

Cultivating the Future: Exploring the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture¹

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ABSTRACT

A few of the greatest practical approaches to control food scarcity and react to the requirements of a rising population is the use of AI in agriculture.

This article provides an overview of AI's implementation in agronomic domains and advancements in research facilities. The investigation begins by accentuating 2 industries—soil control and vegetation control—where AI might have a substantial influence. Following that, IOT (Internet Of Things), an innovation with immense promise for the future, is examined. Uneven mechanized distribution, algorithms' ability to handle enormous volumes of data reliably and rapidly, & the safety and confidentiality of information as well as the gadgets are three concerns that must be handled before technology based on artificial intelligence can become extensively deployed in markets. The assessment emphasises an already effective progress and a good promise of application, albeit pointing out the challenge of adapting machines and algorithms established in experimental contexts to actual situations. Agricultural robots aimed at many areas of the agricultural industry have been created and enhanced substantially in the last years.

Index Terms: *Agriculture; Artificial Intelligence*

INTRODUCTION

John McCarthy first proposed a study based on the premise that "every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can, in principle, be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it" [1] at the 1955 Dartmouth Conference, where the term "Artificial Intelligence" was first used. As one of the core disciplines of computer science today, artificial intelligence (AI) has made inroads into a number of industries, including manufacturing, banking, healthcare, and education [2]. This is because AI is designed to address issues that people struggle to solve effectively. Humans are still astounded by what AI is capable of. Before AI-based technology can be widely employed in markets, three concerns must be resolved: unequal automation distribution, algorithms' capacity to handle vast quantities of data securely and promptly, & the protection and confidentiality of data as well as the devices. Despite underscoring the obstacles associated in transferring machines and algorithms created under experimental circumstances to actual contexts, the study indicates an existing effective creation and a prospective application possibility. Over the past few years, agricultural robots aimed at various parts of the agriculture industry have advanced significantly.

Agriculture, a crucial aspect of any nation, continues to be one of the biggest issues at the moment.

Approximately 820 million people worldwide suffer from hunger today [4]. Furthermore, 70 percent more food must be produced because the global population is anticipated to expand to 9.1 billion people in 2050. A further investment in agriculture will be required in addition to the planned expenditure, as otherwise, 370 million people would be hungry in 2050 [5]. More than three billion people will likely face water stress by 2025 due to an expected widening imbalance between the increasing water demand and the existing water supply [6]. Despite having a very short history of development, experts & the governments acknowledge the significant role performed by AI, aside from traditional approaches. McKinion and Lemmon made the first attempt at utilising AI in agriculture in 1985 when they developed GOSSYM, a cotton plant simulation framework that employs an Expert System to optimise cotton output while taking into consideration the impacts on irrigation, fertilization, control of weeds, cultivation, and other variables [7]–[8]. By emphasising three main variables and accomplishments—soil management, control of vegetation, and the deployment of the IOT (Internet of Things)—this article endeavours to characterise the present status of artificially intelligent technology in agriculture. It also analyses the critical difficulties that must be surmounted in this sector, such as the predicted unequal distribution of mechanisation in different locations, privacy

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and security issues, and the adaptation of algorithm in real-world applications where plant are morphologically diverse and vast data volumes and other elements must be analysed. The research and development of agricultural robots is the emphasis of this review's last segment. It does so by outlining the history of this particular sector, providing specific examples, and outlining significant problems. evaluates the application's future prospects and takes into account the various conditions in various nations . A growing number of industries, including agriculture, are using artificial intelligence (AI). Growing interest in applying AI to enhance many agricultural operations, from crop management to livestock monitoring and beyond, has emerged in recent years.

Massive volumes of data may be processed by AI systems, which can then produce insights that can aid farmers in making better decisions. For instance, machine learning algorithms can examine information from cameras and sensors to provide real-time data on crop growth, soil quality, and pest infestations. By doing this, farmers may maximise crop yields, cut waste, and use less pesticides and fertilisers. Precision agriculture is a further use of AI in agriculture.

Utilizing data and technology, precision agriculture adjusts crop management techniques to particular geographic regions, soil types, and other variables. With the use of AI, farmers can better anticipate crop yields and pinpoint regions that need more care by analysing data from a variety of sources, including satellite pictures and weather forecasts. AI can also be used to enhance the management and observation of animals. For instance, using data from cameras and sensors, machine learning algorithms may analyse animal behaviour changes and probable health issues. Earlier sickness detection and treatment can benefit farmers, lowering the need for antibiotics and enhancing animal welfare. AI in agriculture has the potential to address some of the largest issues confronting the sector, including climate change and food security, in addition to these useful applications. AI, for instance, can assist farmers in creating more environmentally friendly practises like cutting back on water use and carbon emissions. In order to ensure that more people have access to wholesome food, it can also help to increase crop yields and decrease food waste.

Despite its many advantages, AI in agriculture also comes with some risks and difficulties. One worry is that AI systems can be erroneous or prejudiced, resulting in bad decisions that could harm livestock or crops. In addition, because machines are now capable of carrying out numerous duties that humans once performed, there are worries about how AI may affect employment. The industry is turning to technology based on artificial intelligence (AI). to assist produce healthier crops, manage parasites, analyse soil and conditions of development, coordinate data for farmers, lower duties, and enhance a number of agriculture-related tasks throughout the whole food supply chain. Use of climate forecasting: Farmers find it challenging to identify the optimal period to cultivate seedlings owing to variations in the climate and increased pollution. With the use of artificial intelligence, nevertheless, farmers may evaluate weather conditions by employing weather forecasting, which assists in determining the manner of crop that can be cultivated and when seeds should be seeded.

System for monitoring the well-being of vegetation and soil: The type of soil and nutrients of the ground have a considerable influence on the varieties of crop that are produced and their quality. The nutritional value of the soil is degrading as a consequence of rising deforestation, making it difficult to analyse.

An AI-based programme called Plantix, created by the German digital start-up PEAT, can identify nutritional deficiencies in soils as well as crop pests and diseases, providing farmers the opportunity to employ fertiliser to boost the grade of their yield.



Status of AI applications in agricultural world

The definition of Artificial Intelligence (AI):

The meaning of A.I. changed over time as a result of the quick development of technology, and there is still no widely accepted definition of it in use today. However, definitions can be split under the following four categories: Artificial intelligence (AI) systems act and think rationally, just like people do [9]. In order to answer the question "Can a machine think?," Alan Turing devised a game called the Turing Test in a 1950s study [10]. The four skills that a computer has to possess in order to pass the Turing test are machine learning, autonomous reasoning, information representation, and NLP (Natural Language Processing) [9]. Turing supplied the most accepted definition of AI in this situation, although it had the problem of not separating knowledge from intelligence, much to separate software and hardware when characterizing a computer [11]. Another description of AI contends that it refers to "that kind of a programme who in an unpredictable world can survive not poorer than a human being," that is, that it is an ensemble of programming having inputs, outcomes, and environs [11]. Intelligent databases retrieval, expert consultation structures, theorem proving, robotics, automated programming and scheduling challenges, perceptual issues, etc. are some uses of AI [12]. The goal of artificial intelligence, sometimes known as AI, is to reproduce human cognitive abilities in robots. AI is a fast developing field of technology. From healthcare to transportation, entertainment to education, and a host of other areas, the development of AI has the potential to completely transform our way of life. We shall examine the numerous facets of AI in this article, as well as its uses, advantages, and difficulties. AI is a general phrase that covers a variety of technologies and methodologies. Machine learning, which includes teaching computers to learn from data without being explicitly programmed, is one of the most well-known applications of AI. Massive amounts of data can be analysed by machine learning algorithms, which can then reveal patterns and insights that would be challenging or impossible for humans to notice on their own. Because of this, machine learning is perfect for jobs like data analytics and predictive modeling.

Natural language processing (NLP), which entails training robots to comprehend and analyse human language, is another usage of AI. Applications for NLP span from chatbots & translators for languages to AI-powered assistants such as Siri and Alexa.

Another crucial field of AI is computer vision, which includes instructing robots to recognize and comprehend visual data. Applications for computer vision include object identification, self-driving automobiles, facial recognition, and many others. AI's capacity to collect and analyze enormous amounts of data considerably more quickly than humans is one of its main advantages. As a result, AI is perfect for jobs like predictive modeling and data analytics, where it can spot trends and insights that are hard or impossible for people to notice. For instance, AI-powered diagnostic tools can help doctors identify diseases quickly and precisely, and self-driving cars can lower accident rates and enhance traffic flow.

Healthcare, finance, transportation, and manufacturing are just a few of the sectors and areas where artificial intelligence is already in use. Artificial intelligence (AI) is utilized in the financial sector to identify fraud and enhance investment choices, and in the manufacturing sector, it can streamline production and boost quality assurance.

AI is also utilized in agriculture to enhance the management of crops and the observation of livestock. For instance, machine learning algorithms can examine information from cameras and sensors to provide real-time data on crop growth, soil quality, and pest infestations. By doing this, farmers may maximize crop yields, cut waste, and use less pesticides and fertilizers.

Precision agriculture is yet another area in which AI is used. Utilizing data and technology, precision agriculture adjusts crop management techniques to particular geographic regions, soil types, and other variables. With the use of AI, farmers can better anticipate crop yields and pinpoint regions that need more care by analyzing data from a variety of sources, including satellite pictures and weather forecasts. AI can also be used to enhance the management and observation of animals. For instance, using data from cameras and sensors, machine learning algorithms may analyze animal behavior changes and probable health issues. Earlier sickness detection and treatment AI has the potential to tackle some of the major issues confronting mankind, such as climate change and food security, in addition to these useful applications. AI, for instance, can assist in the development of more sustainable practices, such as cutting back on carbon emissions and water use. In order to ensure that more people have access to wholesome food, it can also help to increase crop yields and decrease food waste.

CURRENT PROGRESS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN AGRICULTURE SOIL MANAGEMENT:

As the major source of nutrition, soil retains water, phosphate, nitrogen, the mineral potassium, & proteins that are required for healthy development and growth of vegetation, making it one of the most essential elements for effective agriculture [13]. Composting and manure, which promote porosity in the soil and aggregation, may enhance soil

condition. An alternative tillage approach may also be employed to reduce soil physical deterioration. Negative aspects, such as soil-borne ailments and contaminants, might be decreased, for instance, by soil management [13].

Another illustration is the creation of soil maps using Artificial Intelligence, which aids in illustrating the relationships between the soil landscape and the different soil layers and proportions underneath [14]. By giving farmers access to real-time information about the fertility and health of their soils, artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to completely transform the field of soil management.

AI-powered technologies can assist farmers in making better informed decisions about crop rotation, fertilizer management, and irrigation by analysing data from numerous sources, such as soil sensors and satellite imaging. This results in higher agricultural yields and more environmentally friendly farming practices.

Precision farming is one of the key uses of AI in soil management. Utilizing data and technology, precision agriculture adjusts crop management techniques to particular geographic regions, soil types, and other variables. With the aid of artificial intelligence (AI), farmers can better estimate crop yields by analysing data from a variety of sources, including soil sensors, weather forecasts, and satellite imaging. They can also pinpoint regions that need more attention. To decide the best time to grow crops, for instance, AI-powered technologies may analyse soil data based on elements like soil temperature and moisture content. They can also assist farmers in selecting the optimal fertiliser kind and dosage based on the crop needs and soil nutrient levels. This may result in less usage of pesticides and fertilisers and more environmentally friendly farming methods.

AI can assist farmers in monitoring soil health and spotting possible difficulties before they turn into significant issues. Machine learning algorithms, for instance, can examine data from soil sensors to find changes in the soil's temperature, moisture content, and nutrient content.

This can assist farmers in locating fields that need more water or fertilisers so they can make necessary adjustments before crop yields are negatively impacted. Soil carbon sequestration is a further application of AI in soil management. It is possible to minimise greenhouse gas emissions and improve soil health by removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in the soil. Based on elements like soil type and vegetation cover, AI-powered technologies can assist farmers in identifying fields that are best suited for carbon sequestration.

AI can also be used to improve irrigation practices by analysing data from weather forecasts and soil sensors to establish the best times and amounts for irrigation. This can lower the need for water, increase crop yields, and lessen the chance of soil erosion and nutrient runoff. AI can also assist scientists in understanding the intricate relationships between soil, crops, and the environment in addition to these useful applications. For instance, machine learning algorithms may examine data from several sources, like weather patterns, soil moisture, and crop yields, to find patterns and insights that are hard or impossible for people to recognize.

Making more educated decisions regarding farming practices is one of the key advantages of employing AI in soil management. AI may assist farmers in optimising crop yields and minimising the use of fertilisers and pesticides, resulting in more sustainable farming practices. AI does this by delivering real-time insights regarding the health and fertility of the soil. AI can also assist in enhancing soil health and minimising the environmental impact of agriculture. AI-powered solutions can assist farmers in minimising their carbon footprint and enhancing the long-term sustainability of their farms by optimising irrigation operations, cutting back on the usage of fertilisers and pesticides, and encouraging carbon sequestration.

Despite these advantages, there are still difficulties and restrictions with applying AI to soil management. One difficulty is that the calibre and volume of data used to train AI algorithms determines how accurate they are. This implies that in order to guarantee the accuracy and efficiency of their AI models, farmers may need to invest in soil sensors and other data collection technologies.

Another issue is that AI models could contain prejudice or inaccuracies, especially if they were built on inaccurate or biased data. As a result, it's critical to make sure AI models are transparent, accountable, and that all farmers, regardless of their location or level of technology adoption, can benefit from them.

In conclusion, AI has the potential to revolutionise soil management by giving farmers real-time information about the fertility and health of their soils.

Weed Management :

One of the things that most considerably impacts a farmer's anticipated revenue is weeds: for example, if weed invasions is not managed, dry legumes and maize harvests may experience a fifty percent yielding loss, and competition from weeds could result in a 48% decline in wheat production. Notwithstanding the fact that certain weeds are hazardous and may even represent a concern to the health of the public, they nevertheless compete with plants for supplies like nutrients, water, and sunlight [13]. Although herbicide spray is widely used to control growth of vegetation, too much of it may affect both the environment and people's well-being.

Weeds provide a significant problem for farmers because they can deplete crop resources, lower crop yields, and raise the likelihood of crop failure. Herbicide use and manual weeding are two common traditional weed control techniques, both of which can be time-consuming, expensive, and environmentally damaging. AI, on the other hand, presents a possible alternative by giving farmers real-time data into weed development and empowering them to implement more focused and efficient control strategies.

The creation of weed recognition and classification systems is one of the key uses of AI in weed management.

For instance, a farmer could utilise a drone with a camera to capture pictures of their field from the air. The location and kind of weeds present in these photographs may then be determined by utilising AI algorithms to analyse these images. This would allow the farmer to apply herbicides or manually pull weeds only where they are required, for example, and only in those regions.

The creation of prediction models is another way AI is used to manage weeds. These models forecast when and where weeds are expected to appear using information from a variety of sources, including weather patterns, soil moisture levels, and crop growth phases.

By analysing data from several sources, like soil and weather conditions, AI may also be used to optimise the use of herbicides by figuring out when, how much, and how to apply them. By doing this, it may be possible to use less herbicides while still getting efficient weed control.

The ability to lessen the environmental impact of conventional weed management techniques is one advantage of employing AI in weed management. AI-powered technologies can help farmers use fewer herbicides while also lowering the likelihood of herbicide resistance and minimising the impact on non-target species by enabling them to employ more focused control measures.

As a result of giving farmers real-time insights into weed development and helping them to implement more focused and efficient control techniques, AI has the potential to revolutionise weed management. AI-powered solutions can assist farmers in increasing the sustainability and profitability of their businesses by decreasing the amount of herbicides used and reducing the environmental effect of conventional weed management techniques.

THE USE OF THE IOT (INTERNET OF THINGS) TECHNOLOGY:

The Internet of Things, also known as the IoT, is the network of networked objects for computers, mechanical devices, and other things, every one of which receives a unique identification and has the capacity to transmit data. As a consequence, interactions between humans or computers may be avoided. IoT is being developed based on numerous currently available technologies, such as RF recognition, cloud-based computing, and wireless networks of sensors (WSNs). IoT may be employed in a variety of sectors, including agricultural equipment, precision agriculture, monitoring and tracking, horticulture production, and monitoring. For example, knowledge consumption (which includes the entire life cycle of the product, the procedure for transportation, etc.), the capability to keep the knowledge over a specific period of time, as well as the capability to transmit, process, and produce information all have to be a part of the monitoring and tracking of agricultural goods chains. Agricultural enterprises may make wiser judgements, select collaborators intelligently, & save both money and time by scrutinising every aspect of the past of the product. The surveillance and tracing of the good's supply chain may also be utilised for commercial objectives, notably in establishing trust among the supplier and consumer. The IoT employs analysis of data in a number of methods, and the data could be in information from sensors, audio, image, or video forms, among others. Prediction, warehouse management, making decisions, management of agriculture, accurate application, coverage, and other disciplines all rely on analysis of information [14].

CHALLENGES OF PRACTICAL USE OF AI-BASED APPROACHES IN AGRICULTURE

Possible unequal future distribution of mechanisation:

According to the estimate of robot exports during the period 2011-13, an average 9 percent annual development throughout the United States, a 12 percent annual increase in countries in Asia and Australia, and an 8 percent yearly rise in Europe are projected.

This trend is anticipated to end up resulting in a 15 percent robotic penetration rate by 2030 as well as a 75 per cent robotic penetration rate by 2045. The distribution of mechanization, however, may be unequal as certain locations may not have access to resources and may be in hazardous conditions that cannot be improved by advances in science and technology [6]. Since the majority of AI systems depend on the Internet, for instance, their deployment in distant or rural regions may be hampered by the absence of a web service and lack of competence in managing AI operations [13].

As a consequence, a prolonged and erratically distributed adoption phase of AI in farming should be envisaged. In the meanwhile, it is uncertain whether the adoption will raise food production above some natural land-based restrictions or not [6].

Differences between control tests and real implementation:

Because of factors including altering illumination, sophisticated backdrops, angle of capturing, etc., the images produced when applied vary from the ones employed in control scenarios.

In addition, even at the same location, cereals produced in the agricultural area are morphologically diverse owing to the influence of various variables such as insects, soil, and inert elements. Consequently, a bigger and more diverse collection of control data was required to enhance the current classification accuracy as the physiological properties of individuals make the factors that must be taken into consideration when processing pictures more complicated. Nevertheless, despite the low quantity of case studies, techniques like the DBN (Deep Belief Networks) and CNN (Convolution Neural Network) promise thrilling prospective applications for processing immense quantities of complicated data [16].

Additionally, the most essential information should be analysed in order to decrease a system's response time. A system's ability to accomplish tasks reliably and swiftly is vital in defining its economic worth and has a substantial effect on user choice. Customers emphasise accuracy and efficiency above everything else [13].

Security and privacy:

Many physical devices, particularly the Internet of Things (IoT), are originally exposed to assaults on the hardware as they may be left unattended in an open location for extensive periods of time. The deployment of block tags, frequency-modified tags, encryption of data, and tag deletion rules are examples of standard security countermeasures. Location-based services are also subject to gadget capture attacks, meaning that following seizing the device, the attacker may extract cryptographic implementation and subsequently have uncontrolled access to the data on the device. The gateway, where data is delivered from the device and then transmitted to various infrastructure like the cloud, is a further site of assault for data.

The cloud servers are vulnerable to data corruption, which might cause unauthorised interference in the farm's automated procedures. Denial of service (DoS) assaults, logon abuse, and hijacking of sessions are some other techniques that could impair cloud systems. Cryptographic techniques, transmission of information control rules, authentication of identity mechanisms, etc. are some of the associated security regulations. As a consequence, security issues are having a detrimental influence and have to be addressed at various levels.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ROBOTS

The use of robotics in agriculture has been attempted for years in an effort to increase efficiency, reliability, and precision. This would significantly reduce the amount of manual labour required and replace it with labour-intensive automated work.

Automation holds the key to addressing important social issues like population ageing and decline, but it will always be difficult to carry out the precise and difficult tasks that farmers have historically performed to ensure high quality.

Robots for farming have been studied since the 1980s, and Japan was the first country to create a robot that can spray pesticide [18].

CONCLUSION

A summary of the application of artificial intelligence for farming is given in this review. In accordance to the current social scenario, which includes a decline in manual labor, a paucity of arable land, and a widening disparity between the quantity of food that is produced and the worldwide population, artificial intelligence (AI) has been researched and improved upon for years by scientists all over the world. The Turing Test is highlighted in the definitions of AI that are initially presented in this review. The management of soil and weeds, as well as the introduction of the Internet of Things (IoT), a helpful data analysis and storage technology with widespread use in agriculture, are the next two subfields in which AI has been shown to play a significant role.

This assessment also highlights three significant practical difficulties for AI in agriculture: First, the distribution of modern technology is uneven for a variety of geographic, social, and political reasons, which suggests that the use of AI will be constrained in some contexts. Second, despite significant advancements in recent years, it still takes a great deal of research and research to transition AI-based devices and algorithms from control experiments to actual agricultural contexts. The privacy of the data garnered and the safety of the devices employed in agricultural situations are additional challenges that need to be resolved. After that, this review concentrates on the progress of agricultural robots. First, a few cases of robots constructed to implement diverse activities in the agricultural industry are mentioned. There are 2 kinds of robots which manage weed issues and develop in a number of ways, such as being able to move around and the capability to differentiate between crops or weeds, in addition to mobile autonomous robots that can spray chemical pesticides in greenhouses as well, tractor models which employ GPS and machine vision to navigate and follow a pre-programmed travelling route, picking apples machines that utilise a system of Cartesian coordinates to locate things, and a fruit collecting machine with an innovative adaptable grip.

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