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Impact of disruptive technologies on transforming Indian agriculture

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Abstract

The concept of endogenous and exogenous agricultural disruptive technology is based on the idea and fundamentals of scientific and technological revolution. The process by which a major disruptive core technology innovation is applied to agricultural production propels several technological improvements adopted in production, and this is known as the "agricultural science and technology revolution." We are still in the experimental stage of developing artificial intelligence-based intelligent agriculture technology. Unlike the agricultural equipment, chemical, and green technological revolutions, agricultural scientists do not dominate smart agriculture technology, which is a transboundary application of agricultural technology with intelligent sensing technology at its foundation. Big data and machine learning are two examples of disruptive technologies (DTs) implemented more quickly in the farming industry thanks to the emergence of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Using these innovative and predictive techniques in agriculture is essential to managing hitherto unseen problems like climate change and population growth. Farming has been impacted by various disruptive and emerging technologies, including the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Unmanned Vehicles, Decision Support Systems (DSS), and Robotics.

Keywords: Agriculture, artificial intelligence, disruptive technology, internet of things

Introduction

Food security is when "all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life," according to the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (Voinea et al., 2019) [88]. Studying agriculture is essential since it is essential to the existence of the human species. Throughout history, new and improved technologies have increased agricultural productivity and sustainability (Satapathy et al., 2021) ^[75]. By 2050, it is predicted that there will be roughly 9.7 billion people on the planet (Bapat et al., 2022) [11]. Food production must expand by 70% to keep up with this population growth. However, due to population growth and climate change, fewer resources are available to provide the necessary food (Giller et al., 2021)^[25]. Although using technology in agriculture is essential to raising farm output, a wealth of research indicates that small-scale agricultural producers in developing nations continue to accept technologies at a very slow rate and low levels when it comes to externally marketed technologies (Mizik, 2021) ^[49]. Local farmers in developing nations who embrace and

innovate with technology are frequently linked to modernization and development, which can fundamentally undermine traditional agricultural methods and moral ideals (Rout *et al.*, 2020) ^[70]. For instance, as society becomes more modernized, there is typically a push towards individuality, market relations, private property rights, and monocropping agricultural systems (Meena *et al.*, 2020) ^[48]. These shifts may be difficult for communities that value community, indigenous economic relationships, private property rights, and mixed cropping systems.

Disruptive innovation can raise ontological issues with how people live, interact with one another in social and professional contexts, and structure their local economies and communities (Lee *et al.*, 2018) ^[41]. Consequently, farmers may either reject or adopt new technologies, complicating the technology transfer process (Curry *et al.*, 2021) ^[14]. The abundance of data from Internet of Things (IoT) devices has made big data techniques possible. The efficiency of many farming operations has improved with the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, indicating that data-driven agriculture is a viable strategy to guarantee agricultural sustainability (Spanaki *et al.*, 2022) ^[82].

Smallholder farmers are expected to be disproportionately affected by climate change (Prusty *et al.*, 2021)^[63]. The process by which a major disruptive core technology innovation is applied to agricultural production propels several technological improvements adopted in production, known as the "agricultural science and technology revolution" (Krishnan *et al.*, 2020)^[38].

Public, commercial, and civil society organizations strive to empower and uplift rural populations through creative technical techniques to transform agriculture and rural people (Saha et al., 2024) [72]. Disruptive agriculture technologies offer many advantages that revolutionize traditional farming practices (Prusty & Mohapatra, 2021) ^[63]. Precision agriculture employs GPS, sensors, drones, and AI to optimize resource allocation, enhancing crop yields while minimizing inputs like water and pesticides (Yadav et al., 2022) [89]. Vertical farming allows for urban agriculture, reducing transportation needs and utilizing space more efficiently. Robotics and automation streamline planting and harvesting, reducing labour costs and addressing shortages (Kabir et al., 2023) [32]. Genetic engineering produces resilient crops, enhancing yields and reducing reliance on chemical pesticides. Blockchain ensures transparency in the food supply chain, fostering trust and fair compensation for farmers (Kamilaris et al., 2021) ^[34]. IoT devices provide real-time data for informed decision-making, optimizing resource use and crop quality (Sahoo et al., 2021) [73]. Big data and predictive analytics enable farmers to forecast vields and manage risks effectively (Liang *et al.*, 2023)^[43]. Agri-Fintech solutions facilitate access to credit and insurance, empowering small-scale farmers (Chaudhary & Suri, 2022) ^[13]. Cultured meat technology offers a sustainable alternative to traditional livestock farming, addressing environmental and ethical concerns. These innovations collectively enhance efficiency, productivity, sustainability, and resilience in agriculture, contributing to global food security and economic development (Adisa et al., 2024)^[1].

Internet of Things (IoT)

IoT is a well-recognized technology that has shown value in practically all the top industries in the cutthroat globe (Ahmad et al., 2021)^[4]. IoT has profoundly affected all sectors of business, education, industry, health, and agriculture (Ayaz et al., 2019)^[9]. The agricultural industry has significantly benefited from investments made in agricultural IoT by most developed nations. IoT can allow sensors and devices to gather information about a farm's physical characteristics (Elijah et al., 2018)^[20]. The Internet of Things capabilities, namely intelligent data processing and real-time device connectivity, allow it to enhance agricultural methods. IoT data analytics makes it easier to solve problems and make decisions with less human error by recognizing trends in data and extracting fresh information on livestock health, crop development, and other improvements to the process (Sinha & Dhanalakshmi, 2022) [81]. Green IoT strategies and techniques, such as network size reduction, selective sensing application, hybrid network architecture implementation (Arshad et al., 2020) [8] and adoption of privacy-oriented blockchain technologies with consensus algorithms (Ferrag et al., 2020) ^[21], can be taken into concern to save energy consumption in

IoT and lower carbon footprints.

Integrating Internet of Things (IoT) technologies in India's agriculture sector has significantly improved efficiency and sustainability. Farmers in Maharashtra use IoT-enabled sensors to monitor soil moisture levels and crop health in real time, enabling precise irrigation scheduling and optimisation of water usage (Mujawar et al., 2024)^[52]. In Punjab. IoT devices help farmers make informed decisions about crop management practices (Khanna & Kaur, 2023) ^[37]. In Karnataka, IoT-enabled wearable devices track cattle health and behaviour, enabling early disease detection and improved breeding practices (Mohanty et al., 2024) [50]. IoTdriven market linkages provide farmers real-time market prices and demand trends, enabling better crop selection and distribution strategies. The strategic integration of IoT technologies in Indian agriculture has shown tangible benefits, including enhanced resource efficiency, improved yield predictability, and market connectivity (Yadav et al., 2022)^[89]. These examples demonstrate that IoT is important to the modernization and sustainability of agriculture in India.

Artificial intelligence (AI)

Computer science's artificial intelligence (AI) allows machines and computers to make decisions similarly to humans (Sarker, 2022) ^[74]. Machine learning (ML) algorithms teach computers and other devices to make intelligent decisions independently (Tyagi & Chahal, 2022) ^[86]. These algorithms fall into four main categories: reinforcement. semi-supervised, unsupervised. and supervised. AI can carry out tasks like disease and pest identification agricultural and livestock monitoring more efficiently. By preparing for extreme weather and market swings, farmers can reduce their risk using predictive modelling (Alibabaei, 2023) ^[6]. Modern state-of-the-art models have produced encouraging findings, suggesting that additional studies in the field using more sophisticated AI instruments can aid in closing the gap in food production (Rejeb et al., 2022) [69]. Artificial intelligence (AI) can analyse soil and water and identify potential pests, weeds, and diseased plants. This allows for the timely application of fertilizer, pesticides, and irrigation techniques to plants requiring treatment, reducing yield loss and boosting farm output (Javaid et al., 2023)^[29]. AI-generated data can be shared among farms to create a farming community that will improve agricultural practices in the area. However, there is still no such extensive library of AI-derived data and insights for farm operators (Singh et al., 2023)^[80].

Farmers in Punjab, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are using AI-powered crop monitoring systems to optimize farming practices. These systems use satellite imagery and weather data to provide insights into crop health, aiding in informed irrigation, fertilization, and pest control decisions (Elbehri *et al.*, 2021) ^[19]. In Maharashtra, AI-based pest and disease detection systems help farmers identify signs of pest infestation or disease outbreaks early, improving crop health and reducing crop losses (Ahale *et al.*, 2024) ^[3]. In Telangana, precision agriculture techniques powered by AI are revolutionizing farming practices. They use sensors, drones, and AI algorithms to tailor inputs to specific crop needs, maximizing crop yields while conserving resources and minimizing environmental impact,

making agriculture more sustainable (Rao, 2023)^[66].

In Karnataka, AI-driven market analysis and price prediction systems help farmers make better decisions on crop selection and marketing strategy. These systems analyze market data and trends, providing insights into demand-supply dynamics and price fluctuations, enabling farmers to optimize planting schedules and selling strategies (Redhu et al., 2022)^[67]. In Tamil Nadu, robotic farming technology powered by AI is gaining traction among progressive farmers. These systems reduce the need for manual labour and increase productivity, helping farmers overcome labour shortages and improve overall farm efficiency. As AI continues to evolve, its potential to agriculture revolutionize Indian will only grow (Senthilkumar et al., 2023)^[76].

Blockchain

One type of distributed ledger technology is blockchain (DLT). A distributed ledger technology, or DLT, is a technology that keeps track of transactions in a distributed manner across multiple nodes (Pandey et al., 2023) [58]. technology makes new channels Blockchain of communication between supply chain participants possible. It is a dispersed, unchangeable ledger that records every exchange of digital assets over a network. Allowing traceability for food products purchased and keeping an eye out for contamination can also increase food safety (Rehmani, 2021)^[68]. Blockchain has been utilized in the global food and agriculture industry for several purposes. including farmer land registries, tracing the provenance of humanitarian goods, minimizing waste for small cooperative farmers, and guaranteeing that it reaches its intended users (Kamilaris et al., 2021)^[35]. Blockchain has the potential to introduce the idea of agriculture insurance, in which pricing can adjust based on crop harvest status, and secure information can be sent down the supply chain, improving financial assistance and easing the burden on farmer [33] operators (Kamalakshi & Naganna, 2021) Several possible benefit categories are offered by the application of blockchain to supply chain traceability: an expansion of the market based on quality assurance, Price increases, and value capture depending on consumer value is distributed via smart contracts to supply chain participants (Agrawal et al., 2023)^[2].

Blockchain technology is revolutionizing the agricultural sector in India by enhancing transparency, efficiency, and sustainability. Companies are establishing traceable supply chains for agricultural products, ensuring authenticity, quality, and safety (Chandan *et al.*, 2023) ^[12]. Blockchain platforms provide pricing and payment transparency, addressing price manipulation and delayed payments. Smart contracts automate agreements between farmers and buyers, streamline processes, and reduce disputes (Li et al., 2023) ^[42]. Blockchain is also improving crop insurance and risk management practices by providing transparent records of weather conditions, crop yields, and insurance policies. Other applications include streamlining the supply chain of agricultural inputs, creating blockchain-based marketplace platforms, and managing land records for smallholder farmers (Omar et al., 2023) [56]. These cases demonstrate the potential of blockchain technology to revolutionize agriculture in India, promoting transparency, efficiency, and

sustainability throughout the value chain.

In India, blockchain technology is being utilized to address several issues related to agriculture, including transparent supply chains, equitable pricing and payment policies, effective insurance procedures, and direct relationships between farmers and buyers. Using a tamper-proof ledger to record transactions, FarmPay in Maharashtra guarantees sugarcane farmers justice and transparency in pricing and payments (Shaktawat & Swaymprava, 2024)^[77].

Farmer producer organizations (FPOs) in Karnataka are automating sales contracts for organic produce by utilizing blockchain-powered smart contracts (Lalitha *et al.*, 2022) ^[40]. By storing information about weather patterns, agricultural yields, and insurance plans on a blockchain, CropChain increases the effectiveness of crop insurance procedures in Telangana (Pandey & Sen, 2022) ^[59]. Blockchain technology is used by online marketplaces such as AgriMart in Tamil Nadu to link farmers and buyers directly, removing the need for middlemen and guaranteeing fair prices for agricultural products (Dash *et al.*, 2021) ^[15]. These illustrations show how blockchain technology is used in several states to empower farmers and improve the agricultural industry's sustainability (Mukherjee *et al.*, 2022) ^[53].

Unmanned vehicles

Unmanned Vehicle technology represents a significant innovation with the potential to revolutionize traditional manual agricultural practices (Pathak et al., 2020) [61]. Agricultural businesses worldwide use this technology more frequently to modernize farming (Duncan et al., 2021)^[18]. Drones are remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) that have a propulsion system, programmable controller, satellite navigation system, automated flight planning features, and the ability to carry a payload for completing a task like cameras, spraying systems, etc. (Gupta et al., 2013) [28] Unmanned aerial vehicle/systems (UAV/UAVs) and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) are two additional acronyms that are frequently used interchangeably; nonetheless, RPAS is the most official and global way to refer to such system (Pathak et al., 2020)^[61]. A drone, short for "Dynamic Remotely Operated Navigation Equipment," is a flying device that can operate autonomously using autopilot control and GPS coordinates along a predetermined route (Ajmera et al., 2022)^[5]. Alternatively, it can be manually operated using radio signals through a remote control or smartphone applications (Maddikunta et al., 2021)^[45]. With so many sensors, drones can find objects invisible to the human eye. As a result, drones can provide real-time, more precise, trustworthy, and objective information with fewer mistakes and higher detail (Molina et al., 2012)^[51]. Drones can be used in various agricultural applications like field and Soil analysis, Planting of Seed Pods, Crop monitoring, Identification of weeds, Crop Spraying, Irrigation, Crop health monitoring, and protecting the field from animal damage.

Farmers in India are increasingly using drones to improve productivity, precision farming, and crop monitoring. Highresolution cameras and sensors are being used in Punjab to track crop health and identify pests and illnesses early on. This enables farmers to locate stressed or infested areas and implement focused measures, such as using pesticides or modifying irrigation (Sharma *et al.*, 2021) ^[78]. Drones are utilized in Maharashtra to gather data on crop health, soil moisture content, and nutritional deficits as part of precision agriculture procedures. Farmers may increase crop yields and resource efficiency by making educated decisions regarding irrigation, fertilizer, and other inputs using artificial intelligence algorithms to produce actionable information (Phade *et al.*, 2023) ^[62].

Drones are utilized in Telangana to spray fertilizer and insecticides from the air in large-scale farms, limiting the use of chemicals and lowering pollution levels in the environment. This method lowers labour expenses, guarantees efficient management of pests and diseases, and enhances worker safety (Mandla *et al.*, 2021)^[47]. In Karnataka, where uneven land parcels and land fragmentation are frequent problems, drones are also employed for mapping and surveying purposes (Pandey *et al.*, 2022)^[59]. Coastal farmers are using drones in Tamil Nadu to measure soil salinity and saltwater intrusion in their farms so they may apply the proper remedial methods (Mandla *et al.*, 2021)^[46].

Drone usage in Indian agriculture is revolutionizing the industry by providing farmers with cutting-edge tools for land management, precision farming, pest control, and crop monitoring (Srivastava, 2022) ^[83]. As drone technology develops and becomes more widely available, it has the potential to drastically transform Indian agriculture and address important issues like food security and environmental sustainability (Khan *et al.*, 2021) ^[45].

Decision Support Systems (DSS)

By supporting farmers, directing them to accurate information, aiding in decision-making, and outlining the optimal course of action for a particular scenario, decision support systems (DSSs) bring value to the efficient operation of farming techniques (Naud et al., 2020)^[54]. Efficiency can be significantly increased by making production guidelines and knowledge available to the farm (Prusty et al., 2020)^[64]. It offers a method for ensuring sustainability by letting farmers choose different crops for a given area (Javaid et al., 2022) [30]. Mobile device access makes the system more palatable to farmers and helps them through the growing process (Dickson & Amannah, 2023) ^[17]. DSS offers remote monitoring that combines intelligent sensing and intelligent irrigation systems to monitor variables, including water efficiency, moisture content, and temperature. The study highlights the significance of hydroponic farming, which permits farming in inappropriate soil and water conditions, as a smart agricultural technique (Suebsombut, 2021)^[84].

Indian agriculture is changing thanks to Decision Support Systems (DSS), which offer farmers customized recommendations. DSS systems evaluate information on crop growth stages, weather patterns, and soil health in Punjab, a region known for its wheat and rice farming, to produce insights that may be used. Through web portals or mobile apps, farmers can obtain this advice, which will increase yields and resource efficiency (Anser *et al.*, 2020) ^[7]. DSS technologies integrate data from soil moisture sensors, weather forecasts, and crop water requirements to optimize irrigation practices and water usage in Maharashtra, a state with a high concentration of sugarcane farming. Using these technologies, farmers may save water resources and cut crop costs by determining when and how much irrigation is necessary. Additionally, DSS platforms offer warnings and advisories regarding circumstances of water stress, allowing for prompt action to reduce crop losses (Saggi *et al.*, 2022)^[71].

Using market prices, agronomic models, and historical climatic data, DSS systems help farmers in Telangana choose and plan their crops by suggesting appropriate crop kinds and planting times (Pal *et al.*, 2023) ^[16]. By reducing the risks brought on by market volatility and climate change, these instruments increase the resilience and profitability of farms. DSS platforms combine information from agricultural health monitoring systems, satellite images, and pest surveillance networks to detect pest outbreaks and disease hotspots in real-time in Karnataka (Vennila, 2022) ^[87]. Farmers can limit crop losses by implementing timely interventions and receiving alerts and advisory messages on disease management techniques and pest control measures (Panda, 2020) ^[57].

Robotics

The combination of mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering is known as robotics, and it allows for the creation of machines that can carry out complicated tasks using pre-programmed instructions (Bandari & Schmidt, 2021) ^[10]. Originally, robots were presented as a cuttingedge remedy for industrial processes. The trend of using robots in various industries agriculture, space exploration. logistics, health, and defence, to name a few is growing as technology progresses and reduces the cost and size of robots while increasing computer capacity (Javaid et al., 2021) [29]. Farm owners can oversee and control their operations from the comfort of their own homes thanks to robots. Disposable robots can readily do dangerous tasks, such as working at heights and with chemicals (Ng & Mahkeswaran, 2021) ^[55]. Additionally, the agriculture industry's adoption of robotics opens up employment opportunities for robotics engineers and technicians. However, IoT, AI, and global positioning systems must be combined to create efficient robots (Licardo et al., 2024)^[44]. Indian agriculture is using robotics to automate labourintensive jobs, increase productivity, and solve issues, including labour shortages and growing input costs. Mechanized farming is prevalent in Punjab, where robotic sowing and transplanting methods are becoming more and more popular (Gautam et al., 2023)^[22]. With their precision seeders and transplanters, these devices can plant seeds or seedlings consistently and accurately, saving effort and guaranteeing ideal plant spacing (Syed et al., 2019) [85]. Robotic pruning systems are being implemented in Maharashtra to automate vineyard management procedures. These systems use vision and sensor systems to recognize and prune grape plants according to predetermined standards. This preserves the productivity and quality of the vineyard while saving time and labour (Kukreti et al., 2023) [39]

Robotic weeders are utilized in Telangana's rice paddies in place of manual labour or chemicals to control weeds. By enabling the distinction between crops and weeds, machine learning algorithms and computer vision can save labour costs and chemical usage while enhancing crop yields and soil health (Ghosh *et al.*, 2023) ^[24]. Robotic milking systems are transforming the dairy farming industry in Karnataka by automating the milking process, permitting voluntary milking of cows, doing away with the requirement for manual labour, and providing round-the-clock milking without the need for human intervention (Gopakumar & Deka, 2020) ^[26]. Robotic egg collection systems are being used in poultry farms in Tamil Nadu to automate the processes of collecting and sorting eggs. This reduces labour expenses and lowers the possibility of egg contamination or breakage (George, 2024) ^[23]. Robots in Indian agriculture is changing customary agricultural methods and spurring innovation in several fields, such as crop, dairy, and poultry farming (Gulati *et al.*, 2021) ^[27].

Conclusion

Given the increasing demand on land and water resources, the agriculture sector needs to modernize its methods. Datadriven initiatives offer one way to guarantee sustainability. ICTs and Disruptive Technologies in automating and optimizing agricultural processes, and illustrated how disease prevention, monitoring, and automated seeding and harvesting may all contribute to smart farming's ability to increase crop yields. While both IoT and AI are potent technologies on their own, their combination known as the Artificial Intelligence of Things (AIoT) has the potential to alter a wide range of farming operations and procedures significantly. The green 5G-AIoT has the potential to create a massive network of interconnected smart devices that are dependable, energy-efficient, and capable of selfmonitoring, self-correcting, and self-healing. This could redefine the future of the agriculture industry and other industries, as well as transform businesses across industries. The technology is paired with the newest fifth generation (5G) wireless technology and environmentally friendly technology.

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