

## A Review Paper on Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Advanced Crop Management in the Digital Transformation of Agribusiness

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### ABSTRACT

The agribusiness technological revolution, driven by the evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), has revolutionized crop management with new opportunities for increasing productivity, sustainability, and efficiency. The current review paper analyzes the application of AI and ML technologies in crop management, highlighting precision farming, predictive analytics, and resource optimization. Machine learning and AI algorithms enable the analysis of vast amounts of sensor data, satellite imagery, and IoT device data to track crop health, soil health, and environmental conditions in real-time. The technologies enable vital operations such as crop yield prediction, pest and disease detection, irrigation scheduling, and efficient use of fertilizers and pesticides. Besides, the paper discusses the challenges and hurdles to the application of AI and ML in agriculture, such as the expensive cost of implementation, data privacy concerns, and the need for appropriate infrastructure. Furthermore, the paper discusses the capability of these technologies to ensure sustainable agriculture and food security through enhanced decision-making and utilization of resources. By identifying the current trends, challenges, and directions for research, this review aims to offer a comprehensive outlook of how AI and ML are transforming the future of crop management within the larger framework of digital transformation in agriculture.

**Keywords:** *Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Crop Management, Precision Farming, Digital Transformation.*

### 1. Introduction

International agriculture faces historical challenges posed by high population growth, global warming, and depleting natural resources, making classical farming techniques

increasingly inadequate (Oliveira & Silva, 2023). Back then, agricultural business saw a non-negotiable solution in digitalization by incorporating new technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to enhance crop management (Gebresenbet et

al., 2023). Modern systems nowadays incorporate data from sensors, drones, and satellites for monitoring soil conditions and plant health with extremely high precision (Kakani et al., 2020). Computer vision and deep learning technologies allow for early detection of pests and diseases, thus allowing for timely intervention (Talaviya et al., 2020). In-depth reviews have established that ML can significantly improve yield prediction and resource allocation (Sharma et al., 2021). All such developments aside, issues such as the expense of implementation, cyber security threats, and limited technical capability in rural areas continue to hinder mass adoption (Said Mohamed et al., 2021). This piece addresses the recent application of AI and ML in advanced crop management, evaluates their breakthrough potential, and identifies future avenues of research aimed at facilitating sustainable agribusiness (Jha et al., 2019).

### 1.1 Background and Motivation

Modern agriculture is increasingly challenged by unstable weather patterns, soil loss, and water shortages, which traditional practices struggle to reverse (Gebresenbet et al., 2023). It is possible with sensor networks, UAVs, and satellite data to monitor with precision the crucial parameters, permitting early pest and disease detection as well as targeted yield prediction (Talaviya et al., 2020). ML algorithms are constructed for predictive models to optimize the irrigation and input control of agricultural activities, thus maximizing total productivity and reducing waste (Shaikh et al., 2022). However, high start-up costs, data privacy and security issues, and low technical literacy in rural areas are among the major barriers to large-scale adoption of these technologies (Said Mohamed et al., 2021). Collaborative action of researchers, policy makers, and industry can help create a strong infrastructural support and regulatory environment to foster digital transformation in agribusiness (Oliveira & Silva, 2023).

### 1.1 Objectives of the Study

This paper aims to:

1. Discuss AI and ML uses in precision agriculture.
2. Discuss predictive analytics for yield optimization and resource management.
3. Identify significant challenges (economic, technical, ethical) preventing AI adoption.
4. Discuss future directions that integrate next-generation technologies with AI to promote sustainable agribusiness practices.

### 1.2 Methodology

This study uses a systematic review of the literature to evaluate current applications of Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in intensive crop management (Jha et al., 2019). Eighteen scholarly articles were selected from reputable databases based on pre-specified search terms such as "precision farming," "crop yield prediction," and "digital agribusiness" (Shaikh et al., 2022). Inclusion criteria included relevance to AI/ML in agriculture, publication in scientific journals, and access to complete data (Gebresenbet et al., 2023). Data extraction centred on significant themes such as crop monitoring, predictive analytics, and optimization of resources (Kakani et al., 2020). Findings were qualitatively synthesized to ascertain shared trends, challenges, and avenues for future research (Talaviya et al., 2020). Methodological stringency was attained in the review process through cross-validation by independent researchers (Said Mohamed et al., 2021). This method ensured overall knowledge acquisition on digital transformation in agribusiness, thus clearly ascertaining advantages and disadvantages in AI-based agricultural practice (Oliveira & Silva, 2023). Such a methodology offers a solid framework for our review indeed.

## 2. Using AI and ML in Precision Agriculture

With the development of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), precision farming transformed agriculture by enabling real-time data collection and analysis. The following is the main application that enhances crop management: in the subpart Crop and Soil Monitoring, sensor networks, unmanned aerial systems (UAVs), and satellite sensing provide high-resolution data on soil conditions and plant health (Kakani *et al.*, 2020). The Predictive Yield Modeling subpart explains how ML algorithms combine past and present data to predict yields precisely (Shaikh *et al.*, 2022). In the Automated Pest and Disease Detection subpart, deep learning and computer vision enable early detection and intervention, minimizing crop loss (Talaviya *et al.*, 2020). Collectively, these combined methods maximize resource utilization and increase productivity substantially (Gebresenbet *et al.*, 2023).

### 2.1 Crop and Soil Monitoring

Crop and soil monitoring is dependent on combining cutting-edge sensor networks, drones, and satellite imaging to obtain high-resolution data regarding soil moisture, nutrient content, and general crop health. All these technologies enable real-time, ongoing data capture necessary for field variability understanding. Data are analyzed through AI algorithms to produce actionable insights for optimizing irrigation, fertilization, and soil management practices (Kakani *et al.*, 2020). This strategy facilitates focused interventions and enhances the efficiency of resources, thus promoting crop productivity and sustainability (Gebresenbet *et al.*, 2023).

### 2.2 Predictive Yield Modeling

Predictive yield modeling employs Machine Learning (ML) algorithms that forecast crop yields using historical and current information. ML models, such as deep neural networks and regression models, examine parameters like

weather patterns, soil conditions, and past yield data to provide accurate predictions. The predictions help farmers plan planting schedules and modify resource allocation, thereby minimizing production risks and maximizing economic feasibility (Shaikh *et al.*, 2022). Their applications have made it possible for more rational decision-making in precision agriculture.

### 2.3 Automated Pest and Disease Detection

Deep learning algorithms and computer vision are utilized by automated disease and pest detection systems to image crops for initial signs of pest infestation and disease symptoms. Processing data captured by drones and fixed cameras, these systems can rapidly identify infested areas and trigger immediate interventions. Early detection not only reduces crop loss but also decreases excessive use of chemical pesticides (Talaviya *et al.*, 2020). The integration of these AI-based detection devices increases overall efficiency in crop management and enhances the quality of yield (Gebresenbet *et al.*, 2023).

## 3. Predictive Analytics in Agriculture

Predictive analytics in agriculture leverages sophisticated AI and ML methods to convert raw data into actionable information that informs effective crop management (Shadrin *et al.*, 2020). Through the analysis of records combined with real-time sensors and satellite imagery, predictive models predict weather patterns, schedule irrigation, and accurately estimate crop yields (Shaikh *et al.*, 2022). This section showcases four primary subsections: Weather and Climate Predictions, which applies neural networks to predict climatic variations; Smart Irrigation Systems, which control water intake based on moisture in the ground and forecasted weather; and Market Forecasts and Economic Modelling, which applies ML for predicting commodity prices and resource utilization (Oliveira & Silva, 2023).

### 3.1 Crop Yield Prediction Models Using AI and ML

Crop yield prediction models take recourse to historical information, remote sensing data, and environmental parameters for predicting yields for the future with high accuracy. These models are based on numerous ML approaches like regression, ensemble methods, and neural networks that are used for studying complex interdependencies among soil characteristics, climate conditions, and management operations (Kumar *et al.*, 2015). The ensuing predictions are helpful for decision-making at the stages of planting calendars, resource management, and market strategy, hence resulting in improved productivity overall (Kumar *et al.*, 2015).

### 3.2 Early Pests and Plant Disease Detection with ML Algorithms

Pest and disease detection at an early stage is essential to minimize losses in crops. ML models, especially convolutional neural networks (CNNs), scan images and sensor data for early indications of infestation and infection (Talaviya *et al.*, 2020). Such systems allow for intervention at the right time and accurate application of pesticides, minimizing chemical application and preventing extensive damage to crops (Saleem *et al.*, 2021).

### 3.3 AI-driven Climate and Weather Forecasting for Agriculture

Accurate weather prediction is vital for efficient farm management. Machine learning models blend historical meteorological data and present sensor measurements to predict localized climatic conditions, which can be utilized for irrigation scheduling and risk assessment (Shadrin *et al.*, 2020). Such sophisticated systems enable farmers to respond to dynamic weather conditions and reduce the negative impacts of climate variability (AlZubi & Galyna, 2023).

### 3.4 Machine Learning Approaches for Soil Health Assessment

Assessment of soil health with the aid of ML comprises the evaluation of nutrient status, pH, organic matter, and moisture levels by analyzing remote images and soil sensors' data (Gebresenbet *et al.*, 2023). These methods identify soil degradation and guide focused remediation for increasing fertility and sustainability (Kakani *et al.*, 2020). Such insights from resultant analysis help improve soil management as well as aid in sustaining agriculture in the long term.

## 4. Resource Optimization in Agribusiness

Optimizing resources is essential for sustainable agribusiness, maximizing yield while reducing wastage and environmental impact (Gebresenbet *et al.*, 2023). Advances in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning make it possible to optimally control water, fertilizers, pesticides, and labor using real-time sensor readings and historical trends (Shaikh *et al.*, 2022). This discusses practices such as smart irrigation systems that monitor water usage based on soil water and weather conditions, AI-fertilization methods that adjust the fertilizer application to the specific field conditions, precision spraying with computer vision, and autonomous farm equipment that automates backbreaking work (Jha *et al.*, 2019). Combined, these technologies enhance resource utilization efficiency and promote cost-saving and sustainable farming practices (Wongchai *et al.*, 2022). In all, there are advantages.

### 4.1. Smart Irrigation and Water Management through AI Algorithms

Smart irrigation systems use advanced AI algorithms that interpret information from soil moisture sensors, weather forecasts, and historical usage patterns to determine the best water distribution. The systems continuously observe field conditions and make real-time adjustments to irrigation schedules so that crops

receive the needed water without surplus (Talaviya et al., 2020). Through the observation of spatial and temporal variations in soil moisture, the algorithms can customize water application for each field zone, which maximizes water-use efficiency and improves crop health (Shaikh et al., 2022). Furthermore, integrating predictive models with remote sensing data allows farmers to forecast drought or overwatering conditions and hence reduce water wastage and associated energy costs (Talaviya et al., 2020). This accuracy-oriented approach corresponds to sustainable agriculture and conservation of resources in general (Shaikh et al., 2022).

#### **4.2 AI-driven Fertilization and Nutrient Management Strategies**

Artificial intelligence-based fertilization systems examine detailed soil nutrient profiles, such as pH, moisture, and organic matter, to suggest an ideal fertilizer application. The systems combine information from in-field sensors and remote imagery to identify nutrient deficiencies and modify inputs accordingly (Swaminathan et al., 2023). By applying fertilizers only where necessary, the system reduces chemical runoff and environmental contamination, thus maintaining soil health (Wongchai et al., 2022). The precision method also leads to cost reduction through the minimization of excess fertilizer use, while at the same time enhancing crop yield and quality (Wongchai et al., 2022). Such targeted nutrient management enhances economic sustainability and sustainable agriculture by matching inputs with the exact requirements of crops (Swaminathan et al., 2023).

#### **4.3 Precision Pesticide Application Using Machine Learning**

Accurate pesticide spraying is based on ML algorithms for the analysis of visual and sensor data to identify the early signs of infestations of

pests and diseases in plants. Through methods like convolutional neural networks, such systems can distinguish between infected tissues and healthy tissues of crops (Saleem et al., 2021). Drones and stationary cameras take real-time images, which are processed to identify regions that need treatment, allowing precision application of pesticides (Patrício & Rieder, 2018). This targeted method minimizes the total amount of pesticides applied, reducing environmental exposure and avoiding chemical excess (Saleem et al., 2021). Finally, precision pesticide application maximizes crop protection, reduces production costs, and promotes sustainable agriculture (Patrício & Rieder, 2018).

#### **4.4 AI-based Autonomous Farming Equipment for Resource Efficiency**

Artificial intelligence-driven autonomous farm machinery consists of robot planters, weeders, and harvesters that can function with minimal human involvement. They use AI algorithms and sensor data to navigate fields precisely and carry out tasks like planting, weeding, and harvesting (Jha et al., 2019). Their ability to make decisions in real-time enables them to make adjustments according to prevailing field conditions, providing very high precision and efficiency (Talaviya et al., 2020). By streamlining time-consuming tasks, such systems minimize dependency on manual labor and reduce operation expenses while saving on resources (Jha et al., 2019). Additionally, autonomous equipment improves efficiency by delivering constant performance, hence adding to sustainable agribusiness and better yields (Talaviya et al., 2020).

### **5. Limitations and Challenges of AI in Agriculture**

Though the revolutionary potential of AI in agriculture is immense, its mass adoption is hindered by several key challenges. The

prohibitive cost of sophisticated hardware, software, and expert training discourages numerous small-scale farmers (Said Mohamed et al., 2021). Data privacy and security issues also arise as agricultural processes become more digitized (Mekonnen et al., 2020). Lack of technical skills and outdated regulatory systems further complicate deployment (Idoje et al., 2021). These problems need to be addressed for sustainable digital agriculture. Solutions are needed urgently.

### **5.1 Economic and Financial Barriers**

High initial investment costs in AI technology, sensor networks, and robotics are too costly, especially for smallholder farms. It also takes time before the return on investment is achieved, which is a financial risk (Kumar et al., 2015). Government subsidies and investments from the private sector are needed to bridge these economic obstacles (Said Mohamed et al., 2021).

### **5.2 Policy and Regulatory Challenges**

The high rate of innovation in agricultural technology tends to outrun current regulatory systems. Poor policies, non-standardization, and inadequate government backing can impede the rollout of AI-based solutions in agriculture (Idoje et al., 2021). Having clear policies and enabling policies is crucial to promote innovation and ensure the safe, fair use of AI technologies.

### **5.3 Inadequate Rural Infrastructure**

Most rural regions do not have stable power supplies, high-speed internet, and advanced communication networks, which are essential for real-time data processing and transmission in AI systems. This infrastructure deficit inhibits the effective functioning and scalability of digital agricultural solutions (Oliveira & Silva, 2023).

### **5.4 Data Privacy and Security Concerns**

The increasing agriculture digitization produces enormous volumes of sensitive data relating to crop performance, soil well-being, and farm operations. The data are vulnerable to cyberattacks, unauthorized access, and data breaches that raise significant privacy and security concerns that must be addressed to create trust in the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (Mekonnen et al., 2020).

### **5.5 Shortage of Technical Expertise**

Proper implementation and upkeep of AI-based systems need technical expertise. Nevertheless, a significant lack of technical experts exists in rural settings, which restrains farmers from using and running these high-level technologies comprehensively (Shadrin et al., 2020).

### **5.6 Outdated Regulatory Frameworks**

Sudden technological developments in AI have surpassed the formulation of inclusive regulations. Inadequate or outdated regulatory regimes lead to uncertainties about the ownership of data, privacy, and safety standards, thus hindering investment and large-scale adoption of Artificial Intelligence in agriculture (Idoje et al., 2021)

## **6. Future Scope and Research Opportunities**

Future AI for agriculture research has promising lines, with integration with next-generation technologies, algorithmic evolution, and sustainable agriculture being highlighted (Elbasi et al., 2023). Key areas addressed in this section are IoT and edge computing integration, enhanced AI and ML models, and resilient, sustainable agriculture practices etc., with policy support (Swaminathan et al., 2023). These subparts give a direction to overcome existing challenges and maximize agribusiness efficiency. Future research will trigger major innovation.

### **6.1 Integration with IoT, Edge Computing, and Blockchain**

Systems of the future will have a closer fusion of AI and IoT devices, edge computing to process data in real-time, and blockchain to enable the secure exchange of data. This layered interaction

will enhance decision-making, promote data integrity, and improve traceability throughout the agricultural supply chain (Elbasi *et al.*, 2023)

Challenge	Description	Citation
<b>Economic and Financial Barriers</b>	The adoption of agriculture by AI is slowed down due to expensive investments in sophisticated hardware, software, and training due to limited exposure to finance as well as volatility in return on investment for small-scale farmers.	(Kumar <i>et al.</i> , 2015; Said Mohamed <i>et al.</i> , 2021)
<b>Inadequate Rural Infrastructure</b>	Most rural places do not have dependable high-speed internet, a stable power supply, and updated communication networks for real-time data transmission and successful AI operations in agriculture.	(Oliveira & Silva, 2023)
<b>Data Privacy and Security Concerns</b>	Mass-scale digitization of agricultural activities exposes sensitive farm data to cyber threats and unauthorized usage, leading to serious privacy and security concerns.	(Mekonnen <i>et al.</i> , 2020)
<b>Shortage of Technical Expertise</b>	There is a crucial technical knowledge gap among farmers, especially rural farmers, that hinders the effective implementation, utilization, and maintenance of AI systems in agriculture.	(Shadrin <i>et al.</i> , 2020)
<b>Outdated Regulatory Frameworks</b>	Existing policies and legislation have been behind the rapid pace of technological advancement, posing questions on data ownership, privacy, and safety standards, and slowing the extensive use of AI in agriculture.	(Idoje <i>et al.</i> , 2021)

**Table 1. Challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture.**

## 6.2 Advancements in AI and ML Algorithms

Future AI and ML models, such as reinforcement learning and federated learning, should continue to advance predictive precision and operational effectiveness in crop management. Further research in adaptive models will facilitate overcoming current challenges, especially in heterogeneous farm conditions (Sharma et al., 2021).

## 6.3 Sustainable and Resilient Farming Practices

AI has great potential to help achieve sustainable agriculture through reduced use of resources and environmental footprint. Climate-resilient varieties of crops and precision water and nutrient application can support long-term food safety and ecological stability (Saleem et al., 2021).

## 6.4 Policy Initiatives and Training Programs

To realize the maximum potential of AI in agriculture, policymakers must ensure research and development activities. The launch of government-sponsored training programs will enable farmers to learn skills for the implementation and maintenance of AI systems. Collaboration among academic institutions, private organizations, and government agencies is necessary to create a conducive ecosystem (Said Mohamed et al., 2021).

## 7 Conclusion

In this paper, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) roles as change drivers in modern agribusiness have been evaluated and established. AI-driven

solutions in precision agriculture, predictive analytics, and resource management were identified, and their effectiveness in improving crop tracking, yield prediction, and environmentally friendly farming can be observed. The article also discussed concerns such as implementation costs being too high, inadequate infrastructure, data security problems, and regulatory issues deterring large-scale use. With the review of 20 peer-reviewed articles, this article has reaffirmed the effectiveness of AI and ML in maximizing water usage, precision fertilizers, and automated pest control, offering solutions for greater efficiency and reduced loss of resources. Nonetheless, overcoming economic and technical challenges needs joint actions from researchers, policymakers, and industry players. Future studies need to concentrate on merging AI with IoT, edge computing, and blockchain to make it more scalable. Overcoming such challenges will boost the adoption of AI, ensuring sustainable, efficient, and technology-based agriculture for global food security.

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