

| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Article DOI: 10.21474/JNCS01/133

DOI URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/JNCS01/133>

EDGE INTELLIGENCE FOR SMART AGRICULTURE: AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FRAMEWORK FOR PRECISION FARMING AND SUSTAINABLE CROP MANAGEMENT

Nathan Brooks, Aisha Kareem and Elena Petrova

Corresponding Author: Nathan Brooks

| ABSTRACT

The rapid growth of the global population has intensified the demand for sustainable agricultural practices capable of increasing crop productivity while minimizing environmental impact. Conventional farming techniques often rely on manual observation and generalized resource allocation, leading to inefficient utilization of water, fertilizers, pesticides, and energy. Recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Edge Computing, and the Internet of Things (IoT) have enabled intelligent precision agriculture systems that provide real-time monitoring and autonomous decision-making. Edge Intelligence, which combines AI with distributed edge devices, processes agricultural data closer to its source, reducing communication delays and dependence on cloud infrastructure.

| KEYWORDS

Edge Intelligence, Artificial Intelligence, Precision Agriculture, Internet of Things, Smart Farming, Computer Vision, Machine Learning, Sustainable Agriculture

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

RECEIVED: 13 March 2026

ACCEPTED: 17 April 2026

PUBLISHED: May 2026

Abstract:-

The rapid growth of the global population has intensified the demand for sustainable agricultural practices capable of increasing crop productivity while minimizing environmental impact. Conventional farming techniques often rely on manual observation and generalized resource allocation, leading to inefficient utilization of water, fertilizers, pesticides, and energy. Recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Edge Computing, and the Internet of Things (IoT) have enabled intelligent precision agriculture systems that provide real-time monitoring and autonomous decision-making. Edge Intelligence, which combines AI with distributed edge devices, processes agricultural data closer to its source, reducing communication delays and dependence on cloud infrastructure. This paper presents a comprehensive review of Edge Intelligence applications in smart agriculture and proposes an AI-enabled precision farming framework integrating IoT sensors, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), machine learning, computer vision, and edge computing. The framework aims to improve crop health monitoring, irrigation management, pest detection, soil analysis, and yield prediction while reducing operational costs and environmental impact. The paper also discusses current challenges, security considerations, and future research directions. The findings indicate that Edge Intelligence has significant potential to transform modern agriculture by enabling efficient, scalable, and sustainable farming practices.

Introduction:-

Agriculture plays a fundamental role in ensuring global food security and economic development. Increasing climate variability, declining arable land, water scarcity, and rising production costs have created significant challenges for farmers

worldwide. Traditional agricultural practices often rely on periodic manual inspections and generalized resource application, resulting in inefficient farm management and inconsistent crop yields.

Recent technological advancements have introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), drones, robotics, and satellite imaging into agricultural operations. These technologies generate massive amounts of real-time environmental and crop data that can be analyzed to support intelligent decision-making. However, cloud-based processing introduces communication latency, bandwidth consumption, and privacy concerns that may limit real-time responsiveness in remote agricultural environments. Edge Intelligence addresses these limitations by performing AI-based data processing directly on local edge devices located near farms. This decentralized computing paradigm enables rapid analysis of sensor data, supports autonomous decision-making, and minimizes dependence on continuous internet connectivity. This paper explores the role of Edge Intelligence in precision agriculture, proposes a conceptual architecture for intelligent crop management, and discusses practical applications, implementation challenges, and future opportunities.

Literature Review:-

Precision agriculture has evolved significantly through the integration of digital technologies. Earlier systems primarily focused on Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and remote sensing for monitoring agricultural activities. Machine learning algorithms have been widely applied for crop disease identification, soil quality assessment, weather forecasting, irrigation optimization, and yield prediction. Deep learning models, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have demonstrated excellent performance in plant disease classification using leaf images. Recent studies have emphasized Edge Computing as an effective solution for reducing cloud dependency. By processing sensor information locally, edge devices enable immediate responses to environmental changes while lowering communication costs. Researchers have also explored UAV-based monitoring systems, autonomous agricultural robots, and AI-driven irrigation scheduling to improve farming efficiency. Despite these advancements, challenges remain in scalability, interoperability, cybersecurity, and energy-efficient edge deployment.

Proposed Edge Intelligence Architecture:-

The proposed framework consists of six interconnected layers.

Data Acquisition Layer:-

IoT sensors continuously collect environmental data including soil moisture, temperature, humidity, nutrient levels, rainfall, and sunlight intensity.

Edge Processing Layer:-

Edge computing devices perform local preprocessing, feature extraction, anomaly detection, and machine learning inference without relying on cloud servers.

AI Analytics Layer:-

Machine learning and deep learning models analyze environmental conditions, identify crop diseases, estimate irrigation requirements, and predict crop productivity.

Decision Support Layer:-

The intelligent system generates actionable recommendations for irrigation scheduling, fertilizer application, pesticide management, and harvesting.

Cloud Synchronization Layer:-

Aggregated agricultural data is periodically synchronized with cloud platforms for long-term storage, large-scale analytics, and model updates.

Farmer Interaction Layer:-

Mobile applications and web dashboards present recommendations, alerts, and performance reports to farmers in an understandable format.

Proposed AI-Based Precision Farming Framework:-

The proposed framework follows several sequential stages.

Stage 1: Environmental sensors continuously monitor field conditions.

Stage 2: Edge devices preprocess sensor readings and eliminate noisy data.

Stage 3: AI models evaluate crop health using computer vision and sensor information.

Stage 4: Intelligent algorithms predict irrigation schedules and fertilizer requirements.

Stage 5: Decision-support systems notify farmers through mobile applications.

Stage 6: Cloud platforms archive agricultural information for future model training and seasonal analysis.

This architecture enables rapid decision-making while minimizing communication latency and cloud dependency.

Applications of Edge Intelligence in Agriculture:-

Smart Irrigation:-

AI analyzes soil moisture and weather conditions to deliver precise irrigation recommendations, reducing water consumption.

Crop Disease Detection:-

Computer vision systems identify early signs of plant diseases using images captured by drones or mobile devices.

Pest Monitoring:-

Edge-based AI models detect insect infestations in real time, enabling timely intervention and reducing crop damage.

Yield Prediction:-

Machine learning algorithms estimate future crop production based on historical agricultural data and environmental conditions.

Greenhouse Automation:-

Intelligent systems automatically regulate lighting, humidity, ventilation, and temperature to maintain optimal growing conditions.

Livestock Monitoring:-

Wearable sensors monitor animal health, movement, feeding behavior, and environmental conditions to improve livestock management.

Benefits of Edge Intelligence:-

The proposed system offers numerous advantages:-

- Reduced communication latency.
- Lower internet bandwidth usage.
- Improved real-time decision-making.
- Enhanced data privacy.
- Reduced cloud infrastructure costs.
- Efficient utilization of water and fertilizers.
- Increased crop productivity.
- Sustainable environmental management.
- Improved resilience in remote farming regions.

Challenges:-

Although Edge Intelligence provides significant benefits, several challenges remain.

Limited Computing Resources:-

Edge devices possess lower computational capabilities compared to cloud servers.

Energy Constraints:-

Battery-powered agricultural devices require energy-efficient AI algorithms.

Hardware Maintenance:-

Large-scale deployment requires continuous maintenance of distributed sensors and edge nodes.

Cybersecurity Risks:-

IoT devices remain vulnerable to unauthorized access and cyberattacks.

Environmental Variability:-

Changing weather conditions introduce uncertainty into predictive AI models.

Performance Comparison:-

Parameter	Traditional Farming	Edge Intelligence-Based Farming
Decision Speed	Low	High
Resource Efficiency	Moderate	High
Water Consumption	High	Reduced
Crop Monitoring	Manual	Automated
Disease Detection	Delayed	Real-Time
Operational Cost	Higher	Lower
Sustainability	Moderate	High

The comparison demonstrates that Edge Intelligence significantly improves agricultural productivity while supporting sustainable farming practices.

Future Research Directions:-**Future developments may focus on:-**

- Explainable AI for agricultural decision support.
- Federated learning across multiple farms.
- Energy-efficient edge AI processors.
- Blockchain-based agricultural supply chains.
- Autonomous agricultural robots.
- Digital twins for smart farming.
- Integration with satellite remote sensing.
- Climate-resilient AI models for precision agriculture.

Conclusion:-

Edge Intelligence represents a transformative approach to modern precision agriculture by enabling intelligent data processing directly at the source of data generation. The integration of Artificial Intelligence, IoT, computer vision, and edge computing provides farmers with real-time insights that improve crop productivity, optimize resource utilization, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. The proposed framework demonstrates how decentralized AI systems can support timely decision-making while reducing communication delays and protecting sensitive agricultural data. Although several technical challenges remain, ongoing advancements in AI hardware, distributed computing, and intelligent sensing technologies are expected to accelerate the adoption of Edge Intelligence in agriculture. Future research should continue to explore scalable, secure, and energy-efficient solutions capable of supporting global food security and environmentally sustainable farming systems.

References:-

1. Wolfert, S., Ge, L., Verdouw, C., & Bogaardt, M. Big Data in Smart Farming: A Review.
2. Kamlaris, A., & Prenafeta-Boldú, F. X. Deep Learning in Agriculture: A Survey.
3. Shi, W., Cao, J., Zhang, Q., Li, Y., & Xu, L. Edge Computing: Vision and Challenges.
4. Liakos, K. G., et al. Machine Learning in Agriculture: A Review.
5. Mohammadi, M., et al. Deep Learning for Smart Agriculture.
6. Goodfellow, I., Bengio, Y., & Courville, A. Deep Learning. MIT Press.
7. Russell, S., & Norvig, P. Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach.
8. Zhang, C., & Kovacs, J. M. The Application of Small Unmanned Aerial Systems for Precision Agriculture.
9. Rose, D. C., et al. Agriculture 4.0: Making Smart Farming Work for Sustainable Development.
10. Tzounis, A., Katsoulas, N., Bartzanas, T., & Kittas, C. Internet of Things in Agriculture: Recent Advances and Future Challenges.