**USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN FISH FARMING.**

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A software project report submitted in partial fulfillment for the requirement of the award of Bachelor of Business Information Technology of Pan Africa Christian University

5/03/2024

# **DECLARATION**

This software project is my original work, except where otherwise stated and has not been presented for a degree in any other University or any other award.

………………………

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# **CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned certify that he has read and hereby recommend for acceptance of PAC University, a software project entitled: “insert project title”

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# **ABSTRACT**

The abstract should be in one paragraph, at least ½ of a page summarizing • Project purpose • Scope • Methodology adopted for data gathering and system implementation

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**CHAPTER ONE**

# **INTRODUCTION**

**Background information**

The fish farming sector has been and continues to be essential in supplying the world's food needs. Nevertheless, the manual procedures used in conventional fish farming have led to significant problems such disease outbreaks, ineffective feeding techniques, and environmental issues.

Fish farming has been transformed by the integration of artificial intelligence technology, which provides answers to these problems. These days, AI-powered systems are able to optimize feeding schedules based on environmental conditions, identify fish sickness symptoms, monitor water quality measures in real time, and even anticipate and avoid possible problems before they happen.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionized fish farming operations by allowing farmers to decrease environmental impact, increase feed efficiency, avoid illness, and eventually secure the aquaculture industry's sustainable growth.

**1.2 Problem Statement:**

**1.2.1 Description of the Current System**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is currently not commonly utilized in fish farming, especially in Kenya, for many of reasons, including low awareness and expensive implementation. Even with all of the potential advantages, artificial intelligence is still not widely used in fish farming operations.

Applications of AI in fish farming, for example, can greatly improve operations. Automation of illness diagnosis, feeding optimization, and water quality monitoring may be achieved with AI-powered systems, increasing sustainability and production. But the general adoption of AI technology is made difficult by fish farmers' lack of awareness of these technologies.

For many fish farmers in Kenya, the high cost of using AI solutions—which includes employing employees and purchasing AI-enabled equipment—also presents a major obstacle. Fish farmers are unable to fully utilize AI's promise to increase productivity, lower losses, and boost overall efficiency because of this financial limitation.

In order to overcome these obstacles, it will be necessary to teach and educate fish farmers on the advantages of artificial intelligence (AI) in aquaculture and to look into affordable AI solutions that are suited to Kenya's specific demands.

**1.2.2 How the current system works**

At this point, only fish farmers with substantial funding are able to use AI technology in the context of fish farming. These skilled farmers use artificial intelligence (AI) to carry out crucial jobs including setting up chatbots with AI capabilities to provide real-time advice on agricultural techniques, managing water quality, and optimizing feed.

These skilled farmers also use AI algorithms to evaluate data collected from fish farming operations. Through discovering patterns and trends in fish behavior, eating habits, and water quality metrics, this data analysis supports the development of well-informed decision-making strategies that maximize resource efficiency and production.

Due to monetary constraints, smaller-scale fish farmers are yet to fully embrace AI's promise in identifying illnesses and prevention, environmental monitoring, and sustainability activities. The industry's wealthiest members are primarily able to take use of AI systems' proactive approach to identifying illnesses early and optimal environmental maintenance.

Overall, restricted access among smaller-scale fish farmers who do not have the financial resources to invest in AI technology is impeding the general adoption of the existing AI system in fish farming, despite the fact that it has potential for improving operational efficiency and supporting sustainable practices.

**1.2.3 Weaknesses of the current system**

The use of artificial intelligence in fish farming in the current system has encountered several challenges, namely:

1. Restricted Accessibility: Many small-scale fish farmers are unable to afford the high costs of AI technology and infrastructure, which limits their potential to gain from AI-driven solutions.
2. Technical Expertise Requirements: Not all fish farmers may have access to or the means to pay for the specialist technical knowledge needed to implement and maintain AI systems.
3. Data Collection Challenges: In fish farming environments, where data collection infrastructure and standards may be insufficient, collecting and maintaining huge amounts of data for AI research can be difficult.
4. The absence of Tailored Solutions: A great deal of commercial AI products aren't designed with fish farming's particular needs and difficulties in mind, which results in less-than-ideal results and a low consumption rate.
5. Dependency on External Support: Small-scale fish farmers frequently depend on third-party vendors or consultants for assistance and implementation of AI, which can be costly and ultimately unsustainable.
6. Limited Scalability: When used in different or quickly evolving aquaculture situations, several AI technologies may have scalability problems.

**1.2.4 Proposed solution**

The proposed approach for implementing artificial intelligence into the fish farming industry concentrates on a few crucial areas to address present issues and improve sustainability and overall efficiency:

1. Automation of Routine tasks: Artificial Intelligence will be used to automate routine jobs including data processing, feed delivery, and water quality monitoring. By automating tasks, operational efficiency will increase and less human labor will be needed.
2. Personalized Farming Recommendations: AI-driven systems will examine data from fish farming activities to generate tailored suggestions for managing water quality, feeding schedules, and environmental factors in line with specific farm requirements.

**1.3 Project Objectives:**

**1.3.1 General objective:**

The main objective of this project is to use artificial intelligence (AI) in the fish farming industry to boost overall farming experiences for fish farmers and increase operational efficiency.

**1.3.2 Specific objectives**

1. Automate repetitive duties in fish farming operations, such as identifying illnesses, feeding efficiency, and water quality monitoring, using AI-powered solutions.
2. Develop artificial intelligence (AI) systems that are capable to sort through huge amounts of data and detect trends and patterns in environmental factors, fish behavior, and water quality measures.
3. Implement AI-driven solutions, including : environmental monitoring processes, water quality management decisions, and optimal feeding schedules, to provide customized farming recommendations.
4. As a way to reduce the risks of cyberattacks and illegal access, AI applications for fish farming must improve data security and privacy protection.

**1.4 Research Questions**

1. How can AI techniques be optimized to improve disease detection and prevention in fish farming, leading to enhanced productivity and reduced losses?
2. What are the ethical considerations and potential risks associated with using AI in fish farming, particularly concerning data privacy and responsible AI usage?
3. How can AI-driven automation improve operational efficiency and resource optimization in fish farming, and what are the challenges to widespread adoption among small-scale fish farmers?
4. What are the potential benefits and drawbacks of integrating AI-powered systems for environmental monitoring and sustainability initiatives in fish farming, and how can these systems be optimized for maximum impact?

**CHAPTER TWO**

# **LITERATURE REVIEW**

**2.1 Introduction**

In the realm of fish farming, artificial intelligence (AI) has grown into a game-changing technology that promises to improve efficiency in operations and decision-making while providing aquaculture practitioners with tailored support. A review of the literature on artificial intelligence (AI) in fish farming shows that most recent developments, uses, benefits and difficulties of applying AI in fish farming environments.

Fish farming businesses can now extract relevant insights from massive volumes of data with the help of AI-powered analytics, which encourages data-driven decision-making and improves market competitiveness. Furthermore, the use of AI in fish farming brings up issues with ethical application, compliance with laws, data security, and privacy, which stimulates progress in the responsible use of AI in aquaculture operations.

**2.2 State of art/Case studies review of similar systems**

AI in fish farming may be used to improve a number of fishing operations' characteristics, including:

1. Automated Monitoring: AI-driven systems have a capacity to handle a variety of monitoring duties, such as the monitoring of environmental factors, fish behavior, and water quality measurements. This may lead to improved productivity and immediate action.
2. Artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms are capable of assessing sensor data and imaging diagnostics to identify early signs of illness in fish populations. This allows for proactive disease management techniques to be implemented, it which in turn reduces losses.
3. Feed Optimization: Artificial intelligence algorithms can optimize feeding schedules based on data analytics, nutritional needs, and fish activity patterns. This reduces resource waste and improves feed efficiency.
4. Predictive analytics: Artificial intelligence (AI) systems are able to estimate growth, water quality, ideal stocking densities, and environmental changes based on past data. This helps managers make well-informed decisions on how best to run their farms.
5. Personalized Recommendations: Artificial intelligence systems are able to evaluate farmer-specific data, including production objectives, financial constraints, and market trends, in order to provide customized advice on investment possibilities, risk management techniques, and production strategies that are suited to certain fishing businesses.

**2.3 Research gap: the weakness/challenges existing in reviewed case studies**

Though the use of AI in fish farming shows possibility, there are a number of issues and difficulties that need to be resolved that have been noted in related projects:

1. Data Quality and Privacy: High-quality data is necessary for AI systems used in fish farming. Problems like missing or inaccurate information can produce conclusions that are inaccurate or defective, which highlights how crucial it is to protect data privacy and quality, particularly when it comes to sensitive aquaculture data.
2. Lack of Integrity: Deep learning algorithms, in particular, are some of the AI models used in fish farming that can be complicated and challenging to understand. Stakeholders may get concerned about the accuracy of AI-driven fish farming management choices as a result of this lack of transparency.
3. Language Barriers: When dealing with foreign markets or in areas with linguistic variety, language barriers may provide problems for AI systems used in fish farming. In aquaculture settings, successful AI adoption involves tackling language obstacles and establishing good communication with stakeholders from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

**2.4 The proposed system [how your system intends to address some if not all the identified challenges above]**

1. *Enhanced Data Privacy and Security:* By using innovative methods of encryption and safe data storage choices, the AI-based fish farming system that is being indicated will place a high value on data privacy and security. Furthermore, zero-trust security models will be used to reduce the risk of data breaches. Fishing operations must adhere to high standards for data protection through regular audits and compliance audits.
2. *Strong Cyber Processes:* The system will have advanced threat detection and response techniques tailored for aquaculture operations in order to reduce security risks. To identify and address weaknesses, regular penetration tests and security assessments will be carried out. For greater security in fish farming operations, the system will also include multi-factor authentication and biometric validation.
3. *Ethical Considerations*: The recommendation satisfies with AI-specific ethical standards and frameworks for aquaculture. Fairness, accountability, and willingness will be given priority in decision-making procedures pertaining to environmental monitoring, feed optimization, illness diagnosis, and other AI-driven duties. All possible ethical concerns will be identified and resolved through routine audits and monitoring.
4. *Transparency*: Efforts will be done to create AI models for fish farming that can be explained and that show how decisions are made. Guaranteeing accountability in powered AI processes and fostering trust among stakeholders are two benefits of this openness. In order to successfully address concerns about openness, the system will also let researchers, regulatory agencies, and fish producers work and interact together.

**2.5 Chapter Summary**

In this chapter, we have explored the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in enhancing fish farming practices. We discussed about the ways AI is utilized in aquaculture for a variety of purposes, such as predictive analytics, environmental monitoring, feed optimization, and diagnosing illnesses.

Improved decision-making, increased operational efficiency, and sustainability are some of the advantages of AI in fish farming. But we also noted difficulties including cybersecurity threats, ethical issues, transparency issues, and data privacy and security.

The proposed AI fish farming system places significant value on improved data privacy and security measures, strong cybersecurity procedures, adherence to ethical standards, and openness in AI decision-making processes in order to solve these issues. These tactics seek to optimize AI's benefits while reducing any possible hazards and guaranteeing that AI is used responsibly in aquaculture operations.

**CHAPTER THREE**

# **METHODOLOGY**

**3.1 Introduction**

AI has established itself as a key technology in the fish farming industry, providing innovative ways to raise efficiency and sustainability. Artificial intelligence finds many applications in fish farming, such as analyzing data, risk assessment, environmental monitoring, optimizing feeds, disease assessment, and process automation.

Farmers can now monitor environmental conditions, improve feeding schedules, spot illnesses early, customize farming procedures, and make data-driven choices specific to their aquaculture operations thanks to the integration of AI into fish farming systems. This increases output while equipping fish farmers with the means to meet obstacles and take advantage of opportunities in the changing fish farming environment.

**3.2 Software process model adopted**

Agile methodology is a development process model that was selected for the artificial intelligence and fish farming project. This approach was chosen because it is capable of handling the requirements and problems of integrating AI technology into aquaculture processes.

The Agile methodology places a strong emphasis on cooperation between software engineers, data scientists, domain experts, and aquaculture specialists as well as on iterative development and continuous learning. It offers a structured process for creating, implementing, and managing AI-powered solutions in fish farming business.

Key features of the Agile methodology include:

1. Iterative Development: By organizing the project into manageable sprints or iterations, the Agile methodology enables continuous input and changes during the development process.
2. Cross-Functional Teams: Together, multidisciplinary groups ensure sure that software engineering skills, domain knowledge, data science ability, and aquaculture encounter are all carefully incorporated into the design of AI solutions.
3. Agile promotes an environment of ongoing education and growth in which teams regularly assess their processes, get feedback from stakeholders, and modify how they work for better project results.
4. Adaptive Planning: The agile technique enables the setting of priorities that are based on changing needs, advances in technology, and input from stakeholders.
5. Agile teams can effectively enhance fish health, resource usage, environmental sustainability, and overall farm performance using real-time data insights and advanced analysis.

**3.2.1 Strengths – why the Agile Methodology model was chosen**

The chosen model shows many advantages that correspond with the goals and requirements of the project:

1. ***Scalability:*** Fish farming systems are capable of handling increasing information volumes, a range of farming applications and changing market demands without sacrificing performance or flexibility thanks to agile strategy, which promotes scalability.
2. ***Flexibility:*** Agile methods promote flexibility in response to evolving environmental conditions, technology advances, and fish farming practices. This enables teams to react swiftly to changing needs and market conditions, ensuring long-term adaptation to changes in fish farming operations.
3. ***Modularity:*** Solutions driven by AI are easier to sustain, update, and improve because to agile's modular design. By reducing large projects into smaller, more manageable modules that can be built and connected over time, this encourages agility, interoperability, and lowers development time and costs.
4. ***Robustness:*** The stability and security of AI systems in fish farming are improved by agile approaches, which place a high priority on robustness and consistency. This is important because Agile teams frequently evaluate and modify solutions to make sure they satisfy quality requirements, and it also helps to maintain operational continuity, data integrity, and risk mitigation.
5. ***Industry Standard:*** In the fields of artificial intelligence and aquaculture, agile methods are in line with standards, best practices, and legal requirements. This promotes cooperation and smooth integration within the economic ecosystem by ensuring compatibility, credibility, and compatibility with current systems and technology.
6. ***Predictive analytics:*** The incorporation of predictive analytics skills into fish farming operations is encouraged by agile techniques. Agile's focus on delivering value and continuous improvement is aligned with this, as it helps fish farmers to predict trends, optimize resource allocation, and make data-driven decisions for improved output and productivity.
7. ***Real-time Monitoring:*** Fish farmers can quickly adapt to changing conditions, minimize risks, and maximize operational performance in fish farming environments thanks to agile approaches that provide real-time monitoring and alarms. In order to produce meaningful insights and encourage thoughtful choices, this proactive approach is in line with Agile ideals of transparency, collaboration, and responsiveness.

**3.2.2 Weaknesses**

While the one you chose has many advantages, there are also certain drawbacks that should be taken into consideration:

1. ***Limited Predictability in the Early Stages***: Agile's incremental and iterative methodology can occasionally result in limited predictability, particularly in the project's early phases. Accurately estimating durations and resource requirements might become difficult as a result.
2. ***Dependency on Team Collaboration***: Cross-functional collaboration and interaction are critical components of agile development. The team's productivity and the project's development may suffer if there are issues or gaps in communication.
3. ***Scope Creep:*** Scope creep is the ability for new features or requirements to be introduced during the development stage in agile projects. If not handled well, this might result in project delays and greater complexity.
4. ***Adaptability Challenges:*** Agile encourages flexibility, but certain teams could find it difficult to adjust quickly to changing needs or priorities, which could hinder the advancement and efficiency of a project.

**3.3 Requirement Gathering Tools**

For the purpose of identifying requirements for the fish farming using AI project, a variety of approaches were used, such as surveys, questionnaires issued to stakeholders in the fish farming business, and interviews with fish farmers.

Appendix 3: Questionnaire

Appendix 3 is a sample questionnaire that was used to gather requirements. It comprises questions on disease detection, water quality management, feed optimization, and environmental monitoring, with the goal of understanding user needs, preferences, and expectations from AI-driven solutions in fish farming.

**3.4 System requirement**

3.4.1 **Hardware Requirements**

The system needs the following hardware components:

1. ***Server Infrastructure:*** Databases, analytics platforms, and AI applications require high-performance servers. Docker-based containerization may be used to provide deployment flexibility and scalability.
2. ***Network Infrastructure:*** Reliable networking equipment, including routers, switches, and firewalls, is essential for secure communication between devices, servers, and external data sources.
3. ***Database System:*** A database system, such as MongoDB (NoSQL) or MySQL (SQL), is required for efficient storage and retrieval of aquaculture data, sensor readings, and AI model outputs

**Explanation:**

1. ***Server Infrastructure:***AI algorithms may be encapsulated in Docker containers, allowing for effective deployment, scalability, and administration across server clusters for predictive analytics and data processing related to fish farming.
2. ***Network Infrastructure****:* For secure connection between devices, servers, and external data sources, dependable networking hardware, such as switches, routers, and firewalls, is necessary.
3. ***Database System****:* For storing and retrieving aquaculture data, sensor readings, and AI model outputs effectively, a database system is needed. Some examples of these systems consist of MongoDB (NoSQL) and MySQL (SQL).

**3.5 Software requirements**

The following software components are required for the system:

Explanation:

1. *Operating System:* Linux distributions like Ubuntu Server or CentOS provide robust security, package management, and compatibility with containerization tools like Docker, making them ideal for hosting AI applications and services in aquaculture environments.
2. *Programming Languages:* Python is widely adopted in data science and AI development due to its simplicity, readability, and extensive libraries for machine learning, making it well-suited for implementing AI-driven solutions in fish farming operations.
3. *AI Frameworks:* TensorFlow and Keras offer powerful tools for building and training deep learning models, enabling fish farmers to leverage AI capabilities for disease detection, predictive analytics, and optimization of farming practices.
4. *Containerization:* Docker containers provide a lightweight, portable, and efficient way to package and deploy AI applications, ensuring consistency, scalability, and easy management of software components in fish farming systems.