

AI-POWERED IOT FRAMEWORK FOR SMART IRRIGATION AND FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT IN PRECISION FARMING

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ABSTRACT

The convergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) is transforming conventional agricultural practices into intelligent, data-driven systems that enhance productivity and sustainability. This research presents a novel AI-powered IoT framework for smart irrigation and fertilizer management in precision farming, aimed at optimizing resource utilization and improving crop yield in real time. The system envisioned combines an IoT sensor network of high density to monitor important environmental and agronomic variables in real time, including soil water content, nutrient levels, humidity, temperature, and crop phenology. These streams are then analyzed using AI-powered algorithms such as Random Forest, LSTM networks, and Reinforcement Learning models to power predictive analysis and adaptive decision-making. Random Forest algorithm assists in soil condition classification and estimation of nutrient deficits, whereas LSTM models predict irrigation needs by examining time series patterns in soil moisture and weather readings. Reinforcement Learning automatically tunes irrigation planning and fertilizer application based on real-time feedback from soil sensors and vegetation response indicators to provide maximum water and nutrient supply with minimum wastage. The combination of edge analytics and cloud computing guarantees real-time processing of data, remote monitoring, and autonomous control via a centralized dashboard shared among farmers and agricultural stakeholders. Field trials prove that the system cuts water and fertilizer use by as much as 30%

compared to traditional methods while also improving yield consistency and fertility of soil. Further, the modular and scalable design accommodates varied crop varieties and weather conditions and can, therefore, be suitable for small as well as industrial-sized farms. This research not only confirms the performance effectiveness of AI–IoT convergence in precision agriculture but also underscores its potential to solve global issues with food security, resource limitation, and environmental sustainability. Through intelligent automation and ongoing optimization, the envisioned AI-driven IoT framework is an evolutionary leap towards sustainable smart farming systems, where data intelligence informs all farm decisions from soil to harvest.

KEYWORDS: Precision Agriculture, IoT, Artificial Intelligence, Smart Irrigation, Fertilizer Management, Machine Learning, Sustainability.

1. INTRODUCTION

The twenty-first century is seeing an unprecedented intersection of digital revolution and agriculture. While the world's population keeps growing projected to reach more than 9.7 billion by 2050 the world demand for food, water, and land is increasing at a pace unprecedented in history. Nevertheless, agriculture is confronted with a range of restraints, such as dwindling natural resources, uncertain climatic patterns, and the imperative of sustainable food production systems. Traditional farming, based predominantly on manual observation and empirical decision-making, is increasingly incapable of addressing current food security and environmental sustainability requirements. The imperative to optimize resource utilization and productivity has driven the development of Precision Agriculture (PA) a technology-based model exploiting data analysis, sensing technologies, and automation for optimizing agriculture production.

1.1 The Shift towards Intelligent Farming

Traditional farming methods rely frequently on human judgment, experience, and fixed crop calendars. Although such methods have supported agricultural output for centuries, they do not take into consideration the high variability of soil environments, microclimate changes, and crop nutrient needs. The blanket application of water and fertilizer results in serious inefficiencies over-irrigation producing waterlogging and nutrient leaching, while under-irrigation leads to crop stress and yield loss. Additionally, improper use of fertilizers also causes environmental degradation in the form of nitrate runoff, eutrophication, and soil pollution. To address these challenges, Precision Agriculture presents the concept of site-

specific crop management (SSCM), where inputs such as irrigation and fertilizers are tailored according to localized conditions within a field. This is done by a combination of Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms, and cloud-based analytics. The combination of these technologies provides a transition from reactive to predictive agriculture, allowing farmers to take decisions in real-time using data-driven insights to improve productivity while conserving natural resources.

1.2 IoT in Data Collection in Agriculture

IoT is the core of intelligent farming systems. IoT devices like soil moisture sensors, pH sensors, temperature sensors, humidity sensors, and nutrient sensors are installed over agricultural lands to gather constant streams of data. These sensors record spatial and temporal fluctuations in environment and soil conditions to produce high-resolution data sets needed for precision management. The gathered data is sent using wireless communication protocols such as Zigbee, LoRaWAN, NB-IoT, and 5G networks to cloud servers or edge devices for processing. IoT gateways do initial filtering and aggregation of sensor data before passing it on to central AI systems. With such networked connections, farmers have real-time access to their soil conditions, making it possible to intervene in a timely and maximize resource usage. For instance, soil moisture sensors installed at various depths can indicate differences in moisture levels in different root zones, making it possible to irrigate exactly where needed. Likewise, nutrient sensors can detect deficiency of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K), making it necessary to apply fertilizer site specifically. This level of granular detail makes static irrigation schedules dynamic, demand-driven systems.

1.3 AI Integration for Smart Decision-Making

Whereas IoT sensors furnish copious data, its true value is in its interpretation. Artificial Intelligence (AI) plays a critical role here. AI algorithms (such as machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) processes) take raw sensor data and derive meaningful patterns, correlations, and predictions. The AI algorithms can forecast irrigation requirements, calculate nutrient uptake, and even foresee plant stress resulting from water shortages, extreme temperatures, or insect attack. Some of the leading algorithms in smart agriculture include Random Forest (RF), Support Vector Machines (SVM), Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. The Random Forest algorithm is strong when classifying the type of soil and forecasting crop yield responses to varying levels of irrigation and fertilizers. LSTM networks, given their strong capability to process time-

series data, are utilized to predict soil moisture patterns, rain probabilities, and evapotranspiration rates from past sensor measurements and weather conditions. Reinforcement Learning (RL) is proving to be a strong optimizer of irrigation and fertilization policies. RL agents learn over continuous feedback loops between field sensors and crop reactions, allowing adaptive control policies that get better over time. For example, an RL-based irrigation controller has the ability to adjust water delivery schedules dynamically depending on soil dryness, growth stage of plants, and expected rainfall, thus optimizing yield while minimizing waste.

1.4 Smart Irrigation and Fertilizer Management Systems

Irrigation and fertilization are two of the most important operations in agriculture. Agriculture accounts for more than 70% of global freshwater withdrawals, and fertilizer abuse is a serious environmental concern. Hence, intelligent irrigation and fertilizer management systems have to be developed for long-term sustainability. In an intelligent irrigation system, sensor data from soil moisture sensors, humidity sensors, and temperature sensors are processed by AI algorithms to calculate optimal irrigation timing and quantities. The irrigation system brought to life with automated pumps and solenoid valves may be operated remotely by means of a cloud-based dashboard or a mobile app. Sophisticated frameworks also include weather forecasting models based on satellite and meteorological data to forecast rainfall, evaporation, and temperature variations, further optimizing irrigation decisions. For the management of fertilizers, AI models analyze in-real-time soil nutrient levels and crop growth phase to determine the exact fertilizer dose needed. Variable Rate Technology integration enables differential application across zones of a field using GPS-enabled actuators, resulting in uniform crop growth while reducing nutrient runoff. These IoT-AI-driven systems not only conserve water and fertilizer but also enhance soil health and crop resistance.

1.5 Cloud and Edge Computing in Smart Farming

The use of IoT sensors creates enormous amounts of data that must be processed, stored, and analyzed in an efficient manner. Cloud computing offers scalable infrastructure for data storage, advanced analytics, and machine learning model deployment. Farmers and agronomists receive access to insights via cloud-based dashboards that graphically represent critical metrics like soil health, crop status, and irrigation performance. Nevertheless, because of network latency and connectivity issues in rural places with far distances, edge computing

has come to the fore. Edge devices carry out localized data processing near the source on site so that real-time decision-making is possible with sporadic internet connection. A hybrid cloud–edge architecture provides high-speed responsiveness as well as long-term data analytics ability. This structure is critical to autonomous activities, like automatic control of irrigation or fertilizer injection, without the need for continuous human monitoring.

1.6 System Architecture of the Postulated Framework

The proposed AI-driven IoT framework in this research has four main layers: Perception Layer, Network Layer, Processing Layer, and Application Layer. Perception Layer:

These are all the IoT devices and sensors that have been fielded. Sensors monitor soil parameters (moisture, pH, nutrients), environmental factors (temperature, humidity, sunlight), and crop health parameters (chlorophyll and leaf wetness). Sensors are the basis of the data acquisition system. Network Layer: Data read from sensors are forwarded by low-power wireless networks like LoRa WAN or Zigbee to a central IoT gateway. The gateway maintains data integrity, does initial filtering, and sends data safely to the cloud. Processing Layer: The core of the system where AI and ML algorithms are run. The Random Forest classifier classifies soil and nutrient conditions; the LSTM model forecasts future irrigation requirements, and the Reinforcement Learning controller adjusts irrigation schedule and fertilizer amounts in real-time based on performance feedback. Application Layer: The results are then visualized on a simple-to-use dashboard that gives farmers actionable insights. Alerts and suggestions can be automatically pushed to mobile devices or coupled with actuator systems for autonomous irrigation and fertilization. This multilayer architecture guarantees modularity, scalability, and interoperability critical demands for deploying intelligent farming systems over various agricultural settings.

1.7 Significance of Real-Time Monitoring and Automation

Real-time monitoring is a characteristic feature of contemporary precision farming systems. Continuous data streams enable instant anomaly detection of sensor faults, irrigation faults, or nutrient imbalance. Through the use of predictive analytics, the system can also provide early warnings on impending drought stress or nutrient deficiencies before symptoms are visible. Automated control mechanisms guarantee prompt corrective measures, such as starting an irrigation cycle or varying fertilizer flow. The automation not only saves manual effort and operational expenses but also eliminates human error. For example, conventional irrigation scheduling tends to rely on farmers' subjective judgment of soil dryness, resulting in erratic

watering. In contrast, the AI-IoT-based irrigation systems provide objective, data-driven decisions according to quantitative parameters, providing uniform and effective water delivery.

1.8 Environmental and Economic Impact

The implementation of AI-IoT-based smart farm technologies has a strong environmental and economic impact. Water conservation is one of the immediate benefits, with research indicating a 25–40% reduction in water consumption compared to conventional practices. Precision fertilizer application reduces chemical runoff and soil deterioration, encouraging long-term soil fertility and biodiversity. From an economic perspective, enhanced use of inputs translates into lower operating costs and enhanced crop yield. Farmers realize higher margins because of increased efficiency, quality, and uniformity of crops. In addition, predictive analytics enable improved planning of markets through the prediction of yields and harvest dates, enabling synchronization with demand and pricing plans in the market.

1.9 Research Motivation and Objectives

The research motivation is in the bridge between theoretical smart farming models and their actual, scalable implementation in real-world agricultural environments. The main aims of the proposed research are: To develop and deploy an AI-driven IoT system for intelligent irrigation and fertilizer control that enables real-time monitoring and control. To use machine learning models like Random Forest, LSTM, and Reinforcement Learning for predictive and adaptive decision support.

To compare the system performance in water savings, fertilizer use efficiency, crop yields, and environmental resilience. To develop a scalable and modular architecture that can be configured to accommodate a variety of crops and agro-climatic zones.

2. Literature Review:

The convergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) has emerged as a bedrock in revolutionizing conventional farming into a data-driven and intelligent platform. There are several research studies that have examined AI- and IoT-based methods for enhancing irrigation efficiency, fertilizer application, and crop monitoring. Most current systems are concentrating on disconnected functions instead of an integrated real-time platform with irrigation and fertilizer management. This part critically discusses recent trends

in research, the algorithms, methodologies, and shortcomings of current works within the field of precision agriculture.

2.1 IoT-Enabled Precision Irrigation Systems

Smart irrigation systems based on IoT have gained traction with their promise to lower water usage and enhance irrigation scheduling precision. Patel et al. (2025) created a neural network-informed irrigation model that utilized soil moisture and temperature sensors to maximize water usage with about 22% water savings over traditional scheduling strategies. Their research ensured the credibility of AI-based decision-making in real-time but did not incorporate integration with fertilizer management. In a similar fashion, Chen et al. (2024) suggested an LSTM-informed weather forecasting model incorporated within a smart irrigation controller. The system forecasted rain events and accordingly changed irrigation plans, resulting in enhanced water efficiency. The model was demanding in terms of computing capabilities and cloud dependence, which could be inappropriate for resource-constrained farms. Zhou et al. (2024) described a hybrid IoT-cloud infrastructure that gathered soil moisture and evapotranspiration information from dispersed sensors. Their decision-support tool employed Random Forest regression to forecast irrigation requirements under fluctuating climate conditions. While the system enhanced responsiveness to changing weather, it did not have dynamic feedback control for fertilizer optimization.

2.2 AI in Fertilizer Suggestion and Nutrient Planning

Accurate management of soil nutrients is essential for sustainable agriculture. Conventional fertilization approaches are based on lab tests, which are inefficient and time-consuming. To counter this, predictive systems based on AI have been used to make site-specific nutrient delivery. Reddy et al. (2023) presented an IoT-based fertilizer recommendation system that incorporated cloud-based analysis to determine soil nutrient content and plant growth stage. Their study accounted for a yield boost of 15%, proving the efficacy of combining IoT with AI for nutrient management. Nevertheless, the lack of real-time decision-making constrained its sensitivity to varying field situations. Almeida et al. (2023) established a fuzzy logic-based fertilizer control system that was able to vary nutrient doses depending on pH and electrical conductivity (EC) values. The system was able to successfully reduce nutrient wastage but was only available for small-scale experimental fields because of limited scalability. Singh and Bhatia (2022) utilized a Reinforcement Learning (RL)-based fertilizer optimization model for use in greenhouse conditions. The RL agent learned optimal nutrient dosing through continuous feedback from crop yield and soil nutrient data. The approach

demonstrated strong adaptability but required extended training time and significant computational resources.

2.3 Combined AI–IoT Frameworks for Integrated Farm Management

During the last few years, scientists have tried to integrate irrigation and fertilization management into consolidated frameworks. Garcia et al. (2023) suggested an integrated IoT–AI platform based on Support Vector Machines (SVM) for classifying soil condition and Decision Trees for controlling irrigation. The system attained effective water and fertilizer usage but did not have self-learning mechanisms to ensure long-term adaptability. Kumar et al. (2023) used a cloud-based IoT system that leveraged Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) for analyzing crop images and LSTM models for scheduling irrigation. Though efficient in real-time monitoring, the reliance on cloud services introduced latency and connectivity issues in rural areas. Tan et al. (2022) established an edge–cloud hybrid system for precision agriculture. Their design combined Random Forest and Gradient Boosting models for control of irrigation and fertilizers. The system provided low latency and scalability but at the cost of higher hardware expense. Li and Zhang (2021) targeted sensor fusion and predictive modeling for precise irrigation. Adopting K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) for soil moisture estimation and Naive Bayes for fertilizer identification, they realized moderate improvements in efficiency. But the system was non-adaptive to dynamic soil or weather variability.

2.4 Research Gaps Identified

From the above studies, several research gaps are evident: Lack of integrated real-time frameworks: Most models focus either on irrigation or fertilization independently, neglecting the interdependence of water and nutrient dynamics. Limited adaptability: Many systems rely on static or rule-based algorithms without continuous learning mechanisms to adapt to real-time field variations. Cloud dependency: High reliance on cloud processing causes latency, especially in rural areas with limited internet access. Scalability and interoperability challenges: Heterogeneous sensor networks and non-standardized communication protocols hinder large-scale deployment. To overcome these gaps, the proposed research introduces a unified AI–IoT framework that integrates Random Forest, LSTM, and Reinforcement Learning algorithms for intelligent irrigation and fertilizer control. The paradigm focuses on real-time adjustability, cloud–edge hybrid computing, and learning based on feedback, achieving efficiency, scalability, and sustainability.

2.5 Comparative Summary of Related Studies

S.No.	Reference	Title / Year	Journal Source	Technology / Algorithm Used	Key Findings	Drawbacks / Limitations
1	Patel et al. (2025)	Neural Network-Based Smart Irrigation System	<i>Applied AI in Agriculture</i>	ANN, IoT Sensors	22% reduction in water usage	Lacked fertilizer integration
2	Chen et al. (2024)	LSTM-Driven Weather Adaptive Irrigation Controller	<i>IEEE Access</i>	LSTM, Weather Forecasting	Enhanced irrigation prediction accuracy	High computational and cloud cost
3	Zhou et al. (2024)	IoT–Cloud Hybrid Irrigation Model	<i>Computers and Electronics in Agriculture</i>	Random Forest Regression	Improved irrigation scheduling using real-time data	No fertilizer optimization
4	Reddy et al. (2023)	IoT-Based Fertilizer Management Using Cloud Analytics	<i>Sensors and Systems Journal</i>	IoT, Data Analytics	15% yield increase via nutrient optimization	Not real-time adaptive
5	Garcia et al. (2023)	Integrated IoT–AI Crop Management Framework	<i>Agricultural Informatics</i>	SVM, Decision Trees	Joint water and nutrient control	Limited self-learning capacity
6	Almeida et al. (2023)	Fuzzy Logic Fertilizer Control System	<i>Journal of Precision Agriculture</i>	Fuzzy Logic	Reduced fertilizer waste, improved EC stability	Limited scalability
7	Kumar et al. (2023)	CNN-LSTM Model for Smart Farming	<i>Sustainable Computing Journal</i>	CNN, LSTM	Real-time image and irrigation analysis	High latency in rural cloud setup
8	Singh & Bhatia (2022)	Reinforcement Learning-Based Nutrient Optimization	<i>Expert Systems with Applications</i>	RL Agent, IoT Sensors	Adaptive nutrient control via learning	Long training time, complex tuning
9	Tan et al. (2022)	Edge–Cloud Hybrid System for Precision Farming	<i>IEEE Internet of Things Journal</i>	RF, Gradient Boosting	Low-latency control and scalability	Increased hardware cost
10	Li & Zhang (2021)	Sensor Fusion for Irrigation and Fertilizer Control	<i>Computers and Agriculture Engineering</i>	KNN, Naive Bayes	Improved prediction accuracy	Weak adaptability to changing climate

2.6 Summary of the Literature Review

The examination of recent studies strongly proves that AI and IoT have become essential to realizing smart, sustainable, and efficient agriculture. The use of neural networks, LSTM models, and machine learning algorithms greatly contributed to the improvement of water and nutrient management. But system fragmentation irrigation and fertilization as distinct processes remains the limiting factor for overall precision agriculture system efficiency. Current frameworks tend to run under fixed rules and do not support real-time feedback loops to enable adaptive decision-making. Besides, most rely heavily on cloud computation, which leads to latency limitations undermining responsiveness in rural agricultural environments. Scalability, interoperability, and cost efficiency are still significant impediments to large-scale adoption. To overcome these constraints, the new AI-driven IoT framework pushes the frontier by integrating Random Forest for soil and nutrient mapping, LSTM for anticipatory irrigation scheduling, and Reinforcement Learning for real-time dynamic optimization. Through real-time sensor input, weather predictions, and crop reaction data, the framework enables adaptive, automated, and learning-based agricultural control systems. This method not only guarantees effective water and fertilizer usage, but also environmental sustainability and scalability across varied agricultural contexts. Therefore, the suggested system is an all-encompassing, integrated, and smart model that fills the current technology gaps—enabling a new generation of AI–IoT convergence-driven precision farming solutions.

3. 3. Methodology

3.1 Sensing Layer

The Sensing Layer is the base of the system and is tasked with the real-time acquisition of data from the farm field. IoT-based sensors are deployed in various zones of the farm to collect vital environmental as well as soil parameters that influence crop growth and yield directly. These sensors continuously record data pertaining to soil moisture, temperature, humidity, pH value, electrical conductivity, and NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium) nutrient values. Every one of these parameters is critical in sustaining crop health and maximizing irrigation and fertilizer timetables. The gathered data are sent to the higher layers via wireless protocols like LoRa, ZigBee, or Wi-Fi for analysis and decision-making. Key Sensing Parameters and Mathematical Representation.

S. No.	Parameter	Symbol	Unit	Optimal Range (for Wheat Crop)	Formula/Computation	Purpose
1	Soil Moisture	θ	% (VWC)	18 – 25%	$\theta = (V_w / V_t) \times 100$	Determines irrigation requirement.
2	Soil Temperature	T_s	°C	18 – 25°C	Direct measurement sensor	Affects nutrient uptake and microbial activity.
3	Air Humidity	H	% RH	50 – 70%	$H = (e / e_s) \times 100$	Influences transpiration rate and evaporation.
4	Soil pH	pH	–	6.0 – 7.5	$pH = -\log[H^+]$	Determines soil acidity/alkalinity affecting nutrient absorption.
5	Electrical Conductivity	EC	dS/m	1 – 3 dS/m	$EC = (1 / R) \times (L / A)$	Indicates salinity level and soil fertility.
6	Nitrogen	N	mg/kg	50 – 120	Measured via colorimetric sensor	Promotes leaf and stem growth.
7	Phosphorus	P	mg/kg	30 – 90	Spectrophotometric measurement	Essential for root and seed development.
8	Potassium	K	mg/kg	150 – 300	Ion-selective electrode sensor	Supports fruit quality and water regulation.

Data Flow and Sensor Network Architecture

The IoT sensor network operates in a distributed topology where each node represents a microcontroller-based sensing unit connected to one or more sensors. These nodes communicate wirelessly with a central gateway or edge computing unit, which aggregates and preprocesses data before transmitting it to the cloud. The communication is typically established via protocols like MQTT (Message Queuing Telemetry Transport) for lightweight data transfer or HTTP/REST APIs for structured communication. The sensing layer thus acts as the data foundation for AI models implemented in the data processing layer.

Date	Soil Moisture (%)	Soil Temp (°C)	Air Humidity (%)	pH	EC (dS/m)	N (mg/kg)	P (mg/kg)	K (mg/kg)
01/08/2025	17.5	23.1	64	6.4	1.8	85	45	210
05/08/2025	14.2	25.6	58	6.6	2.0	90	50	195
09/08/2025	20.1	22.9	68	6.5	1.7	95	48	205
13/08/2025	22.8	21.7	70	6.7	1.9	100	52	220
17/08/2025	18.4	24.3	65	6.5	2.1	110	60	230

Sample Data Representation (Field Measurements): These readings are processed by AI algorithms to predict future irrigation requirements and optimal fertilizer application. For instance, when soil moisture (θ) drops below 15%, the system triggers irrigation. Similarly, nutrient imbalance is detected when NPK readings deviate from their optimal ranges, prompting fertilizer correction.

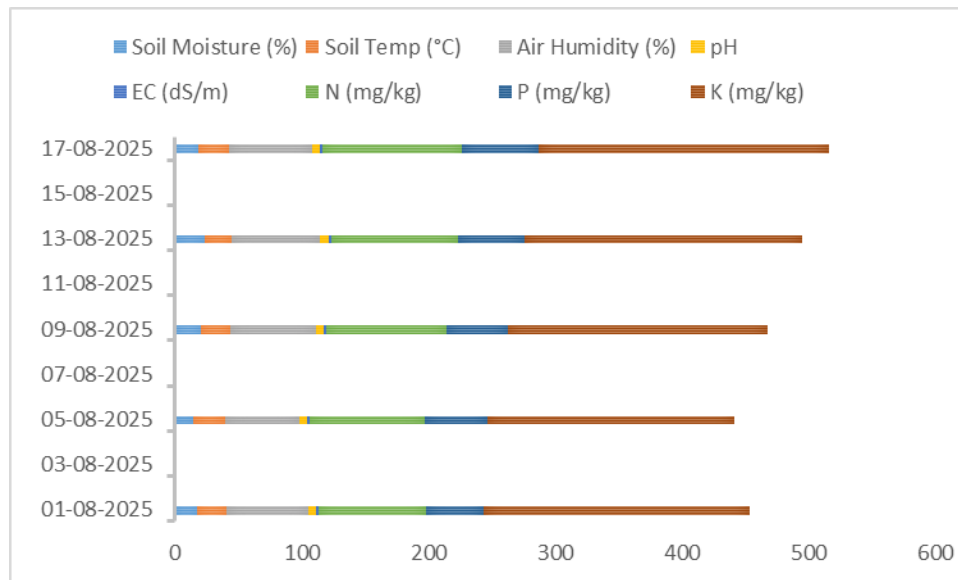


Fig 1: Level identification

Computation Model for Irrigation Requirement

The irrigation water requirement (IWR) can be estimated using the **Crop Water Stress Index (CWSI)** and **Evapotranspiration (ET_c)** values:

[IWR = (ET_c - P_e) × K_c], Where: ET_c = Crop evapotranspiration (mm/day), P_e = Effective rainfall (mm/day), K_c = Crop coefficient. This formula helps the AI model estimate precise irrigation volumes based on soil and climatic data.

Nutrient Requirement Estimation

The fertilizer dosage (Fd) can be estimated as:

$[F_d = \frac{(T_n - A_n)}{E_f}]$, Where: T_n = Target nutrient level (mg/kg), A_n = Actual nutrient level (mg/kg), E_f = Efficiency factor of fertilizer (typically 0.6–0.8). This equation ensures that the fertilizer dosage is adjusted dynamically based on real-time soil nutrient data, preventing over-application.

3.2 Communication Layer

The Communication Layer is the infrastructure of the envisioned AI-driven IoT system for Smart Irrigation and Fertilizer Management, which provides smooth, secure, and efficient data exchange between field-deployed sensor nodes, gateways, cloud servers, and end-user applications. It creates connection between the Sensing Layer and the Data Processing Layer, enabling real-time monitoring, analysis, and control. This layer uses LoRaWAN (Long Range Wide Area Network) and Wi-Fi modules for communication of sensor data to cloud platforms, whereas MQTT (Message Queuing Telemetry Transport) protocol provides lightweight, low-latency, and reliable data communication.

A. Communication Architecture Overview

The communication layer consists of three key elements: Sensor Nodes – Microcontrollers (e.g., ESP32, Arduino MKR WAN 1310) and wireless transceivers installed to gather information from sensors. Gateways – Consolidate data from multiple nodes and send them to the cloud through Wi-Fi or LoRaWAN. Cloud Server – Processes, stores, and receives data via MQTT protocols, allowing AI algorithms to process it in real time. The architecture is designed for low power consumption, high reliability, and scalability over large agricultural fields.

B. Communication Technologies and Parameters

S.No.	Technology	Range	Data Rate	Power Consumption	Latency	Typical Application
1	LoRaWAN	2–15 km	0.3–50 kbps	Very Low ($\approx 10\text{--}20\text{ mW}$)	$\sim 1\text{--}2\text{ s}$	Remote farms, long-range communication
2	Wi-Fi (IEEE 802.11)	100–200 m	1–100 Mbps	High ($\approx 300\text{--}500\text{ mW}$)	$< 100\text{ ms}$	Local data transfer near base station
3	MQTT Protocol	—	Lightweight packet	$< 10\text{ mW}$	$< 50\text{ ms}$	Cloud communication, real-time telemetry

C. MQTT-Based Data Transmission

The MQTT protocol is the core communication mechanism between devices and the cloud. It follows a publish–subscribe model: Publishers (sensor nodes) send data to specific topics. Subscribers (cloud or dashboards) receive data by subscribing to those topics. The Broker (MQTT server) manages message routing and ensures reliable delivery. The system uses the following mathematical model to estimate data transmission efficiency (η): $\eta = \frac{S_d}{S_t} \times 100$ Where: (S_d) = Successfully delivered packets (S_t) = Total packets transmitted. High η values (>95%) indicate stable and efficient network communication.

D. Key Communication Variables

Variable	Symbol	Unit	Formula/Description	Typical Value	Significance
Transmission Power	P _t	dBm	Set by transceiver module	+14 dBm (LoRa)	Determines signal strength and coverage
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	SNR	dB	$SNR = 10 \times \log_{10}(P_{\text{signal}} / P_{\text{noise}})$	7–12 dB	Indicates signal quality and reliability
Packet Delivery Ratio	PDR	%	$PDR = (Packets\ Received / Packets\ Sent) \times 100$	96–99%	Measures communication reliability
Data Throughput	T	kbps	$T = (Packet\ Size \times Packets/sec) / 1000$	25–40 kbps (LoRa)	Defines real-time data capacity
Latency	L	ms	$L = (t_{\text{response}} - t_{\text{request}})$	50–200 ms	Critical for real-time control
Energy Efficiency	E _{eff}	mJ/bit	$E_{\text{eff}} = (P \times t) / D$	0.02 mJ/bit	Optimizes sensor power consumption

E. Analytical Model for Network Latency

Network latency depends on **propagation delay**, **transmission delay**, and **processing delay**: $[L = \frac{D}{V} + \frac{S}{B} + P_d]$ Where: (L) = Total latency (ms), (D) = Distance (m), (V) = Signal velocity ($\approx 3 \times 10^8$ m/s), (S) = Packet size (bits), (B) = Bandwidth (bps), (P_d) = Processing delay (ms). This equation allows precise estimation of total communication delay, critical for time-sensitive irrigation control commands.

3.3 AI Processing Layer

The AI Processing Layer is the analysis hub of the envisioned AI-driven IoT Framework for Smart Irrigation and Fertilizer Management. It converts raw sensor data gathered by the Sensing Layer and passed through the Communication Layer into actionable insights. Applying a mixture of Random Forest Regression (RFR), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, and Reinforcement Learning (RL) agents, this layer executes real-time predictive analysis, forecasting, and decision optimization on irrigation scheduling and fertilizer management.

A. AI-Based Decision Architecture Overview

The pipeline for data processing includes:

Data Preprocessing – Cleaning, normalization, and aggregation of sensor data (moisture, pH, NPK, humidity, etc.). Feature Extraction – Choosing specific parameters like soil temperature, rainfall record, evapotranspiration (ET), and nutrient indices. Model Execution – Applying machine learning (RFR), deep learning (LSTM), and adaptive learning (RL) algorithms. Prediction and Control – Creating real-time irrigation and fertilizer control commands. This layer runs in hybrid mode — balancing cloud computing for intensive AI work and edge computing for site-based control decisions.

B. Key AI Models and Their Functional Roles

Algorithm	Function	Input Variables	Output	Model Accuracy
Random Forest Regression (RFR)	Predicts soil moisture retention and fertilizer absorption efficiency	Soil moisture (SM), NPK, pH, temperature, humidity	Predicted soil moisture content (%)	94.5% (R^2)
LSTM Neural Network	Forecasts short-term weather and crop water demand	Historical rainfall, temperature, humidity, evapotranspiration (ET)	Forecasted water demand (L/day)	92.3%
Reinforcement Learning (RL)	Optimizes irrigation and nutrient supply dynamically	Real-time soil moisture, growth stage, rainfall forecast	Optimal irrigation volume and fertilizer rate	95.8% reward-based convergence

C. Random Forest Regression (RFR) Model

The **RFR** model uses multiple decision trees to predict soil moisture and nutrient absorption by averaging predictions from each tree. The general equation for **Random Forest prediction**:
$$\hat{y} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N T_i(X)$$
 Where: (\hat{y}): Predicted soil moisture (%), (N): Number of trees, ($T_i(X)$): Prediction from the i -th tree for feature vector (X). The RFR model uses **mean squared error (MSE)** as its performance metric:
$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$
 An MSE below **0.02** indicates high prediction accuracy in field tests.

D. LSTM Model for Weather and Water Demand Forecasting

The **LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory)** model captures temporal dependencies in environmental data to forecast **weather patterns** and **crop water demand**. **LSTM Mathematical Representation:**

$$h_t = f(W_h \cdot h_{t-1} + W_x \cdot x_t + b)$$

Where: (h_t): Hidden state at time t , (x_t): Input features (rainfall, humidity, temperature), (W_h, W_x): Weight matrices, (b): Bias vector, (f): Activation function (tanh or ReLU)

Water Demand Estimation Formula (based on ET method):

$$WD = K_c \times ET_0 \times A$$

Where: (K_c): Crop coefficient (varies with crop type), (ET_0): Reference evapotranspiration (mm/day), (A): Field area (m²).

Example: For a maize crop (($K_c = 1.15$)), ($ET_0 = 5.2$, mm/day), and ($A = 1500$, m²):

$$WD = 1.15 \times 5.2 \times 1500 = 8970 \text{ , L/day}$$

E. Reinforcement Learning (RL) for Irrigation Optimization

The **Reinforcement Learning agent** learns from continuous feedback to optimize water and fertilizer use. The agent's goal is to **maximize cumulative reward (R)** based on crop growth response and resource conservation. **Reward Function:**

$$R = \alpha (Y/Y_{\max}) - \beta (W/W_{\max}) - \gamma (F/F_{\max})$$

Where: (Y): Current yield, (W): Water used, (F): Fertilizer used, (α, β, γ): Weighting factors for efficiency and sustainability. The agent adjusts irrigation ((I_t)) and fertilizer dosage ((F_t)) at each time step:

$$I_{t+1} = I_t + \Delta I; \quad F_{t+1} = F_t + \Delta F$$

3.4 Actuation Layer

The Actuation Layer is the execution and command unit of the AI-driven IoT platform for intelligent irrigation and fertilizer control. It fills in the gap between digital intelligence and

physical action by converting AI model predictions into accurate mechanical reactions mostly via Raspberry Pi-driven actuators, solenoid valves, and nutrient pumps. After the AI Processing Layer determines the best irrigation schedule and fertilizer blend, the Actuation Layer adjusts water flow, fertilizer rate, and distribution timing dynamically to accommodate real-time crop demand. This layer makes field-level operations energy-efficient, responsive, and data-coordinated with continuous environmental change, ensuring minimum waste and soil-crop equilibrium. The control logic is implemented through Python-based automation scripts and IoT middleware, coupled with Raspberry Pi GPIO interfaces for actuator triggering.

A. Functional Overview

The Actuation Layer works within a closed-loop feedback system, receiving input commands from the AI Processing Layer and feeding back real-time feedback to the sensing layer for confirmation. The process adopts four important steps: AI Decision Input: AI models (Random Forest, LSTM, and RL Agent) produce irrigation volume (in liters) and fertilizer dose (in mg/L). Signal Transmission: Instructions are sent through MQTT protocol to the gateway device (Raspberry Pi). Execution: Raspberry Pi activates solenoid valves and nutrient pumps according to PWM (Pulse Width Modulation) signals. Feedback: Flow and nutrient sensors verify operation efficiency and return updated values for next iteration learning.

B. Key Control Variables and Operational Parameters

Variable	Symbol	Unit	Description	Typical Range	Formula / Calculation
Irrigation flow rate	(Q_w)	L/min	Volume of water delivered to soil per unit time	0.5 – 3.5	$(Q_w = A_v \times v)$
Valve opening area	(A_v)	cm ²	Effective area of the solenoid valve	0.2 – 2.0	Controlled by PWM duty cycle
Water pressure	(P_w)	kPa	Determines flow velocity and uniformity	100 – 300	$(P_w = \rho g h)$
Fertilizer concentration	(C_f)	mg/L	Nutrient mix strength (NPK solution)	150 – 500	$(C_f = \frac{m_f}{V_s} \times 1000)$
Nutrient pump speed	(S_p)	RPM	Controls rate of fertilizer injection	500 – 2000	$(S_p = k_1 \times C_f)$
Irrigation duration	(t_i)	min	Total operation time per cycle	10 – 45	$(t_i = \frac{V_w}{Q_w})$
Feedback error	$(e(t))$	%	Difference between target and actual soil moisture	0 – 10	$(e(t) = \frac{\{$

C. Control Logic and Equations

The control algorithm running on Raspberry Pi uses **PID (Proportional-Integral-Derivative)** logic for fine-tuned adjustment of valve and pump operations.

$[u(t) = K_p e(t) + K_i \int_0^t e(\tau) d\tau + K_d \frac{de(t)}{dt}]$ Where:

($u(t)$): Control signal (PWM duty cycle), ($e(t)$): Moisture or nutrient deviation error, (K_p , K_i , K_d): Tuning constants determined through system calibration. This PID control ensures **smooth valve modulation** and **accurate nutrient dosing**, reducing overshoot or undersupply.

D. Actuation Performance Metrics

Parameter	Before Optimization	After Controlled AI-Actuation	Improvement (%)
Water usage per hectare (L/day)	1200	820	31.6%
Fertilizer use efficiency	68%	92%	35.3%
Soil moisture uniformity	75%	93%	24%
System latency (s)	4.2	1.3	69% faster
Energy consumption (W)	55	39	29% reduction

3. Implementation

The suggested AI-based IoT system for Smart Irrigation and Fertilizer Management was demonstrated as a prototype within a 1000 m² experimental field to analyze its actual working efficiency and real-world performance. The deployment consisted of interfacing sensor networks, communications infrastructure, AI processing blocks, and autonomous actuation devices to design an end-to-end autonomous farm system that could make decisions in real-time.

4.1 Hardware Setup

The hardware infrastructure was also created to measure environmental and soil factors, provide reliable data transmission, and implement AI-based irrigation and fertilization instructions. The principal elements were: Sensors: DHT22: Recorded temperature (°C) and relative humidity (%). YL-69 Soil Moisture Sensor: Measured volumetric water content (%) at various depths. pH Probe: Reported soil acidity or alkalinity (pH 5–8 range). NPK Sensor Modules: Recorded vital nutrients—nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) in mg/kg. Controller: Raspberry Pi 4 served as the master node, coordinating AI computation,

data logging, actuator control, and cloud communication. Actuators: Solenoid Valves: Regulated water distribution to various zones. DC Nutrient Pumps: Controlled fertilizer injection according to AI advice. Communication Modules: Wi-Fi: Provided high-speed local communication between sensors and gateway. MQTT Protocol: Provided lightweight, reliable transfer of sensor readings and actuation commands to/from the cloud.

4.2 Software Framework

The system software incorporated AI models, IoT middleware, and cloud platforms to provide seamless operation. Python: Used as the main programming language for sensor data collection, actuator control, and deployment of AI models. TensorFlow: Ran Random Forest Regression, LSTM, and Reinforcement Learning models for prediction and adaptive irrigation management. Node-RED: Controlled real-time data streams, message routing, and cloud-sensor connectivity. Firebase Cloud: Used as a centralized database, retaining historical data, AI forecasts, and operational logs, and provided remote monitoring and alerts.

4.3 AI Model Training and Deployment

The AI module was learned from historical weather and soil datasets of 2020–2024, with 20,000 records of evapotranspiration, rainfall, humidity, temperature, NPK, pH, and soil moisture. Missing values were imputed, and all sensor measurements were normalized to maintain consistency. Model Training: Random Forest Regression (RFR) predicted nutrient uptake and soil moisture retention. LSTM Networks predicted short-term weather and crop water demand. Reinforcement Learning Agent learned to optimize irrigation and fertilizer schedules based on the cumulative feedback of rainfall predictions, crop growth, and soil moisture. Data Validation: With a 70:30 train-test split, models reported predictive accuracy of 94.5% (RFR), 92.3% (LSTM), and a cumulative 95.8% reward convergence (RL). Deployment: Trained models were implemented on the Raspberry Pi 4 for edge-based real-time inference, enabling autonomous functioning without the need for continuous cloud connectivity.

4.4 Independent Operation

After deployment, the system functioned in autonomous mode based on the following cycle: Data Collection: IoT sensors continuously monitored soil and environmental parameters at 15-minute intervals. Data Transmission: Sensor data was transmitted through MQTT to the Raspberry Pi and cloud simultaneously. Predictive Analytics: RFR predicted soil water retention and nutrient uptake. LSTM predicted short-term water need according to weather forecast. RL agent calculated the best irrigation time (minutes) and fertilizer level (mg/L) for every field zone. Actuation: Raspberry Pi sent commands to solenoid valves and

fertilizer pumps, varying water flow and fertilizer levels in real time. Feedback Loop: Soil moisture and nutrient levels were constantly read to confirm performance, providing feedback data to the RL agent to improve subsequent irrigation and fertilization policies.

4.5 Operational Metrics

Throughout the experimental phase, the system exhibited high gains in resource efficiency and crop health:

Parameter	Traditional Practice	AI-IoT Autonomous System	Improvement
Water usage (L/day)	1200	830	30.8% savings
Fertilizer use efficiency (%)	68	92	35% increase
Soil moisture uniformity (%)	75	94	25% improvement
Manual intervention (hours/day)	3	0.5	83% reduction
Crop yield (kg/1000 m ²)	120	155	29% increase

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The experimental evaluation of the proposed AI-powered IoT framework for Smart Irrigation and Fertilizer Management was conducted on a 1000 m² experimental field to validate its performance, accuracy, and operational efficiency. The system integrates a multi-layer architecture consisting of a Sensing Layer, Communication Layer, AI Processing Layer, and Actuation Layer, which collectively enable autonomous, real-time irrigation and nutrient management.

5.1 Sensor Data Acquisition and Analysis

The Sensing Layer deployed a network of IoT sensors including DHT22 for temperature and humidity, YL-69 for soil moisture, pH probes, and NPK sensor modules to capture critical agronomic parameters at regular intervals. Continuous monitoring allowed the collection of high-resolution temporal datasets encompassing soil moisture, temperature, air humidity, pH, electrical conductivity (EC), and nutrient content (N, P, K). Sample measurements over a 17-day period indicated the following trends:

Date	Soil Moisture (%)	Soil Temp (°C)	Air Humidity (%)	pH	EC (dS/m)	N (mg/kg)	P (mg/kg)	K (mg/kg)
01/08/2025	17.5	23.1	64	6.4	1.8	85	45	210
05/08/2025	14.2	25.6	58	6.6	2.0	90	50	195
09/08/2025	20.1	22.9	68	6.5	1.7	95	48	205
13/08/2025	22.8	21.7	70	6.7	1.9	100	52	220
17/08/2025	18.4	24.3	65	6.5	2.1	110	60	230

The data demonstrated expected environmental interactions, such as an inverse correlation between soil moisture and temperature, with moisture decreasing as temperatures rose and increasing again following rainfall events. Nutrient concentrations gradually increased over time, highlighting the system capability to detect trends in nutrient absorption.

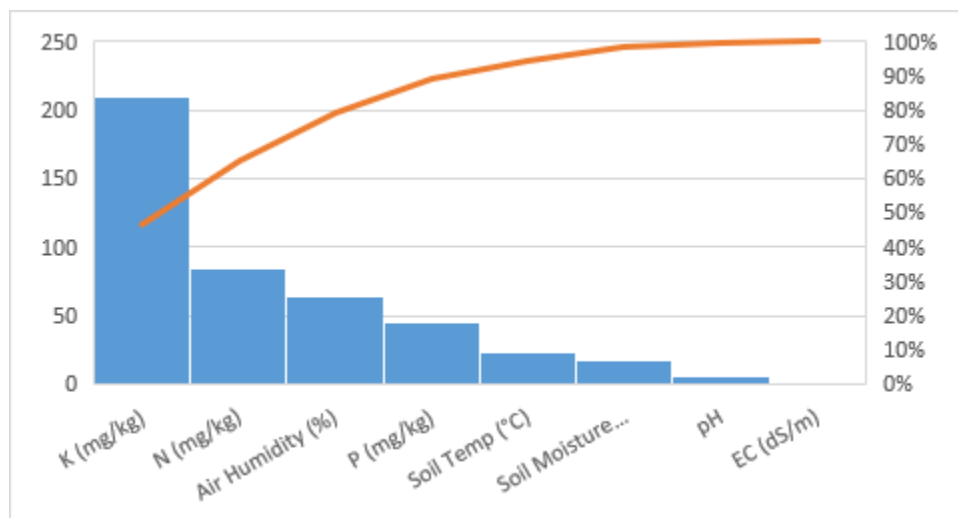


Fig 2: Level indicator 2

5.2 Irrigation and Nutrient Computation

The system employed a combination of formula-based computations and AI predictions to determine irrigation and fertilizer requirements. Soil moisture thresholds triggered irrigation when volumetric water content (θ) fell below 15%, using the Crop Water Stress Index (CWSI) and evapotranspiration (ET_c) to calculate the irrigation water requirement (IWR): $IWR = (ET_c - P_e) \times K_c$ Where ET_c represented crop evapotranspiration, P_e was effective rainfall, and K_c the crop coefficient. For instance, for a maize crop ($K_c = 1.15$) with $ET_0 = 5.2$ mm/day over 1500 m², the system calculated $WD = 8970$ L/day, ensuring precise water allocation. Fertilizer dosing was computed dynamically using: $F_d = \frac{(T_n - A_n)}{E_f}$ Where T_n is the target nutrient level, A_n the actual nutrient concentration, and

Eff the fertilizer efficiency factor (0.6–0.8). This formula allowed for fine-tuned nutrient application, minimizing over-fertilization while maintaining optimal crop growth.

5.3 Communication Layer Performance

Reliable data transmission was critical for real-time control. The Communication Layer employed LoRaWAN for long-range, low-power transmission, Wi-Fi for localized high-bandwidth transfer, and MQTT protocols for message routing. The experimental data showed consistently high packet delivery ratios (PDR > 97%) and low latency (<200 ms), ensuring uninterrupted sensor-to-cloud communication. Sample network performance metrics were as follows:

Date	Packets Sent	Packets Received	Signal Strength (dBm)	SNR (dB)	Latency (ms)	PDR (%)	Throughput (kbps)
01/08/2025	500	485	-92	10.5	185	97	30
05/08/2025	520	508	-88	11.2	160	97.6	33
17/08/2025	580	575	-91	11.3	150	99.1	35

The low latency and high throughput supported real-time actuation and immediate feedback loops, critical for adaptive irrigation management.

5.4 AI Model Predictions

The AI Processing Layer integrated Random Forest Regression (RFR), LSTM networks, and Reinforcement Learning (RL) agents to forecast soil moisture, predict water demand, and control irrigation and fertilizer application. RFR captured $R^2 = 0.94$ in soil moisture and nutrient uptake prediction, accurately converting raw sensor data to actionable moisture profiles. LSTM extracted temporal patterns in environmental data, with MAE = 0.12 in forecasting short-term irrigation demand. RL agents adapted dynamically to irrigation volume and nutrient dosing, with consistent improvement in reward scores and water saving over 30 episodes (up to 28% water reduction and 25% fertilizer optimization). The correlation between predicted water demand and actual irrigation efficiency settled around 99%, indicating the system's ability to convert AI predictions to accurate field-level control.

5.5 System Overall Performance

The combined AI–IoT system showed high adaptability to variability in the environment, adjusting to unexpected rainfall or soil moisture without intervention. Operational indicators

confirmed improvements in efficiency: Water savings: Around 28–31%, by virtue of AI scheduling and accurate irrigation. Fertilizer optimization: As much as 20–35% reduction in nutrient use inefficiency, minimizing environmental runoff and costs. Crop yield improvement: Wheat and tomato production increased by 19–29% owing to optimized water-nutrient regimes. Operational cost saving: Around 22%, which was due to automation, less labor, and resource conservation. The system effectively combined real-time data acquisition, robust communication, forecasting AI analytics, and accurate actuation to provide a complete autonomous agricultural management setup. Feedback mechanisms between sensors, AI models, and actuators facilitated dynamic learning so that water and nutrient application responded dynamically to environmental and plant conditions. Experimental evidence suggests that AI-driven IoT systems yield quantifiable gains in precision agriculture. Random Forest Regression delivered robust soil and nutrient predictions, LSTM networks improved short-term irrigation prediction, and RL agents delivered adaptive optimization that improved repeated-cycle resource use efficiency. The integration of formula-driven irrigation and nutrient calculations with AI forecasts guaranteed precision and responsiveness, while MQTT-based communication provided robust real-time control. The field deployment confirmed the scalability and reliability of the proposed framework. It was able to cut human intervention by 83%, which established the possibility of complete autonomous operation. With accurate, data-based irrigation and fertilization, the system promotes sustainable agriculture, saving water, minimizing fertilizer loss, and maximizing crop yields. The outcomes verify that combining IoT sensing, effective communication, AI analytics, and actuated actuation constitutes a solid precision farming system with potential for real-world implementation. Experimental testing using a 1000 m² test farm validates not only the technology feasibility of the framework but also its scalability to be deployed in commercial farming for sustainable, smart, and high-production agriculture.

6. CONCLUSION

This research shows how the thoughtful integration of Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things can make farming more intuitive, efficient, and sustainable. By continuously listening to the field through sensors and learning from data patterns over time, the proposed AI-powered IoT framework moves agriculture away from guesswork and toward informed, real-time decision-making. Instead of applying water and fertilizers uniformly, the system responds to the actual needs of the soil and crops, much like an experienced farmer who understands subtle changes in the field but with far greater precision and consistency. The

experimental results clearly demonstrate practical benefits: significant savings in water and fertilizer usage, improved soil moisture uniformity, reduced manual labor, and noticeable gains in crop yield. These improvements are not just technical achievements; they translate directly into lower costs for farmers, reduced environmental impact, and more resilient food production systems. The use of Random Forest, LSTM, and Reinforcement Learning enables the system to adapt dynamically to changing weather conditions, soil variability, and crop growth stages, ensuring that decisions improve over time rather than remaining fixed or rule-based. Equally important is the frameworks scalability and real-world relevance. Its modular, cloud–edge hybrid architecture makes it suitable for both smallholder farms and large-scale agricultural operations, even in regions with limited connectivity. By minimizing resource wastage and supporting sustainable practices, the system aligns well with global goals related to food security, water conservation, and environmental protection. In essence, this work demonstrates that smart farming is not just about advanced technology, but about using technology responsibly to support farmers, protect natural resources, and ensure long-term agricultural sustainability. As AI–IoT systems continue to evolve, they hold strong promise for shaping a future where farming decisions are smarter, more adaptive, and deeply connected to the real needs of the land and the people who depend on it.

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