SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE APPLICATIONS USING LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

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Bentham Books

Sustainable Agriculture Applications Using Large Language Models

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ISBN (Online): 979-8-89881-018-4

ISBN (Print): 979-8-89881-019-1

ISBN (Paperback): 979-8-89881-020-7

Published by Bentham Science Publishers Pte. Ltd., Singapore, in collaboration

with Eureka Conferences, USA

First published in 2025.

Bentham Science Publishers Pte. Ltd.
No. 9 Raffles Place
Office No. 26-01
Singapore 048619
Singapore
Email: subscriptions@benthamscience.net

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and evolving agricultural challenges, the integration of technology into farming practices has become increasingly imperative. As we stand at the intersection of agriculture and innovation, the book "Sustainable Agriculture Applications Using Large Language Models" emerges as a beacon of insight and guidance for agricultural professionals, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners alike.

This book, meticulously crafted by a team of experts, offers a comprehensive exploration of how technological innovations, including Large Language Models (LLMs), can revolutionize sustainable farming practices. By delving into topics ranging from precision agriculture to data analytics and the ethical considerations surrounding technology adoption, the authors provide readers with a roadmap to navigate the complexities of modern agriculture.

At its core, this book embodies the spirit of collaboration and inclusivity, drawing upon diverse perspectives and real-world examples to illuminate the path forward. By showcasing the transformative potential of technology in agriculture, it inspires readers to embrace innovation while upholding principles of environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

As we embark on this journey of exploration and discovery, let us heed the insights offered within these pages and work together to cultivate a future where technology catalyzes sustainable agricultural development. May this book inspire meaningful change, empowering us all to build a more resilient, equitable, and prosperous agricultural landscape for generations to come.

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PREFACE

Welcome to "Sustainable Agriculture Applications Using Large Language Models." This book represents a collaborative effort aimed at shedding light on the transformative potential of technology in agriculture and providing practical guidance for its integration into sustainable farming practices.

In recent years, the agricultural sector has faced unprecedented challenges, from population growth and resource depletion to climate change and food insecurity. In response, there has been a growing recognition of the need to embrace technological innovation as a means of addressing these challenges while promoting environmental sustainability and socio-economic development.

At the heart of this book lies a commitment to exploring the intersection of technology and agriculture, with a particular focus on the applications of Large Language Models (LLMs). Through a series of insightful chapters, we delve into topics such as precision agriculture, data analytics, and the ethical considerations surrounding technology adoption, offering readers a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and challenges inherent in leveraging technology for sustainable farming.

Throughout this journey, we draw upon diverse perspectives and real-world examples to illustrate the potential impact of technology on agriculture and inspire readers to embrace innovation in their own farming practices. Whether you are a seasoned agricultural professional, a researcher exploring the frontiers of technology, or a policymaker shaping the future of agriculture, we hope that this book serves as a valuable resource and catalyst for positive change in the agricultural sector.

As we embark on this exploration together, let us remain mindful of the interconnectedness of our actions and the profound impact they have on the planet and its inhabitants. By harnessing the power of technology for sustainable farming, we could cultivate a future where agriculture thrives in harmony with nature, nourishing both people and the planet.

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CHAPTER 1

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in India's Food Processing Industries: Advancing Sustainable Agriculture through Large Language Models

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Abstract: Industrialisation and technological advancements are the key factors in a country's economic development. With the Industry 4.0 revolution, technology has given rise to inventions like Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IOT), Blockchain technology, and Machine Learning (ML). These technological tools have been adopted in the key economic sectors, namely agriculture, industry, and service. Agriculture is a predominant sector in India's economic development. The share of the primary cultivation sector in India's economy was 18% in 2022-23. Changes in demand, lifestyles, and food habits have led to the development of food processing industries. The food processing industry is considered a sunrise industry in India. Food processing refers to a set of methods that are used to convert agricultural products into value-added products by retaining their nutritional value for consumption. It is an act of producing raw vegetables and seafood products that are transformed into consumable products with the help of labour, technology, and research-based information.

Artificial intelligence (AI) or Robotic intelligence (RI) refers to the integration of intelligence into machines that can operate with vision system that can detect product defects, control quality, differentiate products, and perform rejection during the production process. AI can be defined as an injection of humanity's brain power into appliances/instruments that are programmed to imagine and act like human beings, which is an outcome of scientific research and technological knowledge. The application of AI in the Indian food processing industry has become indispensable due to the issues of chemicals found in processed spice products produced by companies like MDH and Everest. Production of food products is a crucial factor in confronting the expectations of consumers and also due to the popularity of ready-to-eat foods as consumers have adapted themselves to the fast-paced working lifestyles. AI or robots are used at every stage of food production. The food processing industry ranks fourth in terms of the adoption of AI technology to maintain hygiene and control the quality of

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Raghavendra M. Devadas, Vani Hiremani, Praveen Gujjar Jagannath, Lubna Ambreen & Harold Andrew Patrick (Eds.)

raw ingredients. The use of AI has become vital in the meat and dairy industries. Machine handling can help in identifying any damaged or contaminated processed food products and remove them from the production line. AI can help in reducing post-harvest losses and perishable wastages and increase the shelf life of processed food products. The Government of India has been encouraging the development of food processing industries. To support this development, it has also established food parks. The food parks have good warehousing facilities, rainwater harvesting, and cold storage facilities. With the availability of these infrastructural facilities and AI in these food parks, there is scope for food processing industries. The chapter examines the application of artificial intelligence in the food processing industries of India.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence (AI), Agro processing, Food parks, Food processing industries (FPIs), Technology.

INTRODUCTION

Agro processing includes the process of conversion of agricultural products and fishery products into consumable and edible products. It is a subset of the agricultural sector. The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) uses the concept of food processing as agro-processing. It covers products from agriculture, horticulture, plantation, and ocean products. The concepts of agro-processing and food processing are synonymous. Agro-processing activities aim at product research, application of technological tools for agri-business development, raising the income of farmers, and promoting sustainable agricultural development. All of these are covered under food processing, where hi-tech machines are used to process agricultural products from the farm level.

The Food Processing Industry (FPI) is an emerging industry in India. FPIs are equipped with necessary infrastructural facilities that help in the reduction of waste, crop diversification, post-harvesting technologies, employment, add to export earnings, and better income to the farmers. India's agricultural sector is predominant, and it ranks second in the production of rice, wheat, fruits, and vegetables. It also ranks third in the production of milk, ghee, pulses ginger. With increased agricultural productivity and the supply of raw agricultural products, the FPI is growing at an average annual growth rate of 10%, which was previously just three percent. Food processing transforms agricultural produce into value-added products for consumption by consumers. It is an act of producing raw vegetables and seafood products that are transformed into consumable products with the help of labour, technology, and research-based information. The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) uses the concept of FP as agro-processing. It covers products from agriculture, horticulture, plantation, and ocean products.

The Food and Drug Administration defines Food Processing (FP) as any food that includes any raw agricultural product that is subject to processing, canning, cooking, freezing, dehydration, and milling [1]. According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the FP includes all the activities to convert raw crops for consumption [2]. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPIs), Government of India, has classified FP into manufactured processes and value-added processes. The manufactured process is concerned with the activity of transforming products of agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries into an edible form with the utilization of labour, capital, power, and machinery, whereas value-added process is concerned with creating significant value-addition in terms of tastes, nutrition, and flavor that are ready for consumption purpose [3]. According to the Food Standards Agency, the food industry includes farming, food production, packaging, distribution, retailing and catering [4]. The FPI includes agricultural, horticultural, plantation, and marine products. There are three stages of food processing namely primary processing, secondary and tertiary processing. In the primary processing stage, raw agricultural products go through different stages of cleaning, grading, sorting, and packaging, which are ready for consumption. The FPIs have attracted foreign direct investment amounts of 6.36 billion US dollars till June 2023 which has increased to 12.58 billion US dollars in March 2024. The exports of processed food products increased from 4.9 billion US dollars to 13.01 billion dollars in 2022-23, indicating a growth of 13 percent [5]. The agricultural or food products are transformed into processed food products and supplied to the retail sector for final consumption under the secondary and tertiary. Previously, it was confined only to the preservation of foods, packaging, and transportation, but today, its scope is enlarged to the production of new ready-to-eat food, beverages, processed and frozen fruits/vegetables, and marine and meat products due to the advancement in innovative technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI). The 21st century has witnessed enormous changes in the technology field, with rapid developments in the Internet of Things (IoT), machine learning, blockchain technology, and AI. Food processing industries (FPIs) are gradually using AI technologies to improve the efficiency and quality of processed food products. AI technology has revolutionised businesses across all economic sectors, and its application has been increasing over recent years. Some issues faced by Everest and MDH products, the use of AI has become necessary to monitor the quality of raw materials, to improve operational efficiency and to deliver the products on time to the consumers. The use of AI in FPIs will help in the reduction of food wastage by 127 billion dollars by 2030. AI has engulfed businesses by transforming them and function efficiently. AI in the FPI aligns the production process with the demand and preferences/tastes of consumers. AI helps maintain the accuracy of food labelling and packaging of processed food products.

CHAPTER 2

Sustainable Water Management Strategies

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Abstract: Water resource management faces increasing challenges due to population growth, urbanization, climate change, and pollution—factors that threaten its ability to support life, ecosystems, and socioeconomic development. This chapter explores the potential of Large Language Models (LLMs), particularly GPT-4, to transform practices in water resource management. Since Large Language Models (LLMs) excel at processing extensive textual data and deriving insights, they hold significant potential for guiding decision-making in highly complex scenarios. This chapter demonstrates some recent research and applications in the domain of LLMs for efficiency improvement in water resource management, advancing predictive modelling, and supporting decision-making. Moreover, case studies on flood forecasting, water quality monitoring, and agricultural water management explain the practical use of LLMs in these aspects. Further, this chapter will highlight challenges associated with data quality, computational resources, and ethical considerations. Looking ahead, some critical enablers of the future in LLMs related to water management discuss developments in artificial intelligence, integration with technologies like IoT and blockchain, and supportive policy frameworks.

Keywords: Green infrastructure, Integrated water resources management, Rainwater harvesting, Water Conservation, Water efficiency, Water reuse and recycling.

INTRODUCTION

Water is a significant resource fundamental to life, ecosystems, and socio-economic development worldwide. Freshwater resources continue to be threatened by the growing populations, urbanization, and other impacts of climate change supported by other correlated forms of pollution. This calls for vision-related sustainable water management strategies using state-of-the-art available utilities and scientific breakthroughs [1]. One such application gaining promi-

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Raghavendra M. Devadas, Vani Hiremani, Praveen Gujjar Jagannath, Lubna Ambreen & Harold Andrew Patrick (Eds.)

nence is the application of large language models in enhancing the effectiveness of water management practices. LLMs, such as GPT-4, leverage advanced artificial intelligence and to handle vast textual data to drive inference and provide impetus to decision-making processes in complicated scenarios. These models have increased their adoption in most usage areas at a rapid rate in many domains, such as analysis and interpretation, trend prediction, and resource allocation optimization [2]. The quantity and quality of freshwater resources are said to be under increasing threat due to growing populations, urbanization, impacts of climate change, and challenges posed by pollution. This chapter identifies the potential of Large Language Models (LLMs) to drive transformational change toward more sustainable water management. Synthesizing the knowledge from extant contemporary research and its practical applications displays how much the LLMs will actually help to drive immense improvements in increasing efficiency within water resources management, strengthening predictive modeling capabilities *via* data-driven intelligence, and enhancing informed decision-making [3]. What is also critically reflected upon, of course, are challenges that have to be faced and such ethical considerations in the setup and deployment of LLMs in the context of water management. Discussion on these issues was based on peer-reviewed literature and empirical studies about the current status and prospects of LLMs as integrated parts of sustainable water management strategies. By elaborating on these developments, this chapter contributes to the ongoing discourse on leveraging technology to effectively address some of the pressing global water challenges. LLMs have been employed to optimize water distribution networks by analyzing vast amounts of data to identify inefficiencies and suggest improvements. A case in point is cities facing water scarcity, where LLMs can inform the development of strategies for both effective and equitable water distribution by analyzing consumption patterns, weather forecasts, and infrastructural data. This not only supports a stable water supply but also reduces water loss and operational costs. One of the most impressive aspects, in this case, is predictive modeling. By integrating climate models with hydrological data, these models can project future water availability, foresee drought conditions, and predict flood events accurately. For instance, in areas that experience seasonal flooding, LLMs can combine basic historical weather data with real-time sensor input to provide early warnings that allow for community preparation and mitigation of potential damages [4]. Furthermore, this enhances informed decision-making by helping to provide a detailed analysis of environmental policies alongside their possible impacts. LLMs are used to simulate scenarios in which the consequences of alternative regulatory strategies can be compared for resolving ecological sustainability and economic growth. It is their ability to process and analyze complex datasets that make these models invaluable for developing and implementing policies aimed at effective water management.

The chapter critically engages with the existing challenges and ethical considerations linked to the deployment of LLMs within water management contexts. This would include concerns about data privacy, clarity in AI decision-making processes, and biases potentially conveyed through data into the outcome. LLM applications should be designed in ways that clearly conform to ethical standards and promote fair access to water resources on the part of the user [5]. The paper discusses, with reference to peer-reviewed literature and empirical studies, the current state and future prospects of LLMs as integrative parts within sustainable water management strategies. The chapter adds to the ongoing discourse on how technology can be harnessed effectively to counter some of the urgent global water challenges by elaborating on these developments. Table **1** shows the Comparison of Sustainable Water Management Strategies Before and After the Implementation of Large Language Models (LLMs).

Table 1. Comparison of sustainable water management strategies before and after implementation of large language models (LLMs).

Parameter	Before LLM Implementation	After LLM Implementation
Data Processing Efficiency	Manual data collection and processing were time-consuming and error-prone.	Automated data analysis and processing reduced processing time significantly.
Predictive Accuracy	Predictions based on simplified models with moderate accuracy.	Enhanced predictive models improved accuracy in water availability forecasts.
Stakeholder Engagement	Limited stakeholder involvement due to communication barriers.	Increased stakeholder engagement through interactive decision support systems.
Resource Allocation Efficiency	Resource allocation decisions were based on historical data and projections.	Optimized resource allocation using real-time data and scenario simulations.
Response Time to Water Crises	Delayed response times due to manual crisis assessment and decision-making.	Rapid response is enabled by early warning systems and real-time data analytics.
Policy Formulation Effectiveness	Policy decisions are based on limited data insights and outdated models.	Informed policy formulation supported by comprehensive data-driven analyses.
Environmental Impact Assessment	Environmental impacts assessed using traditional methodologies.	Enhanced environmental impact assessments integrating predictive analytics.

CHAPTER 3

Remote Sensing and GIS Applications in Agriculture

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Abstract: Advanced technologies that underlie the seamless integration of Remote Sensing (RS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Large Language Models (LLMs) have transformed modern agriculture. This chapter explores the synergistic effects of these technologies, demonstrating that their integration is truly disruptive in agriculture. RS technologies represent a source of fundamental data for crop health, soil conditions, and environmental changes through satellite and UAV imagery. GIS enhances this data by providing spatial analysis and mapping, which facilitates precision agriculture through variable input application and resource management. The introduction of LLMs, especially GPT-4-like models, adds a new dimension to agricultural data interpretation. LLMs can process huge volumes of unstructured data, from scientific literature to field reports, in order to arrive at the correct decisions related to crop management, pest control, and yield prediction. The chapter focuses on integrating RS, GIS, and LLMs methodologies and their applications in agriculture. Case studies for yield prediction and pest monitoring are examples of how feasible such initiatives are and promise improvement in productivity and sustainability in farming.

Keywords: Geographic information systems (GIS), Large language models (LLMs), Precision agriculture, Remote sensing (RS).

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture has recorded unprecedented growth in the past years because it has integrated with state-of-the-art technologies. Without RS and GIS, collection, analysis, and exploitation of data related to agriculture are impossible. Simultaneously, advancements in data interpretation and decision-making powered by Large Language Models have opened new avenues in agriculture. This chapter exemplifies how such technologies integrate to create disruptive effects in agriculture.

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Raghavendra M. Devadas, Vani Hiremani, Praveen Gujjar Jagannath, Lubna Ambreen & Harold Andrew Patrick (Eds.)

Remote sensing is the process of acquiring information about an object or phenomenon without directly coming into contact with the object; this may be *via* satellite or aerial photographs [1]. RS is one such essential application in agriculture, wherein crop health status and yield estimation, pest and disease detection, and resource management are assessed. Satellite missions, like Landsat and Sentinel, provide a lot of data related to vegetation indices. Among them, NDVI is very important in the estimation of plant health and productivity [2].

The combination of RS and GIS has been very effective in addressing critical challenges to agriculture. For instance, the integration of satellite images with GIS would give one an accurate map of the crop growth stages to the extent of even pinpointing areas that require interventions. This synergy thus achieves better efficiency in agricultural operations for better yields while lessening environmental impacts.

LLMs, including OpenAI's GPT-3 and GPT-4, as shown in Fig. (**1**), represent remarkable achievements in AI. These models have been trained on vast textual data so that they can understand contexts and generate a human-like text. Domains related to natural language processing, translations, and information retrieval are a few of the large unfolding areas for LLM applications.

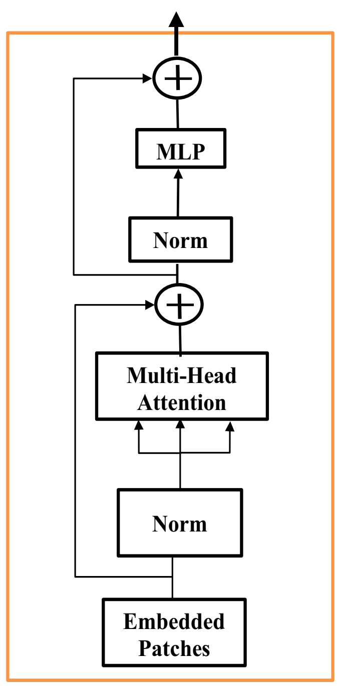

Fig. (1). Transformer encoder.

There are various ways in which LLMs can uniquely benefit farming by processing and extracting meaningful insights from large volumes of unstructured data ranging from research articles to field reports and sensor data. For example, LLMs have already been used to mine scientific literature that generates recent findings and recommendations relative to certain topics for farmers and researchers [3].

It is no sweat for LLMs to draw up detailed reports and reply in natural language to complex questions, making them ideal decision-support systems in agriculture. Their understanding and contextualizing ability make them quite fit for specially tailoring advice related to crop management, soil health, pest control, and all other very critical farming recommendations in this subject area.

It is estimated that LLMs would further increase the interpretation of the RS and GIS data analysis in detecting a pattern or correlation that otherwise would have been elusive to traditional methods. For example, LLMs can easily project crop yields from their past temporal satellite imagery data and even detect any incipient signs of stressors, such as pests or diseases. It is possible to combine such predictions with GIS and, therefore, allow farmers to map the spatial distribution of these threats and apply interventions in a site-specific manner [4].

Moreover, LLM-based data from heterogeneous sources, RS imaginary, GIS layers, and text research publications/field reports, can be integrated. Hence, data fusion becomes possible for detailed analysis of agricultural systems/crop dynamics with environmental interactions. For example, LLMs could consider all information that relates to soil properties and weather patterns to provide crop phenology in order to recommend the optimum time for sowing and harvesting a certain crop.

This kind of integration opens up several practical applications within precision agriculture. The LLMs are in a position to enhance the decision-supporting systems through dynamic recommendations from the RS and GIS data in real-time so that farmers can make informed decisions on irrigation, fertilization, and pest management for effective productivity and sustainability.

Agricultural Applications of Remote Sensing Technologies

Contemporary agriculture is simply impossible without remote sensing technologies providing a core source of data about crop conditions, soil conditions, and environmental changes. It considers the following subjects: different types of remote sensing, main sensors and platforms, data acquisition, and preprocessing techniques.

CHAPTER 4

Technological Integration and Economic Sustainability in Agriculture: A Systematic Literature Review

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Abstract: This article presents a comprehensive literature analysis that examines the relationship between technology adoption and integration with economics in the agricultural sector, with the aim of promoting sustainability. This study employed a comprehensive literature analysis to examine the existing body of research on agriculture within the field of business and management. The analysis focused on how management journals address agricultural topics (Agri-business). Established best practices for literature review were used to ensure a robust and systematic approach. The analysis identified eight overarching themes in the field of agriculture in business and management: Adoption and diffusion of technologies, blockchain technology and transparency, precision farming and sustainability, farmer information needs and adoption, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and digital platforms, participatory action research and agroecosystem restoration, innovation networks and sustainability, and circular economy in agriculture. The article emphasizes areas where study is lacking and provides potential avenues for future research based on these crucial topics.

Keywords: Agriculture, Economics, Sustainability, Systematic literature review, Technology.

INTRODUCTION

Being the backbone of the global economy, agriculture is faced with increasing difficulties as the population of the planet keeps rising [1]. With the estimated 9.7 billion worldwide population in 2025, food demand is expected to climb significantly. Climate change is also negatively affecting agriculture concurrently; these consequences are projected to become more severe in the future [2, 3]. Furthermore, resources such as water, land, and other basic necessities are becoming increasingly restricted [4, 5].

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Raghavendra M. Devadas, Vani Hiremani, Praveen Gujjar Jagannath, Lubna Ambreen & Harold Andrew Patrick (Eds.)

Among these urgent problems, agriculture struggles with a paradox: poor acceptance of novel technology [6, 7]. Precision agriculture and other technical developments have great promise, although their rate of application is shockingly low. This is a lost chance to use drought-resistant crops during times of water shortage or to reach the intended 70% increase in food output by 2025 or otherwise [8]. Beyond the understanding level of individual farmers, the obstacles to technology adoption are several and go beyond their own perspective. Limited internet access, language obstacles, and resistance to accepting new technology are just a few of the difficulties small-scale farmers in underdeveloped areas can face [9, 10]. Further aggravating these problems are systematic ones including limited loan availability and poor infrastructure [11, 12]. The complicated interaction between human limitations and more general challenges makes it difficult to apply creative agricultural ideas meant to revolutionize the sector and guarantee food security.

Dealing with the causes of farmers' resistance to adopting agricultural innovations is not only a scholarly activity but also an essential one [13]. Technology has great promise given the approaching issue of global food insecurity, the effect of climate change on crops, and the limited resource availability [14]. Unlocking the promise of these breakthroughs depends on overcoming the difficult obstacles of personal limitations and institutionalized impediments [15]. By means of this methodical evaluation of the literature, we hope to be able to empower farmers, guide policies, and close the digital gap, thereby enabling a more sustainable and fair future for everyone [15, 16].

METHOD

A systematic review is a thorough and deliberate way to synthesize available research on a certain issue [17 - 19]. It entails spotting, assessing, and combining all pertinent studies to offer a whole picture of the present level of knowledge and point up areas for future study. By means of summary, integration, and synthesis of the corpus of current literature, systematic reviews assist in understanding what has been done, what has been learned, and what remains to be investigated [20].

Usually, the approach to performing a systematic review is strict. It starts with specifying the study question and choosing pertinent keywords to direct the search of the literature. Then methodically investigated academic databases and other sources are published works relevant to the study subject uncovered. The most relevant studies for the review are chosen using predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Before the data is gathered and aggregated from these particular investigations, its quality and validity are carefully evaluated. At last, the results are examined and explained to spot trends, patterns, and gaps in the body of current research [20, 21].

Designed to be open, repeatable, and reduce prejudice, the methodical review process follows a specified and orderly procedure [22]. Its thorough character enables scholars to have a full awareness of the present level of knowledge on a given issue and guides further lines of inquiry.

Step 1: Data Search and Collection Process

We used the four main procedures described in a study [23] for systematic literature review: Choosing the correct database; spotting pertinent keywords; building a thorough search string; and then retrieving the pertinent data. We used Elsevier's Scopus, a reliable and extensively used tool with indexing of a large number of peer-reviewed publications, for the database [24]. Scopus is one useful and well-known tool for undertaking systematic literature reviews as it includes around 97% of the articles listed in the Web of Science (WoS) database [23]. Furthermore, a number of researchers have suggested and used Scopus extensively for systematic reviews [25 - 27], further enhancing its standing as a thorough and trustworthy source for scholarly literature.

This study included a number of point of views from disciplines like sustainability, economics, technology, and agriculture. We aimed to find terms covering the aspect of economy, technology, and agriculture. We adopted the approaches and vocabulary used in a study referenced as [22, 25], which investigated the management issues of agriculture, particularly with an eye toward the intersections of agriculture and economics, agriculture and technology, and agriculture and sustainability, respectively. Our search included agricultural-related phrases together with technology, economics, sustainability, and sustainability as shown in Fig. (**1**). We followed standard guidelines [26, 27] to include papers that could have used varied wording. We then gathered information and converted the main terms into search strings. Using an asterisk (*) as a wildcard—which may represent any single character, absent character, or numerous characters in a phrase—we performed the search. For instance, the searched word “agri*” might yield results on agriculture, agritech, agribusiness, and so on. The study was conducted particularly on the Scopus title-abstract-keyword page. April of 2024 was the month when we received the information. Following more rigorous methodological rules later, the data collected was limited to peer-reviewed publications, omitting conference papers, book chapters, and book chapters. The search resulted in 1124 publications.

CHAPTER 5

Automating Agriculture: Robotics and AI for a Greener Future

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Abstract: This chapter delves into the transformative impact of robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) on modern agriculture, highlighting how these technologies are revolutionizing farming practices to achieve greater sustainability. Robotics in agriculture include the deployment of autonomous tractors, robotic harvesters, and precision weed control systems. These machines enhance efficiency, reduce labor costs, and minimize the use of harmful chemicals by targeting weeds and pests with unparalleled accuracy.

AI applications in agriculture extend to predictive analytics for crop management, smart irrigation systems, and real-time monitoring of crop health. Machine learning algorithms analyze vast datasets from sensors and satellite imagery to optimize planting schedules, irrigation, and fertilization, ensuring that resources are used judiciously and crop yields are maximized.

This chapter will explore real-world applications of robotics and AI in sustainable farming, examining their potential to address critical challenges such as climate change, soil degradation, and labor shortages. By integrating advanced technologies, farmers can achieve a balance between productivity and environmental stewardship, paving the way for a greener and more resilient agricultural future.

Keywords: Agriculture, Analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, Sustainable farming.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancements in robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) are reshaping industries worldwide, and agriculture is no exception. Historically, farming has relied heavily on manual labor and traditional practices. However, with the increasing pressures of climate change, soil degradation, and population growth, agriculture has reached a turning point. To sustain future food demands,

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Raghavendra M. Devadas, Vani Hiremani, Praveen Gujjar Jagannath, Lubna Ambreen & Harold Andrew Patrick (Eds.)

innovative approaches that increase productivity while maintaining environmental stewardship are essential. Robotics and AI represent key technological solutions that can address these pressing challenges, transforming agriculture into a more efficient, precise, and sustainable sector.

Globally, the agricultural industry is facing significant hurdles. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) [1], by 2050, the world will need to produce 60% more food to feed a projected population of 9.7 billion people. Traditional farming methods, heavily reliant on intensive resource use, are proving insufficient. Furthermore, climate change is disrupting crop yields and exacerbating issues such as water scarcity and soil erosion. As a result, the adoption of innovative technologies such as robotics and AI is critical for enhancing productivity and resilience in agriculture.

Automation in agriculture is not a novel concept. Mechanization, in the form of tractors and other farming equipment, revolutionized farming during the 20th century. However, today's technological leap into robotics and AI-driven solutions is more profound, offering farmers the ability to optimize nearly every aspect of crop production with unprecedented precision. Autonomous machines are now capable of performing labor-intensive tasks such as planting, weeding, and harvesting, while AI applications are empowering farmers to make data-driven decisions, improving resource management and crop health monitoring. This chapter explores how these innovations are reshaping modern agriculture and paving the way for a more sustainable future.

The Role of Agriculture in the Global Economy

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of the global economy. According to the World Bank, the sector contributes approximately 4% of global GDP, with this figure rising to over 25% in some developing countries. As the world's population grows, the demand for food, fiber, and biofuels will continue to rise, putting further strain on agricultural systems. This makes the integration of cutting-edge technology not just an opportunity but a necessity for maintaining food security.

Robotics and AI are emerging as game-changers in agriculture, addressing critical issues such as labor shortages, rising input costs, and environmental degradation. The efficiency, precision, and adaptability offered by these technologies enable farmers to optimize their operations, reducing waste and increasing yields. Moreover, the environmental benefits of these technologies—such as reduced chemical usage, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and improved water efficiency—align with global sustainability goals, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG [2], which aims to end hunger, achieve food security, and promote sustainable agriculture.

ROBOTICS IN AGRICULTURE

Autonomous Tractors and Machinery

One of the most significant breakthroughs in agricultural robotics is the development of autonomous tractors. These tractors operate with minimal human intervention, using GPS systems, sensors, and AI algorithms to navigate fields, plant seeds, and manage crops. John Deere, a pioneer in the field, introduced the first fully autonomous tractor capable of performing tillage with precision. Equipped with 360-degree cameras and advanced AI, these machines can continuously monitor their surroundings, making real-time decisions to avoid obstacles and optimize their routes.

The deployment of autonomous tractors can lead to significant cost savings for farmers. For example, labor costs, which represent a substantial portion of agricultural expenses, can be reduced by up to 60%. Additionally, the precision offered by these machines ensures that tasks such as planting and fertilizing are carried out with optimal accuracy, reducing the wastage of seeds and inputs. According to a report by Markets and Markets, the autonomous tractor market is expected to grow from USD 2.4 billion in 2021 to USD 6.5 billion by 2026, reflecting the growing demand for such technologies.

Robotic Harvesters

Robotic harvesters are another key innovation in agricultural automation. These machines are designed to identify and pick crops with remarkable accuracy, significantly reducing post-harvest losses. Traditional manual harvesting is not only labor-intensive but also prone to inefficiencies, leading to damaged produce. Robotic harvesters, equipped with machine vision and AI algorithms, can differentiate between ripe and unripe fruits or vegetables, ensuring that only the right crops are harvested at the right time.

For instance, Abundant Robotics, a U.S.-based company, has developed a robotic apple harvester that uses vacuum technology to gently pluck apples from trees without causing damage. This innovation addresses the problem of labor shortages in the fruit-picking industry while also improving the quality of the harvested produce. In Europe, robotic systems have been developed for harvesting delicate crops such as strawberries and tomatoes, which are particularly challenging to pick manually without damage.

CHAPTER 6

Advancements in Agricultural Technology

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Abstract: The agriculture industry has radically transformed over the past 50 years. Advances in machinery have expanded the scale, speed, and productivity. AI, analytics, connected sensors, and other emerging technologies could further increase yields, improve the efficiency of water and other inputs, and build sustainability and resilience across crop cultivation and animal husbandry. For the first time ever, food and agriculture took center stage at the annual United Nations climate conference in 2023 [1].

Emerging agriculture trends mark a shift towards smart farming and efficient utilization of time and resources while reducing crop losses. Smart farming is an upcoming trend that deploys technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), computer vision, and artificial intelligence (AI) for farming. Robots and drones are accelerating farm automation by replacing manual farm operations such as picking fruits, killing weeds, or water spraying.

What are the new trends in agriculture?

As per 2023 status insights, impact of top 10 agritech trends & innovations in 2024 are Internet of Things (19%), Robotics (17%), Artificial Intelligence (14%), Agri Drones (13%), Precision Agriculture (11%), Agricultural Biotechnology (7%), Big Data & Analytics (6%), Controlled Environment Agriculture (6%), Regenerative Agriculture (4%) and Connectivity Technology (3%) [2].

Keywords: Agri drones, Connectivity technology, Innovations, Regenerative agriculture, Robotics.

INTRODUCTION

In addition to being the foundation of the majority of economies, agriculture is also essential to the world's sustainable future. This business has seen tremendous change over the last 50 years due to advancements in technology. Large-scale mechanical farming has replaced labor-intensive, manual methods, increasing agricultural yield, increasing efficiency, and drastically lowering manual labor.

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Raghavendra M. Devadas, Vani Hiremani, Praveen Gujjar Jagannath, Lubna Ambreen & Harold Andrew Patrick (Eds.)

However, the agriculture industry faces a changing set of difficulties as populations continue to rise and pressure to provide food security increases. The need for sustainable farming methods, soil deterioration, resource shortages, and climate change are currently at the forefront of agricultural discourse.

Timeline Highlighting Major Agricultural Milestones

Up to 18th Century – Manual Agriculture: Tools and Manual Labour.

18th to 19th Century - Mechanization (Industrial Age): Tractors and Machines.

1960s to 1980s – Green Revolution (Chemical Fertilizers): Chemical Fertilizers and Hybrid Seeds.

21st Century – Digital Age (Smart Farming) Precision Farming, AI, Drones, *etc*.

These difficulties have prompted technology advancements that are starting to transform farming once more completely. In order to develop more effective, productive, and sustainable farming practices, new technologies and systems that utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), and big data analytics are being incorporated into agricultural processes. These developments, which range from precision agriculture to controlled environment farming, are giving modern farmers with unprecedented opportunities to maximize their productivity while tackling the pressing problem of environmental sustainability.

This chapter will look at the several technical advancements that are now changing agriculture, emphasizing how they can help with the current issues facing the sector. Thanks to these advances, farmers can now reduce their environmental impact, improve resource efficiency, and enhance their resilience to the increasingly unpredictable effects of climate change.

SMART FARMING: THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

As agriculture shifts toward data-driven decision-making, the idea of "smart farming" is gaining popularity. The use of technology, especially IoT, AI, and data analytics, to better and more sustainably manage agricultural processes is known as "smart farming." A science-based, analytical strategy that maximizes all facets of agricultural cultivation and livestock management is introduced by this method, which departs from old farming practices that mainly depend on guessing.

Internet of Things (IoT) in Agriculture

The Internet of Things (IoT) is transforming agriculture by enabling real-time monitoring and management of farming operations. Sensors, drones, and automated machinery are examples of Internet of Things devices that gather data on a variety of environmental parameters, including temperature, humidity, light levels, and soil moisture. After that, the data is sent to centralized systems for analysis and interpretation using AI algorithms. Farmers can use this information to make data-driven decisions on the exact state of their land and livestock.

IoT Application

a. Soil Sensors:

Function: Monitor moisture, nutrient levels, pH.

Benefits: Optimized irrigation and fertilization.

b. Weather Stations:

Function: Real-time weather monitoring.

Benefits: Adjust farming activities based on forecast.

c. Livestock Tracking:

Function: Monitor health and location of livestock.

Benefits: Improved animal welfare and management.

Source: https://iipseries.org/assets/docupload/rsl20244C713A6544F13E4.pdf

For example, smart irrigation is a popular use of IoT in agriculture. Sensors embedded in the soil monitor moisture levels and activate irrigation systems only when water is needed. This helps conserve water, which is crucial in areas with limited water supplies, by ensuring that crops are properly hydrated without being over-irrigated. A McKinsey & Company report claims that intelligent irrigation systems can save water use by as much as 30%, which promotes more environmentally friendly farming methods (McKinsey, 2022) [3].

IoT devices are being utilized in livestock farming to keep an eye on the behavior and health of the animals. Farmers might be warned of any health problems before they worsen by using wearable sensors that monitor vital signs, exercise levels, and dietary habits. This proactive approach to animal welfare not only

SUBJECT INDEX

A

B

C

Raghavendra M. Devadas, Vani Hiremani, Praveen Gujjar Jagannath, Lubna Ambreen & Harold Andrew Patrick (Eds.)

D

E

F

G

H

I

L

M

N

P

R

S

T

W

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