

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DIGITAL FARMER APPS: TRANSFORMING INDIAN AGRICULTURE TOWARD SMART AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT FARMING

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Abstract

Indian agriculture is experiencing a technological transition through the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital advisory platforms. AI-driven technologies, combined with mobile-based farmer applications, are supporting precision farming, crop monitoring, smart irrigation, yield prediction, and market intelligence. This paper reviews the conceptual foundations and applications of AI in Indian agriculture, with special emphasis on AI-enabled farmer apps that provide real-time advisory services, weather updates, pest alerts, and price forecasting. While these technologies enhance productivity, climate resilience, and income stability, challenges such as digital literacy, infrastructure gaps, and affordability persist. The study highlights the importance of inclusive policies and digital capacity building for sustainable AI adoption in Indian agriculture.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Farmer Apps, Digital Agriculture, Precision Farming, Climate-Smart Agriculture, IoT, Sustainable Development.

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Introduction

Agriculture plays a vital role in India's socio-economic structure. However, small landholdings, unpredictable climate conditions, and market volatility limit productivity and profitability. Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers data-driven solutions to optimize agricultural practices. With increasing smartphone penetration in rural India, AI-powered farmer applications are becoming an important medium for delivering agricultural advisories and decision-support systems directly to farmers.

AI Technologies in Agriculture

Machine Learning and Predictive Analytics

Machine learning models analyze historical crop, soil, and weather data to forecast yield, pest outbreaks, and input requirements. These predictive insights support timely farm management decisions.

Computer Vision and Remote Sensing

AI-enabled image recognition systems identify crop diseases and nutrient deficiencies using smartphone images and drone-based surveillance.

IoT and Smart Irrigation

IoT-based soil moisture sensors automate irrigation scheduling, improving water-use efficiency and reducing resource wastage.

Agricultural Robotics

AI-driven automation supports precision spraying, harvesting, and weed control, reducing labor dependency.

AI-Based Farmer Applications in India

Mobile-based farmer applications represent one of the most practical implementations of AI in Indian agriculture. These apps integrate machine learning algorithms, satellite data, and localized weather forecasting to provide personalized advisories.

Some widely used platforms include:

Kisan Suvidha – Provides weather updates, market prices, and advisory services.

Plantix – Uses AI-based image recognition to diagnose crop diseases.

IFFCO Kisan – Offers expert advice, weather alerts, and Agri-input guidance.

AgriApp – Provides crop-specific advisory and nutrient management guidance.

These applications improve farmers' access to scientific knowledge, reduce dependency on intermediaries, and support data-driven decision-making. AI-enabled apps are particularly beneficial for small and marginal farmers who lack access to traditional extension services.

Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

- Real-time decision support
- Improved productivity and income
- Climate risk mitigation
- Enhanced market transparency

Challenges

- Digital divide in rural areas
- Limited smartphone literacy
- Data privacy and governance concerns
- Language and regional adaptability issues

Addressing these barriers requires government support, public–private partnerships, and farmer training initiatives.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence, combined with mobile-based farmer applications, is transforming Indian agriculture into a more data-driven and climate-resilient system. While AI-based apps provide accessible and cost-effective advisory services, their widespread adoption depends on digital infrastructure development, farmer awareness, and inclusive technological policies. Strategic implementation can significantly contribute to sustainable agricultural development and national food security.

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