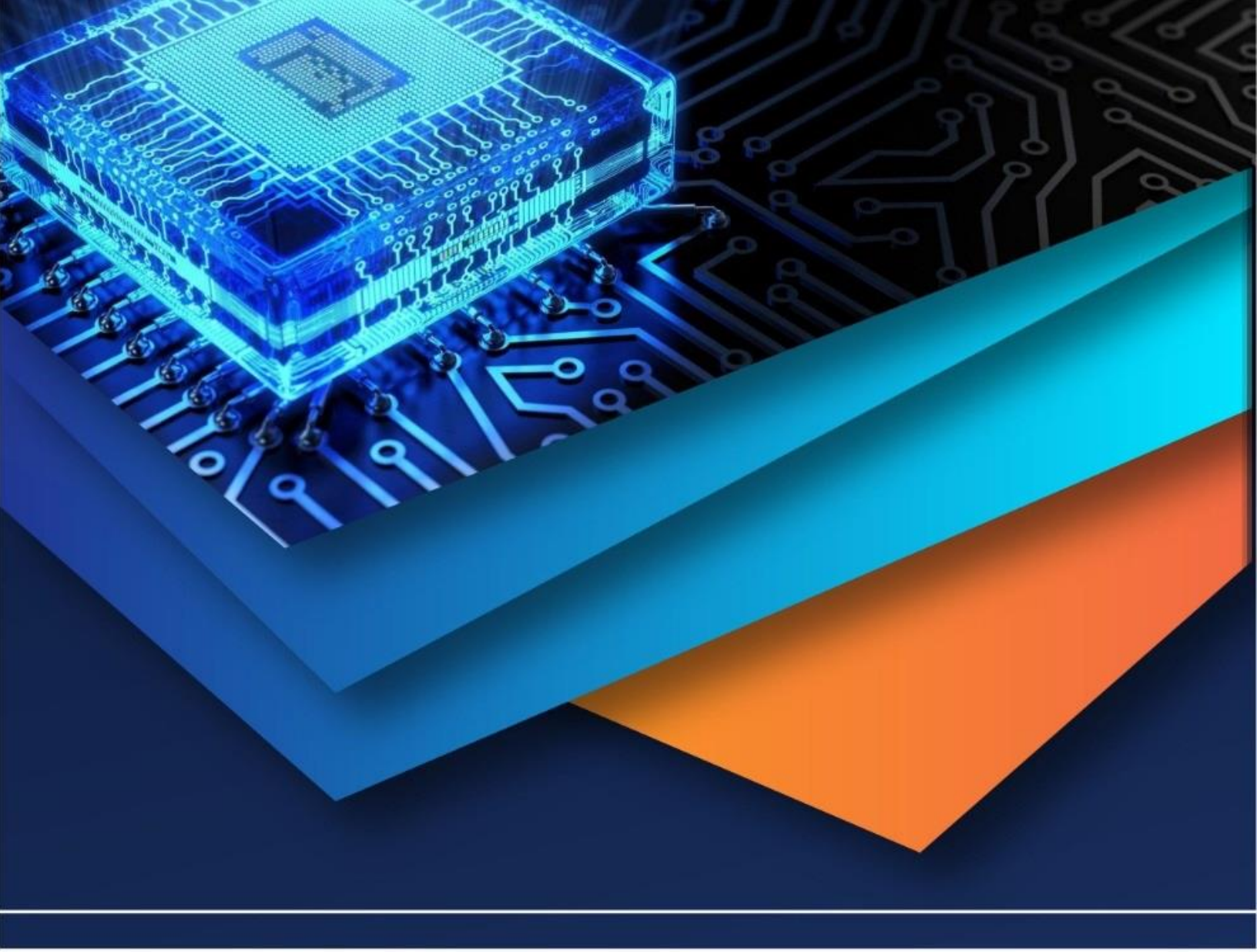

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