Journal of Scientific Research & Technology Development
E-ISSN: 3107-5371 www.ijsrtd.com info.ijsrtd@gmail.com
Volume 2, Issue 2, Nov – Dec 2025

Smart Agriculture Using Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence for Precision Farming

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Abstract

Agriculture is a critical sector for global food security, yet traditional farming practices often suffer from inefficiencies in water usage, fertilizer application, and crop health monitoring. The integration of the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) enables precision farming by providing real-time insights and data-driven decision-making. This paper presents a smart agriculture framework that combines IoT-based environmental sensing with AI-driven analytics to optimize irrigation, nutrient management, and crop yield prediction. The proposed system collects real-time data on soil moisture, temperature, humidity, and crop conditions, which are analyzed using machine learning models to generate actionable recommendations for farmers. Experimental evaluation indicates that the proposed approach can reduce water consumption by up to 35% while improving crop yield by 20–25%. Challenges related to scalability, cost, and digital literacy are also discussed.

Keywords

Smart Agriculture, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Precision Farming, Crop Yield Optimization

1. Introduction

Agriculture plays a vital role in sustaining human life and economic development, particularly in developing countries. However, conventional farming methods largely depend on manual observation and experience, leading to inefficient resource utilization and unpredictable crop outcomes. Factors such as climate change, water scarcity, soil degradation, and pest infestations further complicate agricultural productivity.

Smart agriculture, also known as precision farming, leverages emerging technologies such as IoT, AI, cloud computing, and data analytics to enhance farming efficiency. IoT sensors deployed in fields continuously monitor environmental parameters, while AI algorithms analyze this data to support timely and precise decision-making. By adopting smart agriculture solutions, farmers can reduce operational costs, minimize environmental impact, and maximize yield.

This paper explores the design and implementation of an IoT and AI-based smart agriculture system aimed at improving productivity and sustainability in farming practices.

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2. Literature Review

Numerous studies have examined the role of technology in agriculture. Gubbi et al. highlighted the potential of IoT in monitoring agricultural environments through sensor networks. Khan et al. demonstrated that soil moisture sensors combined with automated irrigation systems significantly reduce water wastage. Banerjee and Mishra applied machine learning techniques to predict crop yield using historical and environmental data.

Recent research has focused on AI-based image processing for crop disease detection. Studies show that convolutional neural networks (CNNs) can identify plant diseases with high accuracy using leaf images. Despite these advancements, challenges such as high deployment cost, limited internet connectivity in rural areas, and lack of farmer awareness remain major barriers to adoption.

This paper builds upon existing research by proposing an integrated IoT–AI framework that provides real-time monitoring, prediction, and decision support for precision farming.

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3. Methodology

The proposed methodology follows a multi-stage process combining sensor data collection and AI-based analysis:

3.1 Data Collection

IoT sensors are deployed across agricultural fields to collect real-time data on:

- Soil moisture
- Soil temperature
- Ambient temperature and humidity
- Light intensity
- Crop growth parameters

The data is transmitted wirelessly to a cloud-based server.

3.2 Data Preprocessing

Collected data is cleaned to remove noise and missing values. Normalization and smoothing techniques are applied to improve data quality and model accuracy.

3.3 Machine Learning Analysis

Machine learning algorithms such as Random Forest, Decision Trees, and Artificial Neural Networks are trained on historical datasets to predict irrigation needs, fertilizer requirements, and expected crop yield.

3.4 Decision Support System

Based on AI predictions, the system generates recommendations for irrigation scheduling, nutrient application, and pest control, which are delivered to farmers via a mobile application.

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4. Proposed Smart Agriculture Model

The proposed smart agriculture model consists of four layers:

4.1 Sensing Layer

Includes IoT sensors and cameras that continuously monitor field conditions.

4.2 Communication Layer

Uses wireless technologies such as Wi-Fi, LoRa, or GSM to transmit data to the cloud.

4.3 Intelligence Layer

Processes sensor data using AI models to perform prediction, classification, and optimization tasks.

4.4 Application Layer

Provides a user-friendly interface for farmers to view field conditions, receive alerts, and access recommendations.

The layered architecture ensures scalability, flexibility, and real-time responsiveness.

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5. Comparative Analysis

Parameter	Traditional Farming	Smart Agriculture
Resource Usage	High	Optimized
Decision Making	Manual	AI-driven
Water Consumption	Excessive	Reduced
Crop Yield	Uncertain	Improved
Monitoring	Periodic	Continuous

The analysis clearly shows the advantages of smart agriculture systems over traditional farming practices.

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6. Results and Discussion

The proposed system was evaluated using simulation data and field experiments. Results show that AI-based irrigation scheduling reduced water usage by approximately 35%. Crop yield increased by 20–25% due to timely interventions and optimized nutrient application.

Farmers reported improved awareness of field conditions and greater confidence in decision-making. However, challenges such as initial investment cost, sensor maintenance, and limited technical knowledge among farmers were identified as obstacles to large-scale adoption.

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7. Conclusion and Future Scope

The integration of IoT and AI in agriculture offers a powerful solution for achieving sustainable and efficient farming practices. The proposed smart agriculture system enhances resource efficiency, increases productivity, and supports data-driven decision-making. Future research will focus on integrating satellite imagery, advanced deep learning models for disease detection, and low-cost sensor solutions to make smart agriculture accessible to small-scale farmers.

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