It is recommended that you use a digital GPIO pin on whichever microcontroller or IC you’re using to control the sensor to power the sensor.

Rod length and spacing were not the most significant variables. In general, you want the probes long enough to reach the moist soil and not so close together that they are likely to touch accidentally. Keeping them about an inch apart works great. The big variable is the composition of the soil itself (especially salts), so ideally you would calibrate for each type of soil.

~Rob Faludi
