

Node-RED: Case Study 1

Basic IoT Based Smart Agriculture with Remote
Monitoring System using Arduino Uno & Soil
Moisture Sensor

v1 mar2021 : ver1(2) mar2021

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Scenario: Develop a real time basic IoT system that will plot the soil moisture value on a dashboard (the condition are standard: higher value represent higher moisture level due to less resistance).

- when the soil was dry (~850)
- when the soil was completely wet (~400)



Status: Dry
Test Reading: ~850



Status: Completely wet
Test Reading: ~400

v1(2)-mar-21

<https://lastminuteengineers.com/soil-moisture-sensor-arduino-tutorial/>

Requirement:

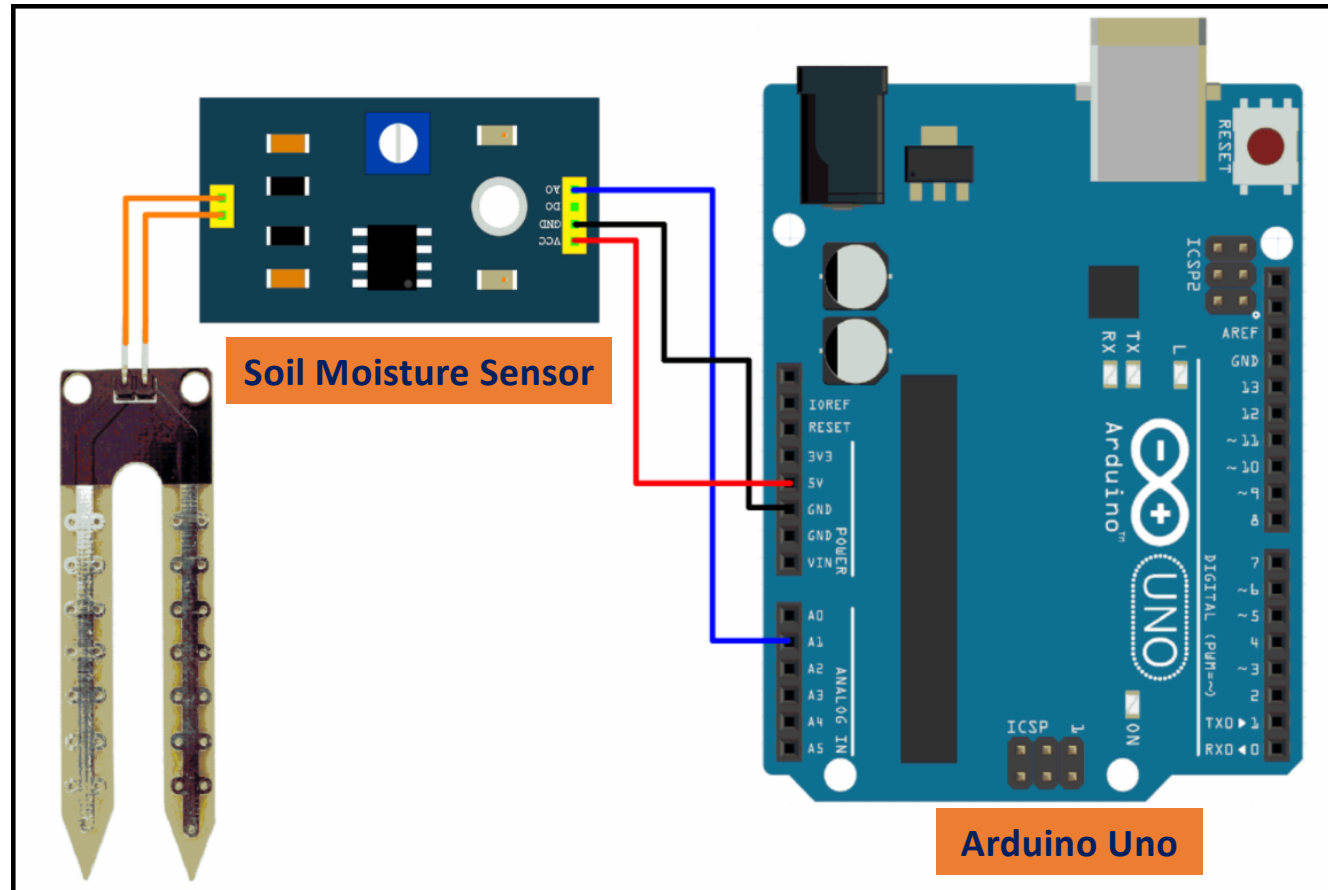
- i. Microcontroller x 1 (Uno / Mega / NodeMCU / ESP32 / Nano...
- ii. Soil Moisture Sensor x1
- iii. NodeRED – PC or Pi
- iv. Sketch: **nodeRed-02mac21-argiculture-v1.ino**

Methods:

- i. Do wiring connection & upload the sketch into microcontroller.
Troubleshoot any errors.
- ii. NodeRED configuration: Layout, Nodes & nodes properties
- iii. Test the system

Microcontroller: a. The Schematic Diagram.

- >Connect your board to PC / laptop.
- >Make sure correct board name & port is selected.
- >Always check your wiring especially the power supply. This might save your money from replacing a burnt device.



Microcontroller: b. The sketch.

```
1 //IoT Based Smart Agriculture with Remote Monitoring System
2 //v1-mac2021
3 void setup() {
4   // initialize serial communication at 9600 bits per second:
5   Serial.begin(9600);
6 }
7
8 void loop() {
9   String moist; //set moist as string
10  int sensorValue = analogRead(A0); //read incoming value from analog pin 1 & put at variable named sensorValue
11  moist = String(sensorValue); //convert sensorValue from int to string -> only to display at nodeRED dashboard
12
13  Serial.print("Moisture Level: "); //remark this line when displaying the value at nodeRED dashboard
14  Serial.print(moist); //will print at Serial Monitor & nodeRED: debug node & serial in node
15  Serial.println(","); //delimiter -> for nodeRED -> to differentiate new data
16  delay(1000); //pause for 1 sec
17 }
```

source: nodeRed-02mac21-argiculture-v1.ino

Note:

Put a remark at line number 9 when using nodeRED dashboard. The chart node cannot read the serial value. Refer to next slide.

Microcontroller: c. Expected Output.

>Upload the sketch.

>**Error are expected** when you copy the sketch from previous page. Check the **double quotes** symbols. (“ ”). Delete and replace new **double quotes**. (Always happens when CnP text form net or pdf)

>**Delimiter** in line 15 is an indication for nodeRED to split data into array ([0],[1]...[nth]).

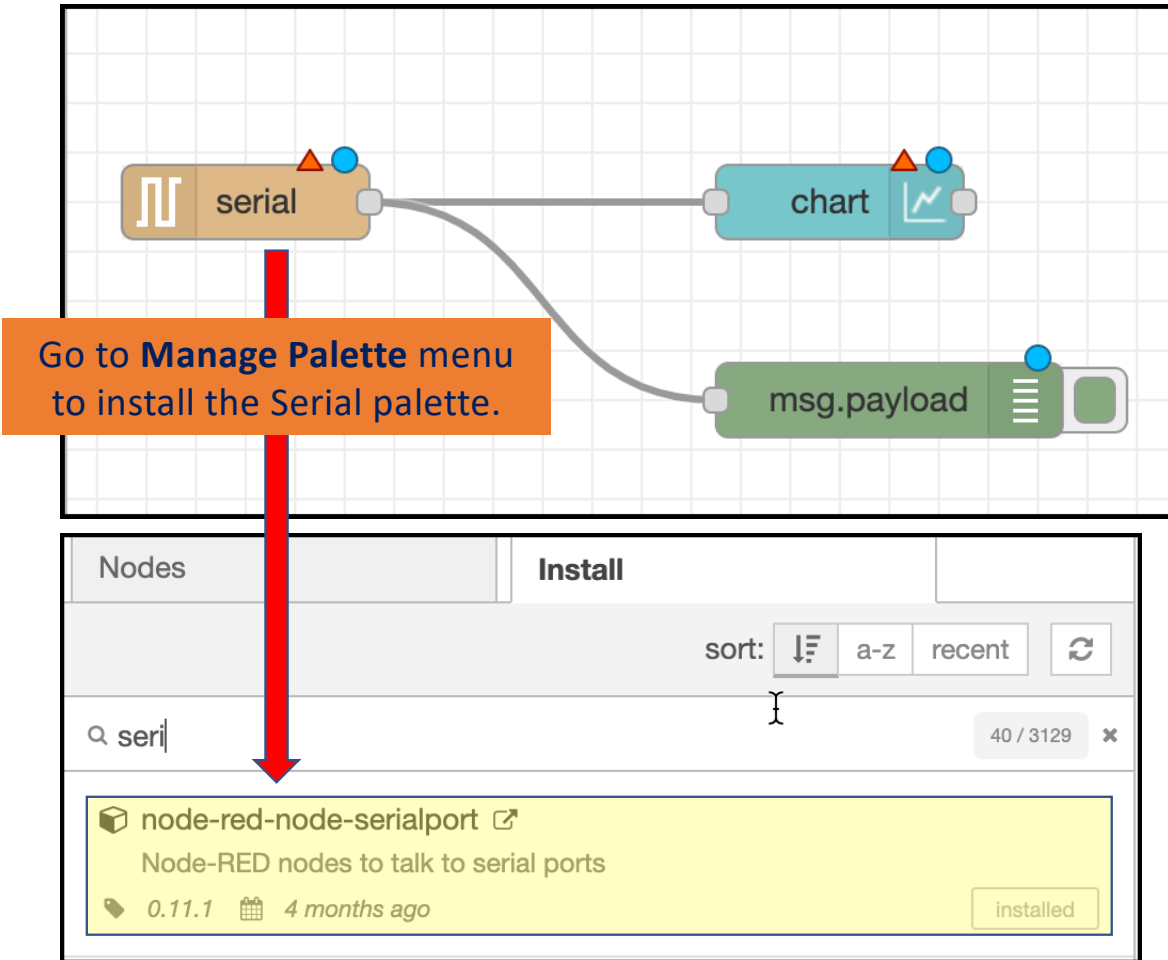
```
Moisture Level: 707,  
Moisture Level: 707,  
Moisture Level: 706,  
Moisture Level: 706,  
Moisture Level: 706,  
Moisture Level: 706,  
Moisture Level: 706,  
Moisture Level: 706,  
Moisture Level: 707,  
Moisture Level: 706,  
Moisture Level: 707,  
Moisture Level: 706,  
Moisture Level: 707,  
Moisture Level: 706,  
Moisture Level: 706,
```

Moisture Level: 706,

Delimiter

☒ Autoscroll ☐ Show timestamp No line ending 9600 baud Clear output

Node-RED: d. Layout & Installation.



v1(2)-mar-21

> The main idea is to display the moisture value over nodeRED's chart dashboard.

> **Serial in** node is used in for the microcontroller to talk (communicate) with the computer (with nodeRED installed).

> **Serial widget** is not installed by default. Go to Manage Palette to install **node-red-node-serialport**.

>  indicate nodes not properly setup.

Node-RED: e. Setting the Layout.

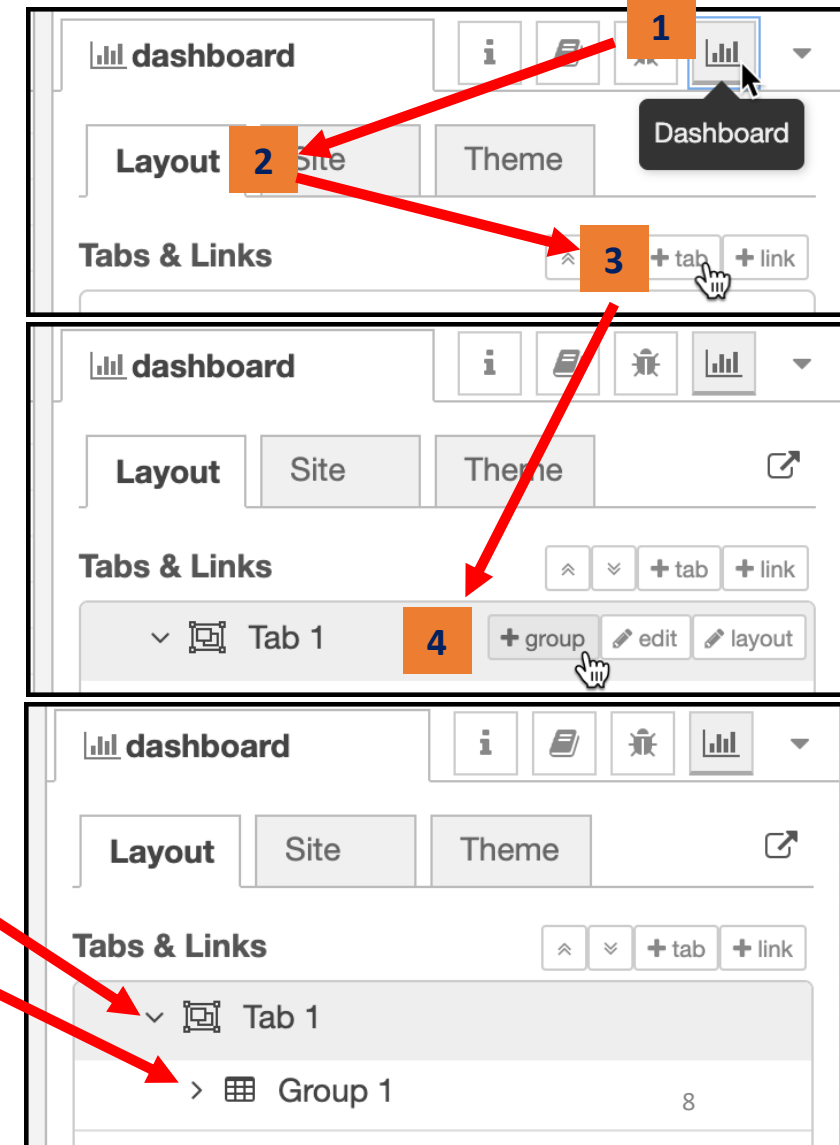
> Since the project requires dashboard UI, it is advisable to start the task by configuring the **Layout** properties located at right side panel.

> Every dashboard UI must be in a **tab** field & **group** field.

3 Click **+tab** once to create **Tab 1** field.

4 Click **+group** once to create **Group 1** field.

> Next step is to rename **Tab 1** & **Group 2** that reflect the project.

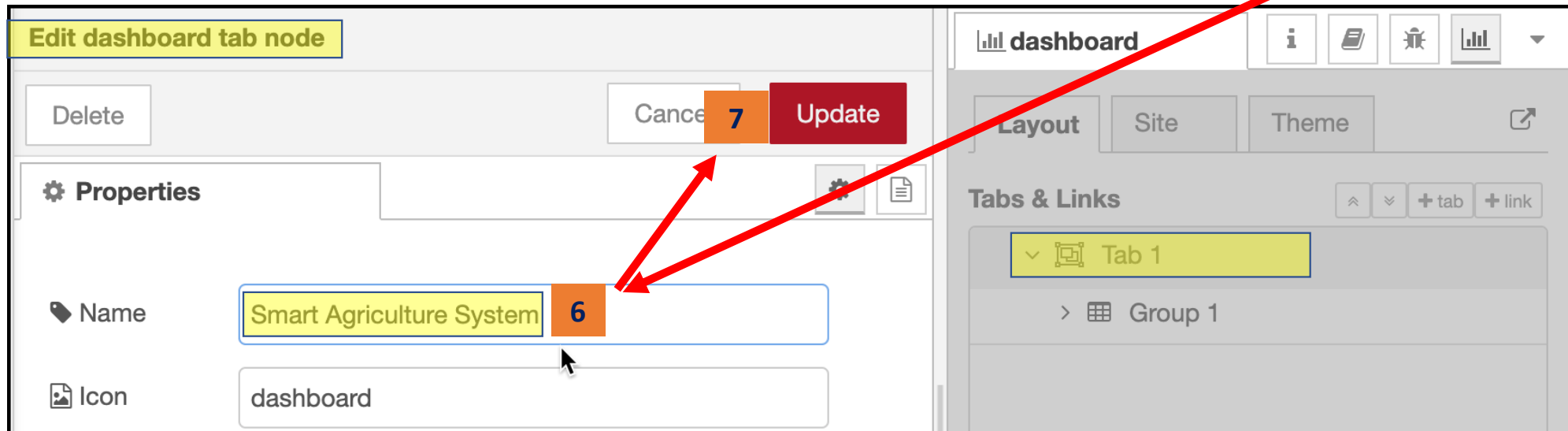
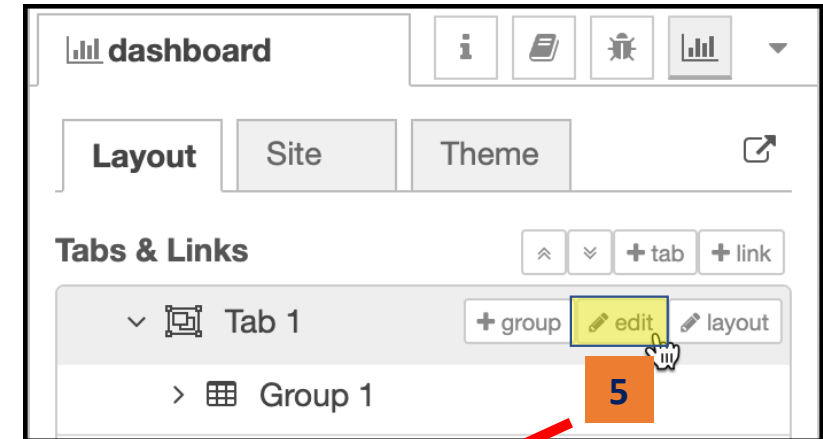


Node-RED: e. Setting the Layout.

5 Click **edit** link at **Tab 1** field to rename the **Tab 1**.

6 Change **Tab 1** to **Smart Agriculture System**.

7 Click **Update** upon completion.

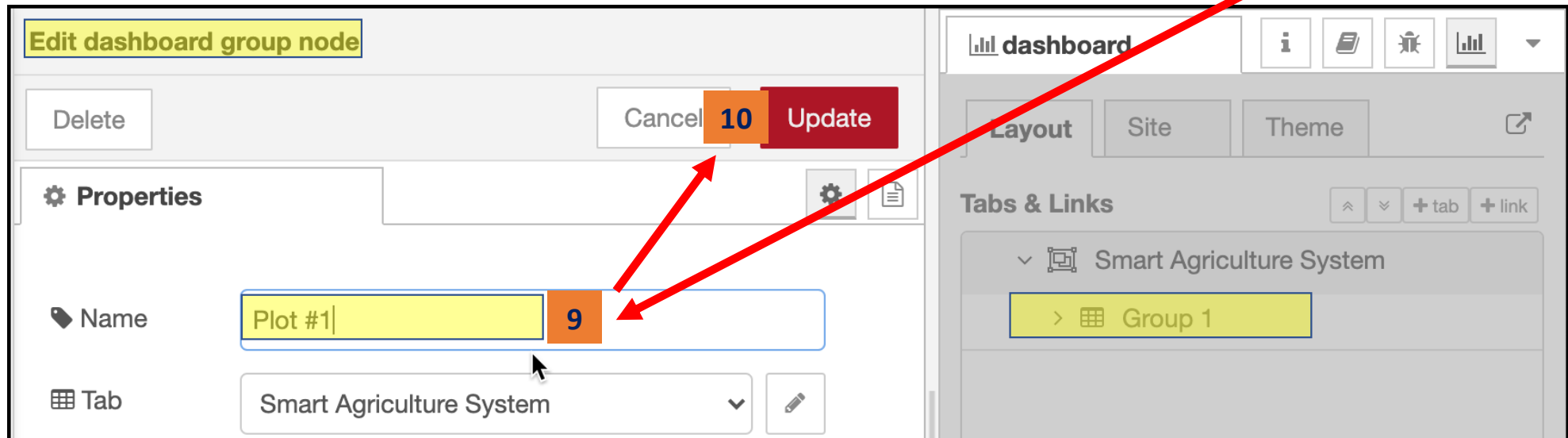
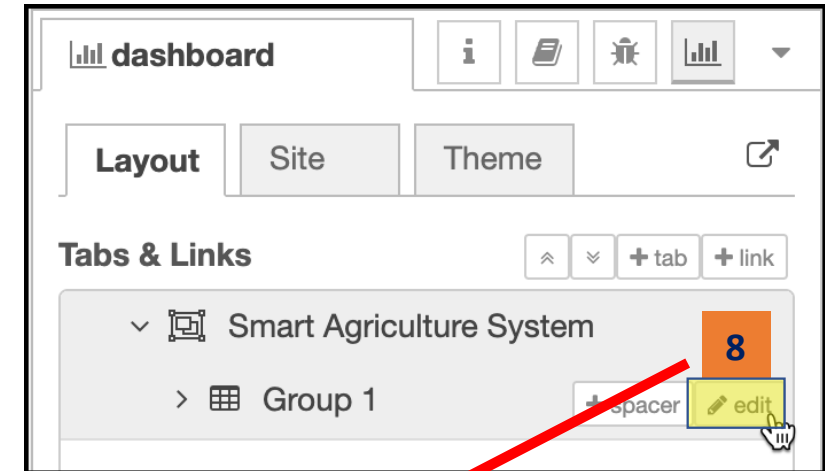


Node-RED: e. Setting the Layout

8 Click **edit** link at **Group 1** field.

9 Change **Group 1** to **Plot #1**.

10 Click **Update** upon completion.

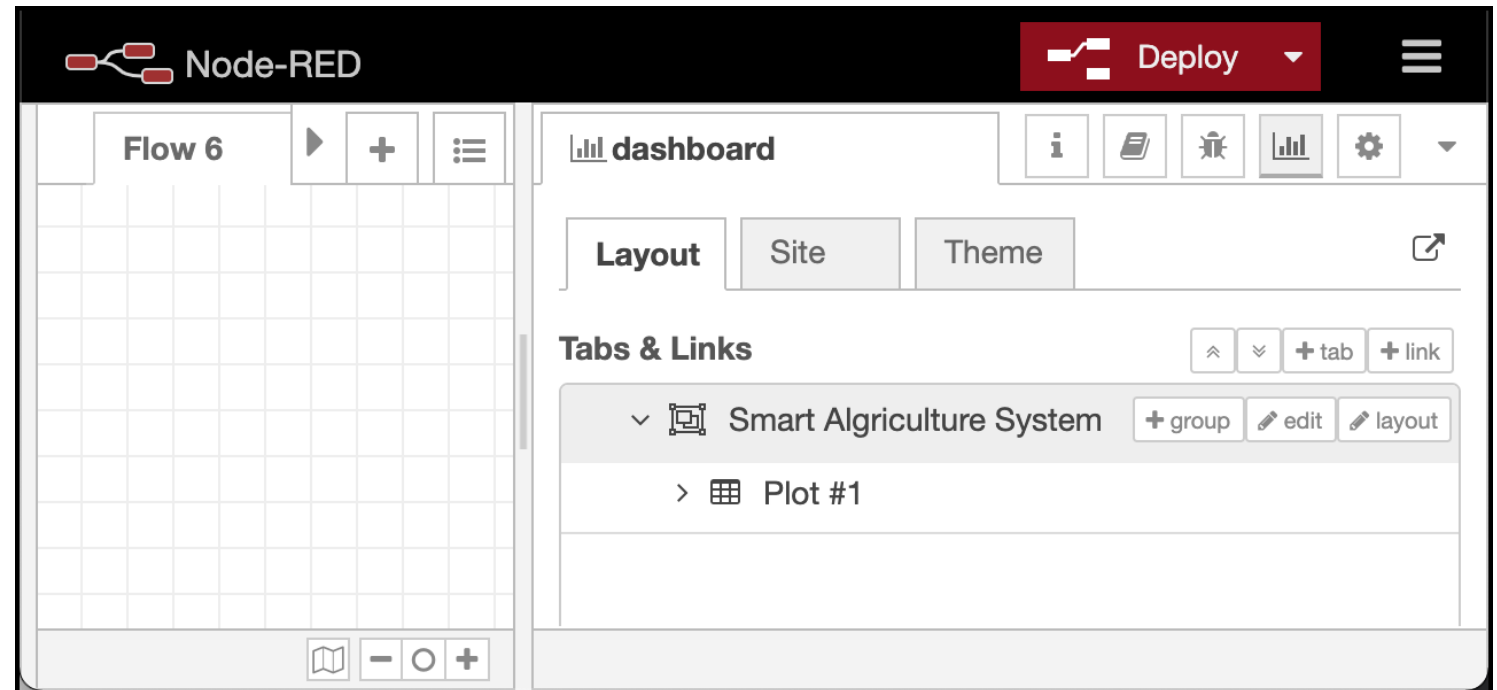


Node-RED: e. Setting the Layout.

> If you have multiple sensors attached at different **Plot**, just add **+group** and name it according the **Plot** number.

> To delete the layout, go to **edit** section and click **Delete**.

> Don't forget to click **Deploy** after every activity, otherwise, your will lost your work.



Node-RED: f. Workspace Setup.

> Next process is to setup the **Serial in** node & assign the properties to **Chart** node.

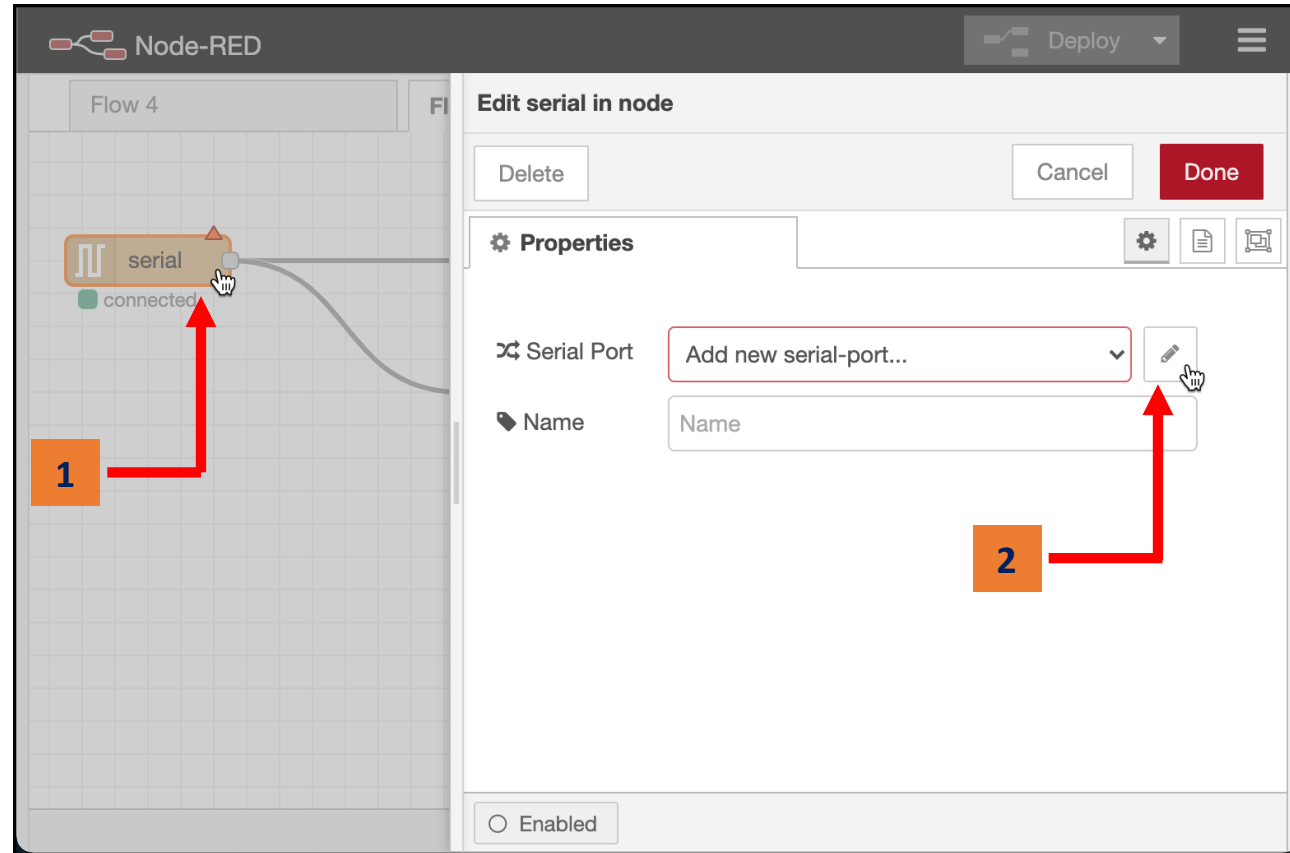
The screenshot displays the Node-RED web interface. On the left, the 'common' node palette includes 'inject', 'debug', 'complete', 'catch', 'status', and 'link in'. The central workspace, titled 'Flow 6', shows a flow with three nodes: a 'serial' node (orange), a 'chart' node (teal), and a 'msg.payload' node (green). A wire connects the 'serial' node to the 'chart' node, and another wire connects the 'serial' node to the 'msg.payload' node. The 'chart' node is highlighted with an orange border. On the right, the 'dashboard' sidebar is visible, showing a 'Smart Algriculture System' (note the typo) with a 'Plot #1' sub-item. The bottom status bar indicates the version 'v1(2)-mar-21' and the page number '12'.

Node-RED: f. Serial in Config.

1 Double click **serial in** node.

2 Click the pencil icon to **add new serial-port config node.**

>The port number is the same with the microcontroller's (refer to **Arduino IDE** or **Device Manager>Port**)



Node-RED: f. Serial in Config.

3 Click the browse port icon & select the correct serial port. Make sure the microcontroller is connected to your system.

4 Change the **Baud Rate** accordingly. Refer to **Slide 5 line#5 Serial.begin(9600)**.

5 Click **Add** & you will be diverted to previous page

Edit serial in node > Add new serial-port config node

Cancel 5 Add

⚙ Properties

Serial Port /dev/tty.usbmodem14201 3

⚙ Settings

Baud Rate 4 9600 Data Bits 8 Parity None Stop Bits 1

DTR auto RTS auto CTS auto DSR auto

Enabled 0 nodes use this config On all flows

Node-RED: f. Serial in Config.

6 Confirm the setting? If not, click the **pencil icon** to edit.

7 Click **Done** upon completion.

Edit serial in node

Delete Cancel Done

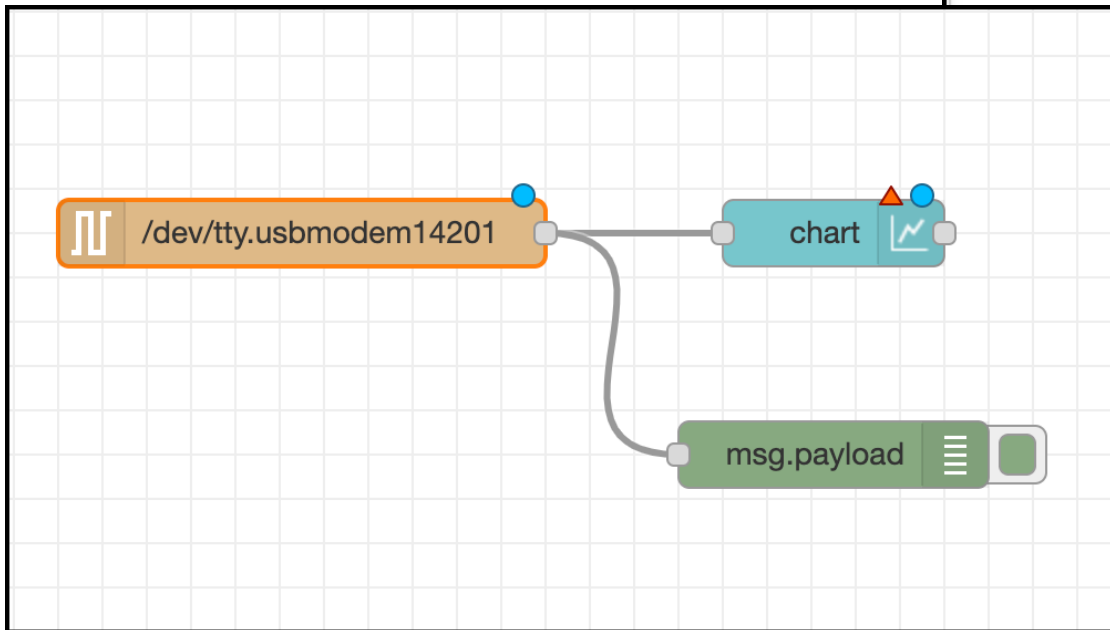
⚙ Properties

Serial Port /dev/tty.usbmodem14201:9600-8N1

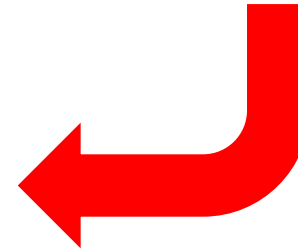
Name

7

6



v1(2)-mar-21



Node-RED: g. Chart Config.

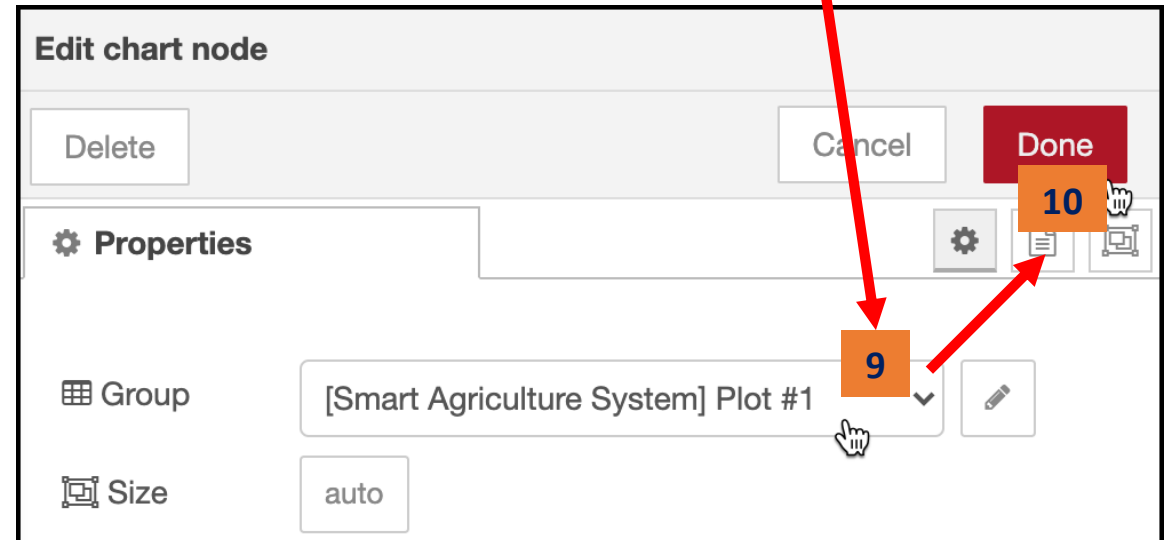
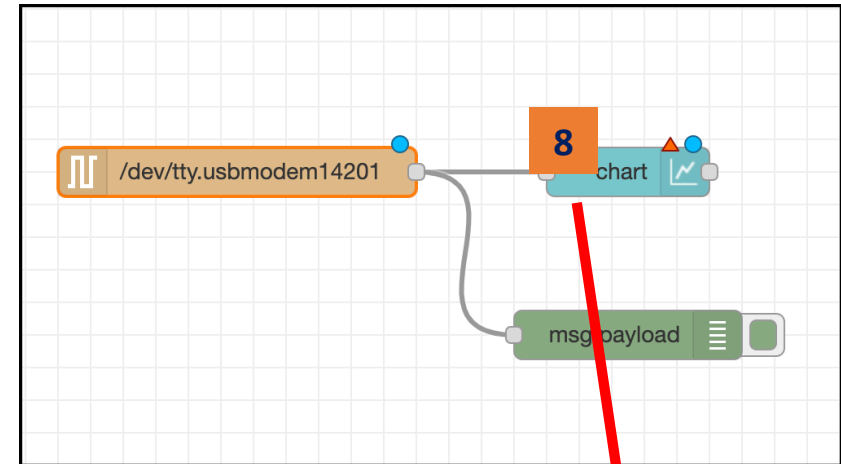
> Next step is to set up Chart's properties.

8 Double click Chart node.

9 Select **[Smart Agriculture System] Plot #1**.

10 Click **Done** upon completion.

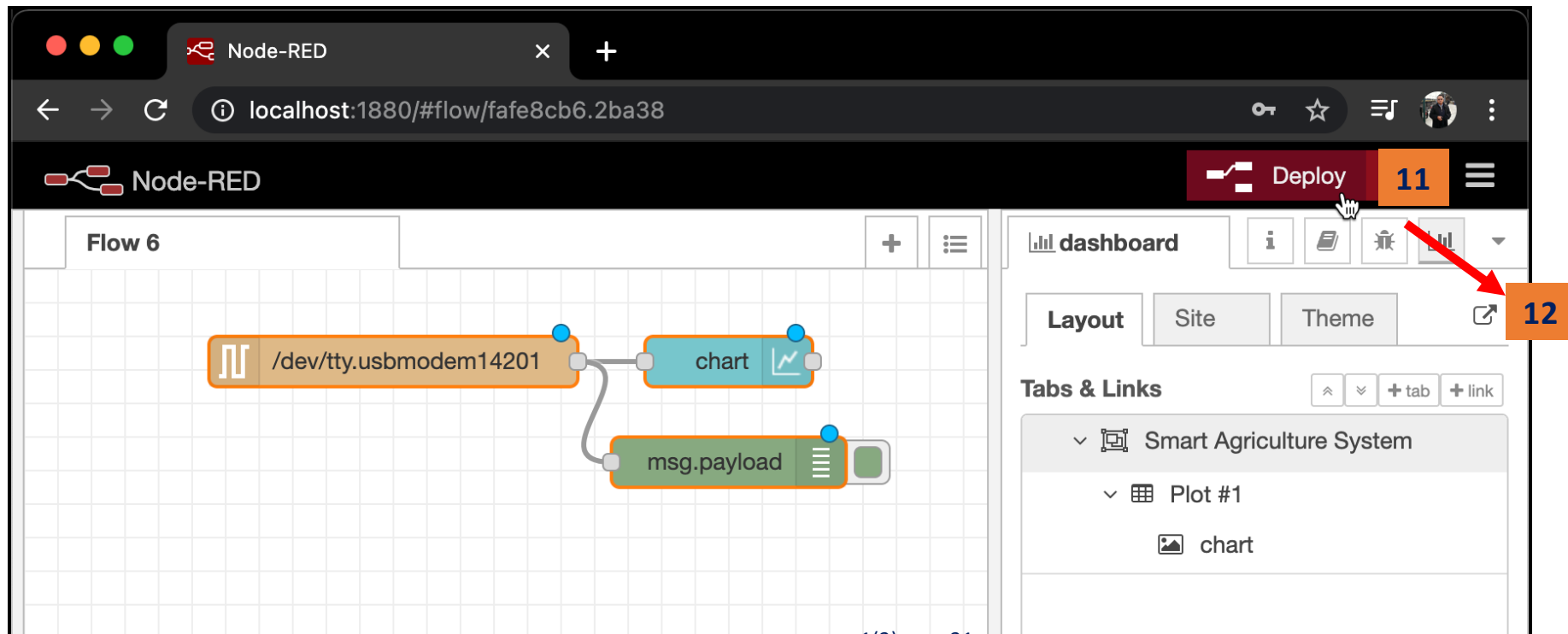
Note: Total element in group will increase if you have created series of dashboard tasks.



Node-RED: h. Prepare to Execute.

11 Click Deploy to compile the flow's update, setup and config.

12 Click  to view the UI interface aka dashboard. (<http://localhost:1880/ui/>)

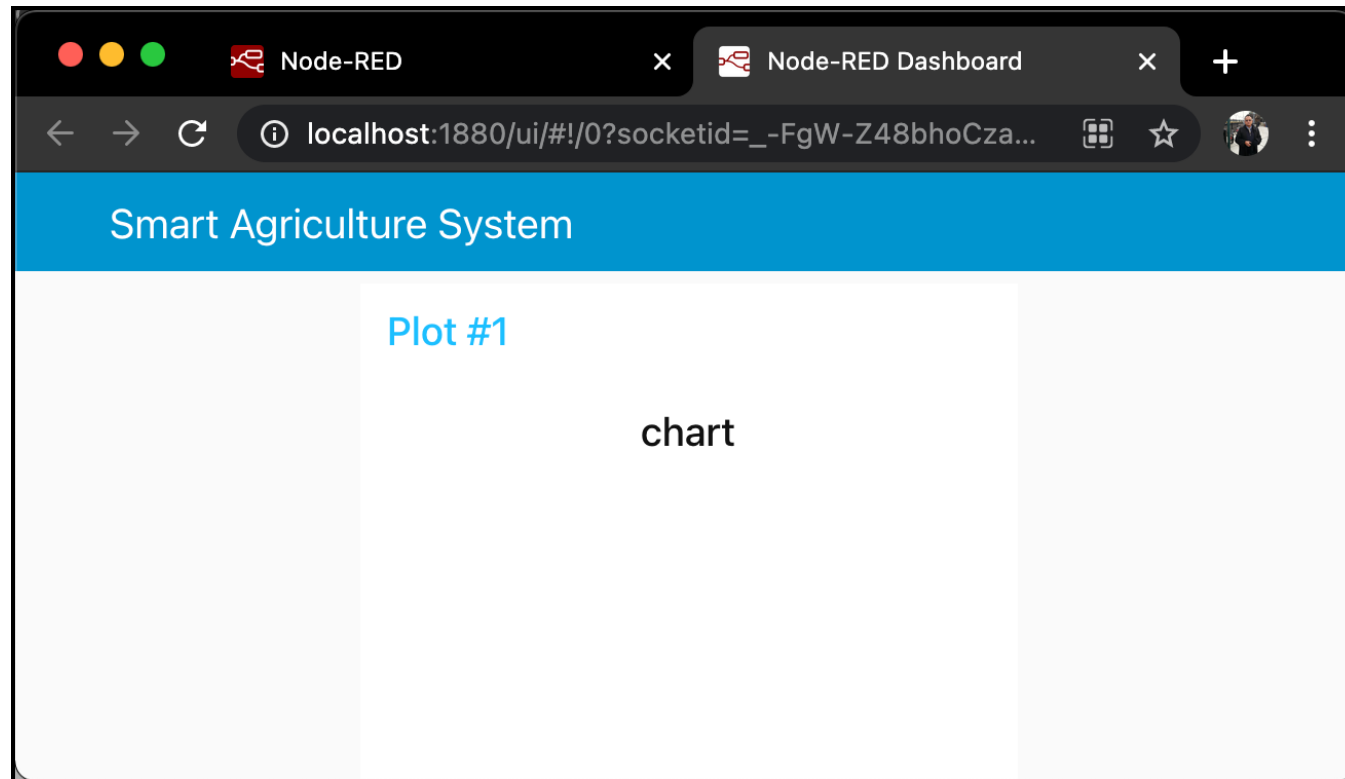


The screenshot shows the Node-RED web interface in a browser. The address bar displays `localhost:1880/#flow/fafe8cb6.2ba38`. The main workspace shows a flow named "Flow 6" with three nodes: a serial port node labeled `/dev/tty.usbmodem14201`, a `chart` node, and a `msg.payload` node. The right sidebar contains a "dashboard" section with a "Layout" tab selected. A red arrow points from the "Share" icon (a square with a diagonal arrow) in the dashboard section to a callout box labeled "12". The "Deploy" button is also visible in the top right, with a callout box labeled "11" pointing to it.

v1(2)-mar-21

Node-RED: i. The Output & Troubleshoot.

> No output produced. Go back to **nodeRED workspace editor** & click debug  message to see the output tapped at **debug** node.



Node-RED: i. The Output & Troubleshoot.

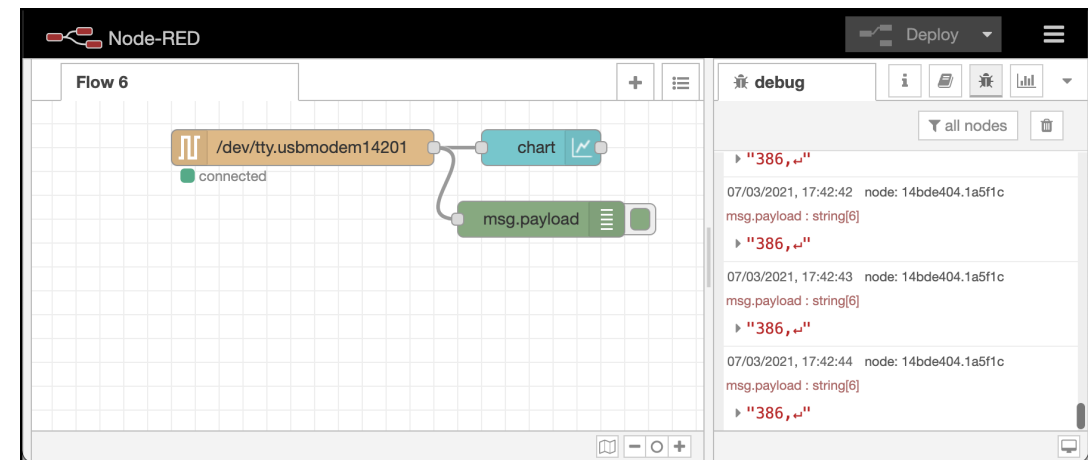
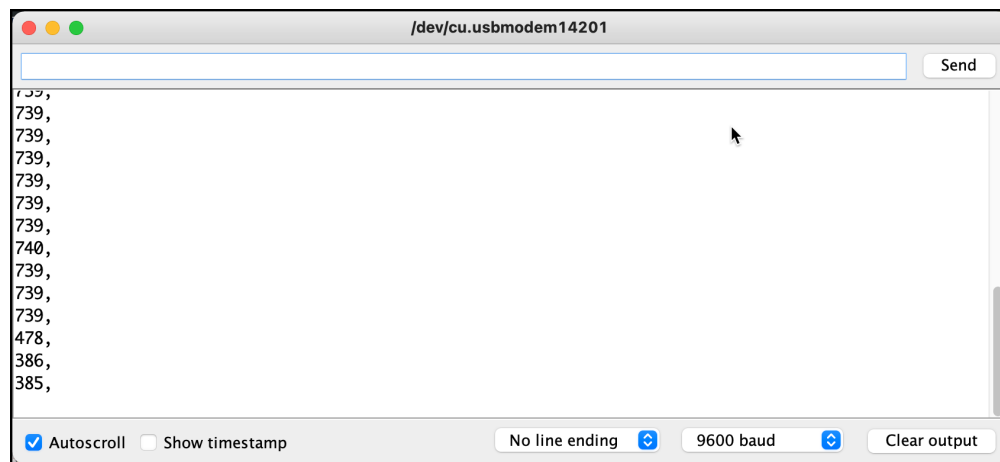
> Need to omit the '**Moisture Level:** ' text. Remark line number 13 (refer slide 5). Upload the sketch again.

The screenshot shows the Node-RED web interface. On the left, a flow named 'Flow 6' is visible. It contains three nodes: a serial port node with the text '/dev/tty.usbmodem14201' and a 'connected' status, a 'chart' node, and a 'msg.payload' node. The serial port node is connected to the 'chart' node, and the 'chart' node is connected to the 'msg.payload' node. On the right, the 'debug' console is open, showing four messages. Each message has a timestamp, a node ID, and a payload. The payloads are 'Moisture Level: 678,', 'Moisture Level: 848,', 'Moisture Level: 877,', and 'Moisture Level: 764,'. The messages are highlighted with yellow boxes.

Note: You need to disconnect the board from nodeRED first, by double click the **serial in** node text & change port parameter  & click **Deploy**. When connect to nodeRED, close the **Serial Monitor**.

Node-RED: i. The Output & Troubleshoot.

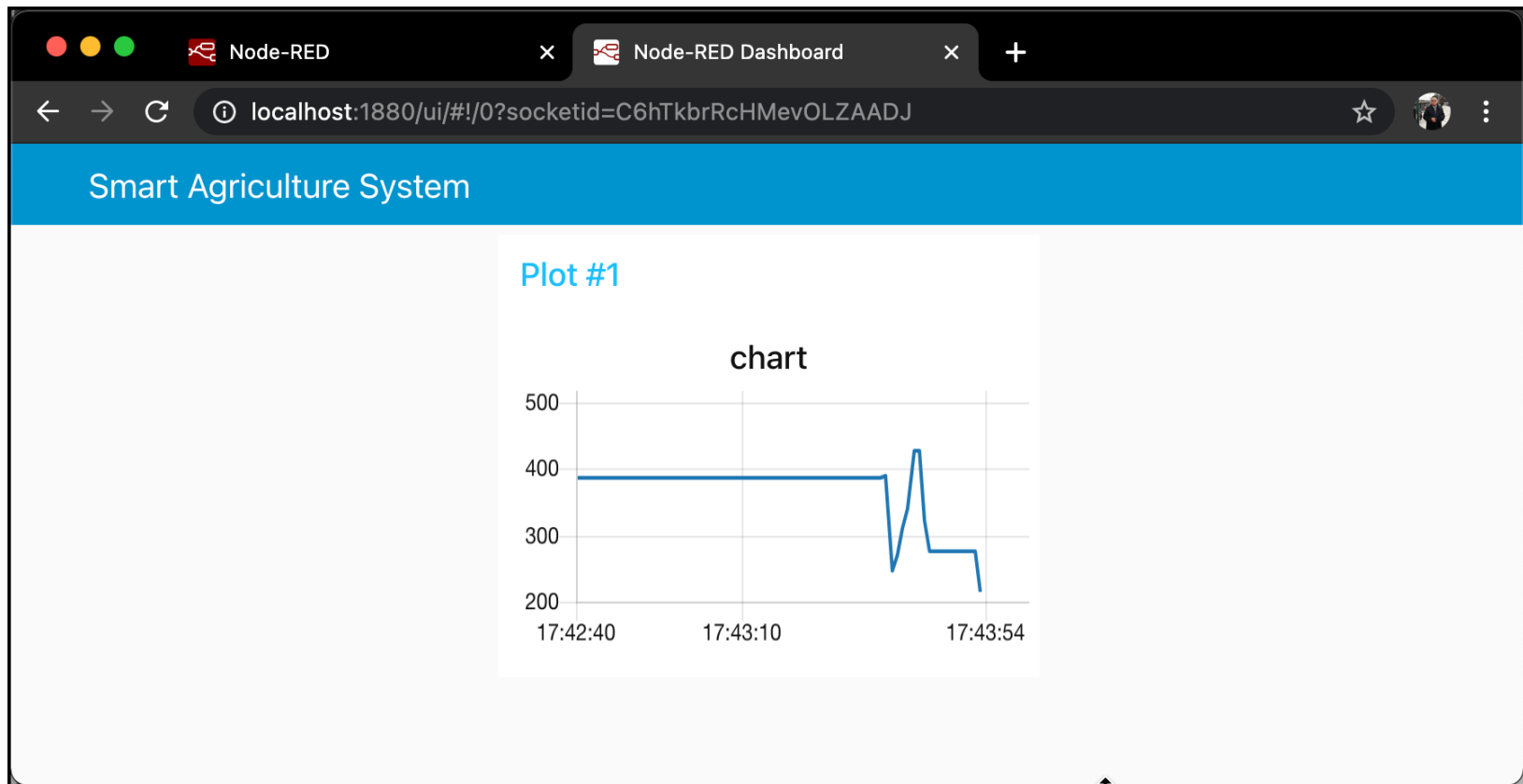
- > Output at Serial Monitor shows the reading from the sensor.
- > Similar with at nodeRED, don't forget to exit Serial Monitor before triggering the nodeRED serial port again. Only one application per serial port.



Note: You need to disconnect the board from nodeRED by double click the serial in node text & change port parameter  & click **Deploy**. When connect to nodeRED, close the **Serial Monitor**.

Node-RED: i. The Output & Troubleshoot.

> The final output.



EXERCISE:

Add one more sensor, modify the function node and also the sketch.

Answer:

```
{["id":"bac65c23.74b21","type":"tab","label":"Flow
2","disabled":false,"info":"","id":"1c057498.f326ab","type":"debug","z":"bac65c23.74b21","name":"","active":true,"tosidebar":true,"console
":false,"tostatus":false,"complete":"payload","targetType":"msg","statusVal":"","statusType":"auto","x":470,"y":100,"wires":[{}],{"id":"70291b
26.ad9e44","type":"serial
in","z":"bac65c23.74b21","name":"","serial":"a674939a.de6d1","x":190,"y":220,"wires":[["8289256.014bfd8","5285227e.00726c"]],{"id":"528
5227e.00726c","type":"function","z":"bac65c23.74b21","name":"Humid","func":"var output = msg.payload.split('\\');\\n\\nvar velimp =
parseInt(output[0]);\\n\\nvar angle = parseInt(output[1]);\\n\\nvar msg = {payload : velimp};\\n\\nvar msg2 = {payload : angle};\\n\\nreturn
msg;\\n","outputs":1,"noerr":0,"initialize":"","finalize":"","x":330,"y":140,"wires":[["1c057498.f326ab","9d0bbc0b.d35ba"]],{"id":"8289256.01
4bfd8","type":"function","z":"bac65c23.74b21","name":"Temp","func":"var output = msg.payload.split('\\');\\n\\nvar velimp =
parseInt(output[0]);\\n\\nvar angle = parseInt(output[1]);\\n\\nvar msg = {payload : velimp};\\n\\nvar msg2 = {payload : angle};\\n\\nreturn
msg;\\n","outputs":1,"noerr":0,"initialize":"","finalize":"","x":310,"y":300,"wires":[["909b5194.dcf8","dfe43fa5.09c56","88d47994.eee278"]],
{"id":"909b5194.dcf8","type":"debug","z":"bac65c23.74b21","name":"","active":true,"tosidebar":true,"console":false,"tostatus":false,"compl
ete":"payload","targetType":"msg","statusVal":"","statusType":"auto","x":490,"y":280,"wires":[{}],{"id":"9d0bbc0b.d35ba","type":"ui_gauge","
z":"bac65c23.74b21","name":"Humidity at
CL412","group":"9f246d07.8e352","order":1,"width":0,"height":0,"gtype":"gage","title":"","label":"","units":"","format":"{{value}}%", "min":0,"max
":100,"colors":["#00b500","#e6e600","#ca3838"],"seg1":"","seg2":"","x":490,"y":200,"wires":[{}],{"id":"dfe43fa5.09c56","type":"ui_chart","z
":"bac65c23.74b21","name":"Temperature at CL412","group":"af20372d.328a38","order":1,"width":0,"height":0,"label":"Temp (°C)
","chartType":"line","legend":false,"xformat":"HH:mm:ss","interpolate":"linear","nodata":"","dot":false,"ymin":"","ymax":"","removeOlder"
:1,"removeOlderPoints":"","removeOlderUnit":"3600","cutout":0,"useOneColor":false,"useUTC":false,"colors":["#1f77b4","#aec7e8","#ff7f0e"
,"#2ca02c","#98df8a","#d62728","#ff9896","#9467bd","#c5b0d5"],"useOldStyle":false,"outputs":1,"x":520,"y":320,"wires":[{}],{"id":"88d4799
4.eee278","type":"ui_text","z":"bac65c23.74b21","group":"af20372d.328a38","order":1,"width":0,"height":0,"name":"","label":"text","format
":"{{msg.payload}}","layout":{"row-spread":"","x":480,"y":440,"wires":[{}],{"id":"a674939a.de6d1","type":"serial-
port","z":"","serialport":"/dev/tty.usbmodem14201","serialbaud":"9600","databits":"8","parity":"none","stopbits":"1","waitfor":"","dtr":"non
e","rts":"none","cts":"none","dsr":"none","newline":"\\n","bin":false,"out":"char","addchar":"","responsetimeout":"10000"},{"id":"9f246d0
7.8e352","type":"ui_group","z":"","name":"Humidity","tab":"ff22fd9e.4e5c3","order":1,"disp":true,"width":4,"collapse":false},{"id":"af20372d
.328a38","type":"ui_group","z":"","name":"Temperature","tab":"ff22fd9e.4e5c3","order":2,"disp":true,"width":4,"collapse":false},{"id":"ff2
2fd9e.4e5c3","type":"ui_tab","z":"","name":"lab2","icon":"dashboard","disabled":false,"hidden":false}]}
```

nodeRED

```
/Variables
String data1, data2;
int d1, d2;

void setup()
{
  Serial.begin(9600);
}

void loop()
{
  //Read data from port 0 & 2, and store it to variables d1, d2 in integer mode
  d1 = analogRead(0);
  d2 = analogRead(2);
  data1 = String(d1);
  data2 = String(d2);
  //Print d1 and d2 values to serial monitor

  Serial.print(d1);
  Serial.print(",");
  Serial.print(d2);

  delay(2000); //Delay 2 sec.
}
```

arduino

QnA

END