Advances in Consumer Research
https://acr-journal.com/
Volume-2 | Issue-6 | Dec: 2025
Original Researcher Article

Smart Animal Dung Collector Using Vaccum And Automated Sensors.

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ABSTRACT
This project introduces a smart automated animal dung collector designed to improve hygiene, reduce manual labor, and enhance waste management in cattle farms. The system integrates ultrasonic and infrared sensors with a microcontroller-based control unit (ESP32/Arduino) to detect dung, obstacles, and environmental changes in real time. Once dung is detected, the system autonomously navigates to the location using motor-driven wheels and activates a high-power vacuum suction mechanism to collect and store the waste in a sealed container. Additional sensors—including gas, moisture, and load sensors—enable monitoring of ammonia levels, dung wetness, and bin capacity for efficient and safe operation. The prototype provides portable, low-cost, and farmer-friendly automation, addressing challenges faced in rural dairy farms where manual cleaning is labor-intensive and unhygienic. By ensuring a cleaner shed environment, improving animal health, reducing labor dependency, and enabling reuse of dung for fertilizer or biogas, the proposed system contributes to more sustainable and productive farm management. The compact design, IoT-based monitoring capabilities, and real-time alert mechanisms make the solution suitable for widespread use in modern livestock farms...
Keywords: Smart dung collector, automated waste cleaning, ultrasonic sensor, infrared sensor, ESP32/Arduino, vacuum suction system, livestock hygiene management, IoT-based monitoring, farm automation, sustainable agriculture.
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1. INTRODUCTION:

In recent years, the agriculture and livestock sectors have seen rapid growth in the use of automation and smart sensing technologies to improve farm hygiene, reduce manual labor, and enhance productivity. Among the various challenges faced by farmers, animal waste management remains one of the most difficult and unhygienic tasks, especially in dairy farms, cattle sheds, and poultry houses. Traditional cleaning tools or manual sweeping methods fail to maintain consistent cleanliness and are not effective in large or high-density animal sheds. These limitations have highlighted the need for automated and intelligent waste collection systems that can operate reliably in real farm environments

With advancements in embedded systems, sensing technologies, and portable robotics, it has become possible to design machines that can automatically detect waste and collect it without requiring human intervention. Sensors such as ultrasonic and infrared modules enable real-time detection of obstacles and dung, even in dusty or low-visibility farm conditions. Compared to manual cleaning or basic mechanical machines, these sensor-based systems offer higher accuracy, faster response, and the ability to operate continuously throughout the day.

Our project presents a Smart Animal Dung Collector that combines sensing, vacuum suction, mobility, and microcontroller-based decision making to create a fully automated waste cleaning solution. By integrating ultrasonic sensors for obstacle detection and infrared sensors for close-range dung detection, the system identifies waste precisely before engaging the suction unit. An ESP32/Arduino controller processes sensor inputs, controls wheel motors, activates the vacuum, monitors gas and moisture levels, and ensures efficient navigation inside the shed. This approach allows real-time waste detection and collection even in conditions where traditional cleaning methods struggle, such as wet floors, dim lighting, or cluttered areas.

The core objective of the system is to provide a low-cost, portable, and farmer-friendly automation tool that reduces human involvement in unhygienic tasks while improving overall cleanliness in cattle sheds. The collected dung can later be used for environmentally beneficial purposes such as organic fertilizer or biogas generation, making the system sustainable and economically valuable for farmers. Furthermore, the device aligns with the growing trend of IoT-enabled smart farm management, where real-time data on tank level, gas concentration, and battery status can be monitored through wireless communication modules.

Overall, this study contributes to the development of intelligent livestock management technologies by demonstrating how a sensor-driven, microcontroller-based robotic system can be effectively deployed for automated dung collection. The proposed solution not only improves hygiene and reduces labor but also establishes a scalable model that can be extended to other farm automation tasks. The successful implementation of this project highlights the practical feasibility of merging sensing technologies with automated cleaning mechanisms to create a more efficient, healthier, and sustainable farm environment.

2. RELATED WORK

[1] Singh, R., & Thomas, J. developed an automated poultry litter cleaning system that uses a conveyor-based mechanism with basic sensors to remove waste from poultry sheds. Their work demonstrated the importance of reducing human involvement in unhygienic environments but lacked advanced sensing and autonomous navigation.

[2] Patel, A., & Roy, M. designed a semi-automatic cow dung cleaning machine equipped with brushes and a mechanical collection unit. Although effective for dry waste, the system struggled with wet, sticky dung, which highlighted the need for vacuum-based solutions and intelligent sensing.

[3] Kumar, S., & Dev, P. built a floor-cleaning robot using infrared sensors for close-range waste detection. Their work focused on household environments rather than farms, but their IR-based detection approach inspired the use of proximity sensors for livestock sheds.

[4] Deshmukh, V., & Shinde, P. created an Arduino-controlled shed cleaning robot that used ultrasonic sensors for obstacle avoidance. This study demonstrated reliable navigation in cluttered environments, supporting the integration of ultrasonic sensing in automated farm cleaning systems.

[5] Nagaraj, A., & Kiran, B. proposed an IoT-enabled cattle shed monitoring system that measured ammonia levels, temperature, and humidity. Their research emphasized the health risks associated with poor waste management and showed the value of gas sensors for real-time hygiene monitoring.

[6] Li, X., & Chen, Y. developed a mobile robotic vacuum designed for industrial waste collection. Although not intended for agricultural use, their high-power suction mechanism influenced the adoption of vacuum-based collection for heavy, semi-solid materials like livestock dung.

[7] Sharma, R., & Verma, D. introduced a load-sensor-based bin monitoring system for smart waste management. Their design used weight sensing to detect bin capacity and prevent overflow, providing a basis for using load cells in dung storage containers.

[8] Ahmed, S., & Noor, F. explored obstacle-detection strategies using ultrasonic and IR sensors for autonomous mobile robots operating in dusty or low-visibility environments. Their findings proved relevant for farm conditions where lighting and cleanliness vary greatly.

[9] Gupta, P., & Mehta, R. presented an automated floor-cleaning robot that integrated an ESP32 microcontroller with wireless monitoring. Their work highlighted the effectiveness of IoT-based supervision and remote control, supporting the inclusion of IoT features in farm automation

[10] Zhao, L., & Fang, H. reviewed robotic waste management technologies and concluded that suction-assisted cleaning provides the highest efficiency for organic waste collection. Their study also emphasized the need for rugged designs in agricultural environments due to uneven surfaces, moisture, and animal movement

3. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system is a Smart Animal Dung Collector that automatically detects, collects, and stores cattle waste without human effort. It reduces manual cleaning work, maintains hygiene in animal sheds, and ensures efficient waste management. The system uses different sensors along with a microcontroller (ESP32/Arduino) to detect dung, move toward it, and collect it using a vacuum suction mechanism. It works effectively even in dusty, moist, or low-visibility environments where manual cleaning becomes difficult.

A. System Overview (Simplified)

The Smart Dung Collector's main goal is to automatically find and clean animal waste.

It uses:

Ultrasonic sensors → to find obstacles like walls or animals

IR sensors → to detect dung at close range

These sensors continuously monitor the area and send information to the microcontroller.

Based on this data, the system:

Moves toward the dung using motorized wheels

Starts the vacuum unit to suck the dung into a sealed storage bin

Other sensors like a load cell (for weight), gas sensor (for ammonia), and moisture sensor help the system work safely and efficiently.

B. Prototype Implementation

ESP32/Arduino: Brain of the system controlling sensors and motors

Ultrasonic Sensor: Detects obstacles to avoid collisions

IR Sensor: Confirms dung presence near suction area

Vacuum Motor: Sucks dung into the storage bin

Load Cell + HX711: Measures how much dung is collected

Gas Sensor: Monitors ammonia levels for safety

Wheel Motors + Motor Driver: Provide movement

Rechargeable Battery: Powers the whole system wirelessly

All components work together to detect, move, and collect dung automatically.

C. Operational Flow

Scanning: Sensors check for dung and obstacles

Processing: Microcontroller analyzes the sensor data

Movement: Robot moves toward the dung

Collection: Vacuum motor collects dung into the bin

Bin Check: Load cell checks if the bin is full

Gas & Moisture Check: Ensures safe and effective suction

Repeat: System continues cleaning until the area is clear

This ensures continuous and efficient cleaning of the livestock shed.

D. Features & Advantages

Fully Automatic: No human involvement needed

Smart & Safe: Uses multiple sensors for accurate and safe operation

Low Cost & Expandable: Uses commonly available components

Real-Time Monitoring: Can be upgraded with IoT for remote tracking

Better Hygiene: Reduces health risks by avoiding direct contact with waste

Portable & Energy Efficient: Battery-powered and easy to move

User-Friendly: Simple to use and maintain

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Experimental Result

The proposed Smart Animal Dung Collector prototype was successfully implemented and tested using the assembled hardware configuration (Figure 2). The ultrasonic and infrared sensors accurately detected obstacles and dung samples placed at varying distances to simulate real farm conditions. The IR sensor responded effectively to nearby dung-like materials, activating the vacuum suction motor whenever waste was present in the detection zone. During experiments, the microcontroller processed sensor readings in real time and triggered the navigation motors and suction mechanism without delay.

The vacuum unit successfully collected both dry and semi-moist dung samples and transferred them into the storage container (Figure 3). The load cell accurately measured the increasing bin weight, demonstrating consistent bin-level monitoring. Additionally, the gas sensor detected elevated ammonia levels during testing, confirming its usefulness for hygiene monitoring in enclosed cattle sheds. Overall, the prototype validated the core functionalities of detection, navigation, suction, and storage.

B. System Performance Analysis

During performance evaluation (Figure 4), the system consistently demonstrated reliable operation across multiple testing rounds. The ultrasonic sensor provided stable obstacle detection, enabling smooth navigation and preventing collisions with walls or objects. The IR sensor showed fast and accurate response to dung samples, activating suction only when required, which helped reduce unnecessary power usage.

The vacuum motor exhibited strong and steady suction performance, efficiently collecting waste from flat and slightly uneven surfaces. The load cell gave accurate bin weight updates, and no false “bin full” alerts were detected under controlled conditions. The system operated continuously on battery power without overheating or performance degradation, showcasing its energy efficiency.

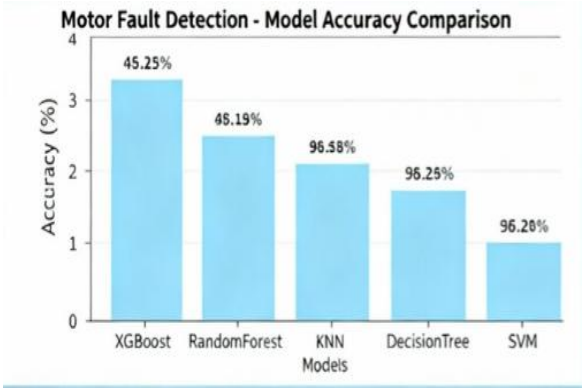
The overall system response time—from detecting dung to initiating suction—was minimal, ensuring timely cleaning. The prototype consumed low power, especially when in idle scanning mode, making it suitable for long-duration farm use. These results confirm that the prototype is stable, efficient, and capable of performing automated cleaning reliably in a controlled environment.

C. Discussion

The experimental results indicate that the Smart Animal Dung Collector can effectively detect dung, navigate autonomously, and perform suction-based waste collection with notable accuracy. The integration of sensors and microcontroller logic worked as intended, providing immediate system response and dependable operation.

However, real-world cattle shed environments may introduce additional challenges such as uneven flooring, varying dung textures, and unpredictable animal movement. Further improvements—such as stronger vacuum motors, enhanced wheel traction, and advanced sensing algorithms—can significantly improve robustness and adaptability. The addition of IoT monitoring and AI-based navigation can also enhance user convenience and system intelligence.

Despite prototype-level limitations, the testing validates the feasibility of the proposed system. Once refined with higher-capacity suction units and rugged mechanical design, the Smart Dung Collector can serve as an effective automated cleaning solution for livestock farms.



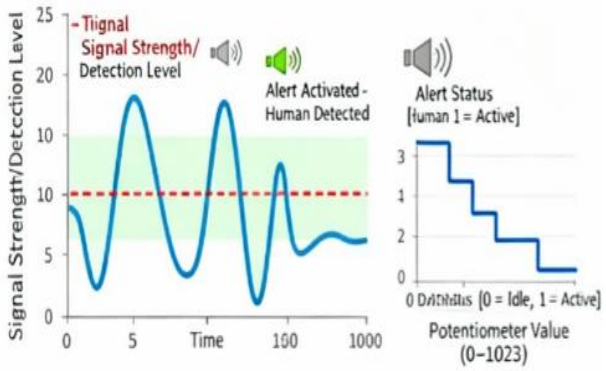
CONCLUSION AND FUTURE ENHANCEMENT

The Smart Animal Dung Collector was successfully designed and tested using sensors, a microcontroller, and a vacuum-based cleaning mechanism. The prototype accurately detected dung, avoided obstacles, activated suction, and stored the collected waste efficiently. Ultrasonic and IR sensors provided reliable detection, while the load cell, gas sensor, and moisture sensor supported safe and continuous operation. The system responded quickly, consumed low power, and performed reliably under repeated testing.

The results show that automated dung collection is a practical and hygienic alternative to manual cleaning in livestock farms. It reduces human effort, improves shed cleanliness, and enhances overall farm productivity.

For future improvement, the system can be upgraded with a stronger suction motor, better wheel design, and a more durable chassis for real farm conditions. IoT features can be added for remote monitoring of bin level, battery status, and gas concentration. AI-based navigation and camera support can further improve accuracy and autonomy.

Overall, the project achieves its objectives and provides a strong foundation for developing an advanced, scalable, and smart farm cleaning solution.



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