Core Principles & Design Philosophy

The **Afritic Open Farming Standard (AOFS)** is built on a set of guiding principles that ensure **safety, reliability, scalability, and productive use of resources**. These principles form the foundation for all AOFS-compliant systems, controllers, and modules.

1. Local Autonomy

- Critical irrigation, safety, and operational functions **must operate independently of external connectivity**.
- Controllers are **offline-first**, enabling uninterrupted operation even if network or cloud access is unavailable.
- Failures in upstream systems (farm HQ or cloud) **cannot compromise safety-critical operations**.
- Controllers can **learn and adapt to intermittent external resources**, such as grid power or water availability, but **must always enforce local safety thresholds**.

2. Fail-Safe Operation

- Hardware and software safeguards prevent:
  - Over- or under-irrigation
  - Flooding
  - Pump or valve damage
- Sensors and actuators enforce local safety decisions independently of higher-level controllers.
- Redundant or passive protection mechanisms (float switches, overflow pipes, battery cutoffs) **must be included**.
- Even when AOFS predicts grid power or water availability probabilistically, **fail-safes take precedence over optimization**.

3. Separation of Control and Supervision

- **Field Controllers** make authoritative operational decisions.
- **Farm and HQ Controllers** only monitor, configure, and analyze — they **cannot override critical safety logic locally**.
- Human operators can supervise and adjust parameters, but **local safety constraints always take precedence**.
- Predictive or probabilistic optimization inputs are **advisory**, not authoritative, and are integrated only if safety thresholds are met.

4. Scalability & Replicability

- AOFS supports a wide range of farm sizes, from **smallholder plots to multi-hectare commercial operations**.

- Architecture, data models, and interfaces are designed to be **modular**, **replicable**, and **extensible** across farm types and geographies.
- Adding new zones, sensors, or modules should **not require redesign of the core system**.

5. Productive Use of Electricity (PUE)

- AOFS promotes **efficient use of renewable energy** through intelligent monitoring and actuation.
- Controllers coordinate irrigation and pumping schedules to **maximize energy efficiency without compromising crop or livestock health**.
- AOFS can **predictively use grid power** when available, adjusting high-load operations like pumps and relays, while **cutting off immediately on unsafe voltage or frequency**.

6. Data-Driven Optimization

- All AOFS deployments must collect **timestamped, structured data** from sensors and human input.
- This enables:
    - Farm-level analytics
    - Optimization of irrigation, feed, and operational schedules
    - Research and experimental comparisons across fields, modules, or livestock units
- Predictive measurements for grid power or water availability **must be logged along with decisions and outcomes**, enabling AOFS to refine probabilistic models and optimize operations safely.

7. Modular & Extendable Design

- AOFS is **modular by design**, allowing additional modules (poultry, livestock, greenhouse) to integrate seamlessly.
- Optional AI or analytics modules can augment the system, but **core compliance and safety principles remain mandatory**.
- Standardized interfaces allow third-party developers to create new modules without compromising system integrity.

8. Transparency & Documentation

- Every action, sensor reading, and human input **must be logged and timestamped**.
- Documentation enables auditing, compliance verification, and reproducibility of experiments or operational improvements.
- Probabilistic decision data for power and water **must also be logged**, ensuring that predictive logic is transparent and auditable.

References

- System Architecture Overview
- Sensors & Environmental Monitoring
- Operational Logic & Decision Hierarchy