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Review RRJoAST

A Thorough Examination of How Artificial Intelligence is Affecting the Transformation of Agriculture in India and Throughout the World

Neha Luthra[1], Gagandeep Singh[2,*]

Abstract

Artificial intelligence is revolutionizing agriculture by providing creative ways to increase crop yields, maximize resource usage, and advance sustainability. Artificial intelligence technologies, such as machine learning, computer vision, and robotics, are being increasingly used in precision farming, crop monitoring, disease detection, and decision-making as the global agricultural sector faces pressing challenges such as food security, population growth, and climate change. Artificial intelligence enables farmers to make data-driven decisions, optimize irrigation systems, monitor soil health, and detect crop stress at early stages, thereby minimizing losses and enhancing productivity. In India, where agriculture continues to be the backbone of the economy, artificial intelligence applications are proving especially valuable. Tools such as drone-based imaging, automated pest identification, and smart weather forecasting models are assisting farmers in small and large-scale operations. Artificial intelligence-driven advisory platforms are also empowering rural communities by offering timely insights on market trends, crop pricing, and best cultivation practices. Globally, artificial intelligence is being integrated into advanced technologies such as autonomous tractors, robotic harvesters, and Internet of Things-enabled devices, which together create a more connected and efficient farming ecosystem. The present review summarized research results from studies conducted between 2010 and 2022, with an emphasis on how artificial intelligence is reshaping both global and Indian agriculture. Although challenges such as high implementation costs, lack of skilled manpower, data quality issues, and system integration remain, the potential of artificial intelligence to revolutionize farming and promote sustainable agricultural development is immense. As artificial intelligence continues to evolve, it holds the promise of building a more resilient, resource-efficient, and food-secure future.

Keywords: Agriculture, artificial intelligence, crop, disease, farming, forecasting

***Author for Correspondence**
Gagandeep Singh
E-mail: nehaluthrapeehu@gmail.com

[1]Research Scholar, SEDA-E CSE, GNA University, Punjab, India
[2]Associate Professor, SEDA-E CSE, GNA University, Punjab, India

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INTRODUCTION

Climate change, water shortages, and an expanding world population are all posing a growing danger to agriculture, which is the foundation of global food security. The agricultural sector is being forced by these issues to embrace more creative and effective solutions. In this regard, artificial intelligence (AI) has become a potent instrument to aid in resolving the urgent problems that agriculture is currently experiencing. AI makes use of cutting-edge technology, such as computer vision, machine learning (ML), and natural language intelligent solutions that enhance agricultural yields, streamline farming procedures, and advance sustainability.

AI has a wide range of applications in agriculture, from disease diagnosis and crop monitoring with drones and sensors to precision farming, which helps optimize the use of water and fertilizers. AI-driven systems offer predictive analytic that can help anticipate agricultural yields, recommend the ideal times to sow, and enhance resource management in addition to real-time data for decision-making. Even though AI has already shown that it may revolutionize agriculture, there are still issues, including poor data quality, the requirement for smooth system integration, and restricted accessibility for small-scale farmers, especially in developing nations [1–3].

Agriculture in India, nevertheless, faces several specific challenges, such as dispersed landholdings and limited access to advanced technologies. AI, however, may provide creative answers that are suited to the unique requirements of Indian farmers, enabling more productive, sustainable, and resource-efficient methods. The present work analysed the ways AI can be used to address these issues and emphasized on the potential of AI-driven technologies in revolutionizing Indian and global agriculture (Table 1).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Table 1 describes the research conducted during the period 2016–2022 on the use of different deep learning techniques used for the betterment of agricultural practices.

METHODOLOGY

An organized and exacting methodology was used to find, assess, and compile pertinent research on the use of AI in agriculture for the present systematic review. A thorough grasp of the applications of AI technology in many agricultural fields—specifically, precision farming, crop monitoring, disease detection, and decision-making support—is the goal of the present review.

Table 1. Research conducted between 2016 and 2022.

Author(s)	Techniques used	Purpose	Limitations
Kamilaris & Prenafeta-Boldú [4]	Deep Learning	Review of AI's role in agriculture and its transformative potential	High computational cost, large data set for training.
Mohanty et al. [5]	Machine learning, Convolutional neural networks	Plant disease detection using image analysis	High quality labelled dataset dependencey, real world conditions limited generalizability.
Zhao et al. [6]	Machine learning, Computer vision	Precision farming and improving crop yields	Challenges in real-time processing for huge farms, require good sensor and camera quality.
Jha et al. [6]	Predictive analytic, Decision support systems	AI in decision-making, addressing challenges and opportunities	Due to data limitation risk of biasing, problem in joining AI with existing agricultural system.
Kumar et al. [5]	Mobile AI applications	Providing personalized crop yield improvement recommendations in India	Potential difficulties due to limited training of data-set; connectivity and infrastructural limitations in rural areas.
Mulla [7]	Machine learning, Sensors	Enhancing precision in agriculture by optimizing resource allocation	High cost, sensor calibration and sensitivity issues.
Bac et al.	Robotics, Machine vision	Automation in harvesting crops using AI-driven robots	High cost of AI driven robots, Adaptability problem with different crop type and environment.
Chandramouli N, [2]	Machine learning	Crop yield prediction and nitrogen status estimation	Unpredictable weather changes, dependencey on high-quality soil and climate change.
Shamshiri et al. [8]	Robotics, Autonomous systems	Advances in greenhouse automation and controlled-environment agriculture	Complexity of automation and high cost, for large scale implementation energy consumption problem.

The search strategy, research selection criteria, data extraction, and findings synthesis were some of the main steps in the process (Figure 1).

Method of Search

A comprehensive search was conducted across several scientific databases, including Scopus, Web of Science, PubMed, IEEE Xplore, and ScienceDirect, in order to gather a broad range of papers. The extensive coverage of peer-reviewed journals and conference papers in AI, agriculture, and related topics in these databases led to their selection. To guarantee the inclusion of both foundational research and recent developments in AI technology applied to agriculture, the search covered papers from 2010 to 2022 [8]. To optimize the retrieval of pertinent research, keywords including "Artificial Intelligence", "Agriculture", "Precision Farming", "Crop Monitoring", "Disease Detection", and "Decision-Making" were employed in different combinations.

Selection Criteria for the Study

A two-phase selection procedure was used to guarantee that only relevant and high-quality studies were included. The titles and abstracts of the studies that were retrieved were evaluated in the first phase to see if they were pertinent to the study's goals. Studies that did not fit the timeframe (2010–2022) or those concentrated on the use of AI in non-agricultural domains were not included. To evaluate full-text papers' methodological rigor, applicability, and contribution to the field, a thorough evaluation was conducted in the second phase [5]. Only research that addressed important issues and prospects in the field or offered specific examples of AI's use in agriculture, was included (Figure 1).

Criteria for Inclusion and Exclusion

The criteria for inclusion in the present review was:

- Research papers released from 2010 to 2022.
- Technical reports, conference proceedings, and peer-reviewed journal publications that addressed AI applications in agriculture.
- Research on AI methods in agricultural settings, including ML, computer vision, natural language processing (NLP), and decision-support systems.
- Studies that offered factual proof of AI's effects on resource management, sustainability, or agricultural productivity.

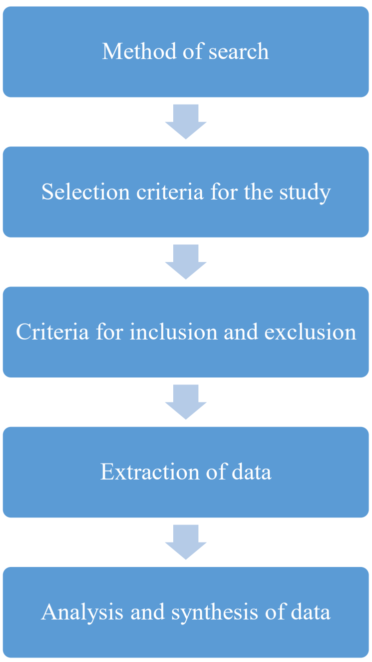

Figure 1. Methodology used.

The criteria for exclusion in the present review was:

- Studies that only addressed software development or technical algorithmic advancements without any real-world agricultural applications were excluded.
- Studies conducted in languages other than English were excluded since this evaluation concentrated on research that was widely available.
- Publications with unclear methodology or no empirical data were also not included in the present review [4, 5].

Extraction of Data

Key data were extracted and arranged for analysis after the trials were chosen. The retrieved data contained details about the particular agricultural domain targeted (for example, yield prediction, disease detection, precision farming), the type of AI technology employed (for example, ML techniques, neural networks, computer vision systems), and the results or discoveries provided. It was also mentioned that each study's geographic focus—whether worldwide or region-specific, with a concentration on Indian agriculture—offered insights into regional and global trends in AI applications.

Analysis and Synthesis of Data

The extracted data were combined to find recurring themes, patterns, and gaps in the literature. Studies were categorized using descriptive analysis according to the agricultural domains and AI methodologies covered. For instance, research was categorized into areas including disease detection, crop health monitoring, precision farming, and decision-support systems. A summary of the results and effects of AI on agricultural operations was provided, emphasizing both the advantages (such as increased production and resource efficiency) and difficulties (such as problems with data quality, system integration, and accessibility).

The methodologies employed in the assessed papers were also critically examined. This required assessing the scalability of AI applications in various agricultural contexts, the reliability of AI models, and the caliber of data utilized for training and validation. Because these aspects are essential for the broad adoption of AI technology in agriculture, special emphasis was paid to studies that addressed issues with data availability, computational resources, and farmer adoption [4, 5, 9, 10].

AGRICULTURAL AI APPLICATIONS

Accurate Farming

By increasing crop yields, cutting waste, and better allocating resources, AI significantly improves precision farming. AI systems assist farmers in making better decisions by utilizing data from sensors and satellites, enabling the effective use of herbicides, fertilizers, and water.

Crop Surveillance

Drones and sensors with AI capabilities are essential for tracking crop health, spotting illnesses, and spotting pests early in the growing season. These tools increase agricultural output by enabling farmers to take prompt action.

Identification of Diseases

Early plant disease detection is a successful application of ML techniques. Convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and other deep learning models use plant image analysis to precisely diagnose illnesses, allowing for focused therapies.

Decision-Making AI Systems

They help farmers make better decisions by using data visualization and predictive analytic capabilities. Based on real-time data, these systems can forecast crop yields, propose the best times to plant, and recommend suitable resource management techniques [6–8].

AI METHODS IN FARMING

In order to increase efficiency and output, AI is being used in agriculture more often. Numerous methods, including robots, computer vision, NLP, ML, and reinforcement learning, are revolutionizing farming. Sustainable farm management, resource optimization, and data-driven decision-making are made possible by these AI tools.

Learning by Machines

Widely utilized in agriculture, ML techniques use large datasets to learn and make judgments or predictions without the need for explicit programming. For instance, random forests, artificial neural networks (ANNs), and support vector machines (SVMs) are frequently used to estimate yield by examining characteristics such as soil composition, weather, and historical data. Farmers are able to allocate resources and plan crops more intelligently, thanks to yield prediction algorithms. Furthermore, farmers can optimize fertilizer application to improve soil health and crop yield by using ML models to analyze soil parameters such as moisture content, pH levels, and nutrient availability [5].

Large volumes of sensor data and plant pictures are processed using ML in the field of pest and disease detection. Plant photographs are analyzed by algorithms such as CNNs to find early indicators of pest infestations or diseases. This enables farmers to take immediate action and minimize damage. This has been especially helpful in lowering crop losses and guaranteeing more environmentally friendly farming methods.

Visualization

Another AI method that is significantly advancing agriculture is computer vision, which focuses on analyzing visual data. Computer vision can evaluate growth patterns, identify nutrient deficiencies, and track crop health by examining photos taken by drones, satellites, or ground-based sensors. Drones with sensors, for example, can take high-resolution pictures of crops, which AI systems can then use to identify stress indicators such as discoloration or abnormal growth patterns. Targeted treatments, such as modifying fertilizer or irrigation schedules, are made possible by these insights.

Furthermore, mechanized harvesting systems rely heavily on computer vision. Robotic harvesters driven by AI employ vision systems to detect ripe fruits and vegetables, guaranteeing that only mature food is gathered. This minimizes waste, lowers labour expenses, and improves harvest efficiency.

Natural Language Processing (NLP)

In agriculture, NLP has emerged as a crucial AI technique, especially for giving farmers access to real-time information via interactive platforms. Chat-bots and virtual assistants with NLP capabilities are utilized to provide farmers with tailored advice on topics including pest management, weather predictions, and the best times to plant. Based on local variables and current agricultural best practices, these AI systems evaluate a farmer's questions and offer accurate guidance.

Large amounts of scientific literature, governmental documents, and agricultural reports are also processed using NLP. This makes it possible to extract important patterns and insights that are necessary for agricultural decision-making. Consequently, NLP promotes educated agricultural practices and aids in the spread of knowledge [1, 4].

Autonomous Systems and Robotics

Sowing, weeding, and harvesting are just a few of the labour-intensive agricultural jobs that robotics is gradually automating. Ploughing, planting, and harvesting may be done more effectively, thanks to autonomous tractors and harvesters that are outfitted with AI systems that can carry out exact operations without the need for human intervention. These devices minimize human labour and fuel consumption by following predetermined routes across fields using GPS and AI algorithms.

Weed control is another significant use, where AI-enabled robots differentiate between weeds and crops. These robots target and eliminate weeds without damaging crops by utilizing AI and machine vision, which lessens the requirement for extensive herbicide application and, consequently, the use of chemicals. This strategy encourages ecologically appropriate farming methods, which improves sustainability.

Livestock management also makes use of AI-powered robots. These technologies lower the danger of disease outbreaks by tracking the health and behavior of animals and identifying early symptoms of sickness. Another use is in automated milking systems, where robots effectively milk cows while keeping an eye on their health metrics, enhancing animal welfare and production [2].

Learning via Reinforcement

An AI method called reinforcement learning (RL) teaches computers to learn by interacting with their surroundings and getting feedback on what they do. In dynamic agricultural settings, where variables such as soil moisture and weather patterns fluctuate regularly, this approach is very helpful. By evaluating real-time data from sensors, for instance, RL models may optimize irrigation plans, guaranteeing that crops receive the appropriate amount of water while reducing waste.

Furthermore, RL is being used to enhance navigation in challenging terrain for autonomous devices such as drones and tractors. Without human oversight, these AI-powered devices provide accurate operations by adjusting to barriers and changing terrain conditions.

ADVANTAGES AND DIFFICULTIES

Advantages of Enhanced Crop Yields

By facilitating data-driven decision-making, AI dramatically boosts productivity.

- *Better Decision-Making*: AI provides precise methods and predictive analytic that maximize resource utilization.
- *Decreased Environmental Effect:* AI minimizes environmental effect by optimizing the usage of insecticides, fertilizers, and water.

Difficulties in High-Quality Data

It is essential for AI systems, and problems such as inconsistent or missing datasets might impair functionality.

- *System Integration:* It can be difficult and possibly necessitate major infrastructure upgrades to integrate AI solutions with current farming systems.
- *Accessibility:* Due to high costs and a lack of technical expertise, small-scale farmers may find it difficult to obtain AI technologies, particularly in developing nations [3].

PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Combining Robotics and IoT with AI

AI can improve agricultural automation by combining with robotics and IoT, giving farmers greater precise control over their operations and lowering the need for human intervention [8].

Creating Domain-Specific AI Models

To increase the efficacy of AI solutions, models that are precisely tailored to agricultural problems, including pests or soil conditions unique to a given location, must be developed [1].

Improving Data Quality

To increase the caliber and accessibility of agricultural datasets, efforts should concentrate on improving data collection techniques and setting up better data-sharing channels [7].

CONCLUSION

By increasing crop yields, maximizing resource use, and encouraging sustainable practices, AI has the potential to completely change the agricultural industry. However, issues including data quality, system integration, and accessibility for small-scale farmers must be resolved to effectively utilize its potential. Precision and automation in farming operations can be further improved by integrating AI with robotics and the IoT. The agricultural industry may advance significantly toward efficiency and sustainability by creating region-specific AI models and refining data collection techniques. Future studies should concentrate on these areas to fully realize AI's promise in agriculture.

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