A Study of the Impact of Natural Factors on Agricultural Yield in India

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How to Cite this Article:
KUMARI, T., R, S. & SHASHIREKHA, (2026). A Study of the Impact of Natural Factors on Agricultural Yield in India. International Journal of Creative and Open Research in Engineering and Management, 02(6). https://doi.org/10.55041/ijcope.v2i6.322

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on agriculture in India by analyzing how AI-driven technologies influence crop productivity and farming efficiency. The research focuses on AI applications such as NDVI monitoring, smart irrigation systems, rainfall forecasting, soil analysis, and crop disease detection. Using secondary data obtained from a Kaggle dataset containing over 190 observations from different Indian agricultural regions, the study applies statistical tools, including regression analysis and t-tests, to evaluate the relationship between AI-related variables and crop yield. The findings reveal that AI technologies significantly improve agricultural productivity, with NDVI, rainfall, and smart irrigation showing strong positive effects on crop yield, while temperature variations, crop diseases, and improper soil pH negatively affect productivity. The regression model demonstrated a strong fit, explaining approximately 88% of the variation in crop yield. The study concludes that AI has substantial potential to transform Indian agriculture by enabling data-driven decision-making, improving resource utilization, and supporting sustainable farming practices.
However, successful adoption requires farmer awareness, training, affordable AI tools, and integration of AI with traditional agricultural practices.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Indian Agriculture, Crop Yield Prediction, Smart Irrigation, Precision Farming.

1. INTRODUCTION

Title of the Project

The Use of AI and Its Impact on Agriculture in India: Background of the Study

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, contributing significantly to the nation's GDP and employing more than half the population. However, traditional agricultural methods are often inefficient and vulnerable to climate change, pests, and water shortages.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing modern farming through innovations such as predictive analytics, precision farming, disease detection, and smart irrigation. These technologies promise improved decision-making, reduced input costs, and increased crop productivity. Given India's diverse agro-climatic zones, the effective use of AI could play a transformative role in addressing the persistent issues in agriculture.

Problem Statement

While AI holds great promise for Indian agriculture, there is limited empirical research that quantifies its actual impact on crop yield. Farmers often hesitate to adopt AI due to lack of awareness or proof of benefit. This study aims to statistically evaluate how AI-related factors influence crop productivity using real-world Indian agricultural data.

Need for the Study

India's growing population demands a sustainable increase in agricultural productivity. Traditional methods alone cannot meet this demand. AI can enhance accuracy in yield forecasting, optimize irrigation schedules, and manage pests effectively. Therefore, it is crucial to study how AI impacts agriculture in the Indian context, helping stakeholders—like farmers, policymakers, and agri-tech firms—make informed decisions.

Scope of the Study

This study focuses on analyzing the impact of AI tools (like NDVI imaging, crop disease detection, soil monitoring, and rainfall forecasting) on crop yield using a dataset obtained from Kaggle. The data includes state-wise metrics for temperature, rainfall, pH, NDVI, and yield. The analysis uses statistical methods such as regression and t-tests to identify the significance of each factor.

Objectives of the Study

- To understand the adoption and types of AI technologies used in Indian agriculture.
- To measure the relationship between AI indicators (e.g., NDVI, smart irrigation) and crop yield.
- To apply statistical tools to evaluate the effect of environmental and technological variables on productivity.
- To offer data-driven insights and recommendations for stakeholders in agriculture.

Limitations of the Study

- The dataset used is limited to publicly available entries and may not fully capture local variations.
- Primary data from farmers or institutions is not used; the study is based entirely on secondary data.
- The study mainly focuses on crop yield and does not cover the cost-benefit aspects of AI implementation.
- Statistical models may not capture all real-world complexities such as labour availability, market prices, or government policies.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework for this study is based on the interaction between AI-enabled technologies and agricultural productivity. AI components such as NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index), rainfall prediction, soil pH analysis, and temperature forecasting act as independent variables that influence crop yield, which is the dependent variable.

The model assumes a positive relationship between accurate AI-enabled agricultural inputs and increased yield, with environmental conditions acting as control variables. The framework supports the use of regression analysis and t-tests to quantify these relationships.

Literature Review

- **Jha et al. (2021)**

Explored AI applications in Indian farming including pest detection, yield estimation, and irrigation management. The study found significant productivity increases in farms adopting AI tools compared to traditional practices.

- **Sharma & Patil (2020)**

Studied the use of satellite imagery and NDVI data to monitor crop health. Their findings emphasized that real-time monitoring helped in early disease detection and improved yield by 12–15%.

- **Singh et al. (2019)**

Conducted an empirical analysis of precision agriculture in Punjab using machine learning models. The study confirmed that temperature and rainfall predictions through AI models reduced input costs and increased efficiency.

- **World Bank Report (2022)**

Highlighted AI's role in transforming agriculture globally, especially in developing nations. India was identified as a key market with high potential due to large-scale farming and climate vulnerability.

- **Deshmukh & Rao (2023)**

Analysed secondary data from government sources and concluded that farms adopting AI-assisted irrigation showed up to 18% better water-use efficiency and yield performance.

- **Rahul Kumar et al. (2020)**

Artificial Intelligence helps improve Indian agriculture by providing accurate information on crops, weather, soil, and pest management. The study highlighted that AI technologies can increase productivity and improve farmers' income through smart farming practices.

- **Dr. Mukesh Ranga (2020)**

Artificial Intelligence is an effective tool for improving agricultural productivity and rural growth in India. The study highlighted that AI helps farmers achieve better output through forecasting, analysis, and smart decision-making, while also discussing the opportunities and challenges of AI adoption in rural agriculture.

- **Suchandra Dutta, Shantanu Rakshit, and Devayan Chatterjee (2021)**

discussed the use of Artificial Intelligence in Indian agriculture and explained how AI-based technologies help farmers monitor crops and livestock more efficiently. The study also highlighted the role of agricultural extension services in promoting and assessing AI technologies for better farm management.

- **Sana Rafi, Raghupathi Balasani, Faizan Qadir, Mary Tahir, Faizan Ahmed, and Wani Suhail Ahmad (2022)**

Artificial Intelligence plays an important role in achieving sustainable agriculture in India by improving decision-making, productivity, and crop quality. The study highlighted that AI applications support sustainable development goals such as Zero Hunger and innovation in agriculture.

- **Victor Mokaya (2019)**

the future of precision agriculture in India using Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. The study highlighted that AI-based cognitive technologies can improve crop yield, reduce farming risks, and enhance agricultural productivity by helping farmers manage climate and weather-related challenges more effectively.

Research Gap

Although several studies acknowledge the role of AI in enhancing agricultural practices, few have statistically analysed the state-wise impact of AI tools on crop yield using real datasets.

This project fills the gap by:

- Using real agricultural data from India (Kaggle source)
- Applying quantitative methods (regression and t-test) to assess the relationship between AI variables and crop yield
- Offering region-specific insights that are not commonly addressed in generalized global studies.

3. RESEARCH DESIGN & METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study follows a quantitative research design, leveraging statistical tools to understand the impact of AI technologies on agricultural yield in India. It involves structured data collection, statistical analysis (t-test and regression), and interpretation to derive insights.

Type of Research

The project is descriptive and analytical in nature. It describes the influence of AI-driven factors like NDVI, temperature, rainfall, and pH levels on agricultural output, and analyzes their relationship using inferential statistics.

Sampling Technique

A non-probability purposive sampling technique was employed to select the dataset from Kaggle. The dataset was chosen based on its relevance to AI applications and agricultural outputs in Indian states.

Sample Size and Profile

The dataset includes information from over 190 observations, covering various Indian states and multiple variables such as temperature, rainfall, NDVI, soil pH, crop yield, and AI indicators. These data points represent different agricultural environments, enabling generalized insights.

Sources of Data (Primary/Secondary)

- **Primary Data**: Not applicable in this study.
- **Secondary Data**:
  - Kaggle dataset on AI and Indian agriculture
  - Derived variables like NDVI, rainfall, and temperature. Open-source climate and agri-tech information

Research Variables

Type of Variable	Variable Name
Dependent	Yield (kg per hectare)
Independent	Tem perature (°C), Rainfall (mm), NDVI Index, Soil pH, Smart Irrigation Type, Crop Disease Status, Total Days
Control	Region/State (implicitly controlled through data selection)

Tools Used for Analysis (Statistical Tools & Software)

- **Microsoft Excel**: Used for data cleaning, visualization, and statistical analysis
- **Statistical Methods Used**:
  - **Regression Analysis**: To determine how AI-related variables (NDVI, rainfall, temperature, etc.) influence crop yield
  - **T-Test**: To assess yield differences under different temperature ranges

Data Collection Process

The dataset was obtained from Kaggle, a platform that hosts publicly available agricultural datasets. Data were cleaned to remove missing or irrelevant values. Variables were then selected for statistical testing based on relevance and availability.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Presentation of Data

The dataset consists of 190 records from different agricultural zones in India. The key variables are:

- Temperature (°C)
- Rainfall (mm)
- NDVI Index (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index)
- Soil pH
- Smart Irrigation Type (Yes/No)

- Crop Disease (Yes/No) Total Days
- Crop Yield (kg/hectare)

Data was cleaned and analysed using Microsoft Excel, with tables and charts used to visualize trends.

Statistical Analysis Using Excel

A. T-Test: Yield vs Temperature Groups

Parameter	**Value**
Mean Yield	4056.88 kg/ha
Mean Temperature	24.51°C
t-Statistic	-48.10
Degrees of Freedom	189
P(T<=t) one-tail	2.81E-108
t Critical one-tailed	1.65

Interpretation:

The extremely low p-value (< 0.05) confirms that temperature significantly affects yield. Higher or lower temperature variations influence agricultural output.

B. T-Test: Yield vs Rainfall Groups

Parameter	**Value**
Mean Yield	4056.88 kg/ha
Mean Rainfall	62.73 mm
t-Statistic	-47.82
Degrees of Freedom	189
P(T<=t) one-tail	3.21E-107
t Critical one-tail	1.65

Interpretation:

Again, the p-value is far below 0.05, which means rainfall levels also significantly impact crop yield. Optimal rainfall appears to be positively associated with productivity.

C. Regression Analysis

A multiple regression was performed in Excel to assess the influence of various factors on yield.

Metric	Value
R Square	0.882
Adjusted R Square	0.879
Significance F	1.68E-87

Regression Coefficients:

Predictor	Coefficient	P-Value
Intercept	1986.45	< 0.001
Temperature	-34.21	< 0.001
Rainfall	0.82	< 0.001
NDVI Index	1450.67	< 0.001
Soil pH	-76.12	0.019
Smart Irrigation (Yes)	562.73	0.004
Crop Disease (Yes)	-489.33	0.002
Total Days	22.58	< 0.001

Interpretation:

- NDVI, rainfall, smart irrigation, and total days positively influence yield.
- Temperature, crop disease, and acidic soil pH negatively impact productivity.
- The Adjusted R^2 of 0.879 suggests a strong model fit, with ~88% of yield variation explained.

Interpretation Aligned with Objectives

Research Objective	Statistical Tool Used	Outcome
Determine AI's impact on yield	Regression	NDVI, smart irrigation, and crop disease variables had significant effects

Research Objective	Statistical Tool Used	Outcome
Analyze effect of temperature	T-Test	Yield significantly differs across temperature groups
Analyze effect of rainfall	T-Test	Yield significantly differs across rainfall ranges
Identify best predictors	Regression	NDVI, rainfall, and irrigation are key contributors

5. FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Major Findings (Based on Objectives)

Based on the data analysis and statistical evaluation, the following key findings were derived:

❖ **AI Tools Significantly Influence Crop Yield**

- Variables like NDVI, smart irrigation, and AI-based disease monitoring showed a strong positive impact on yield.
- Regression analysis revealed that NDVI Index had one of the highest coefficients (1450.67), confirming its significance in yield prediction.

❖ **Temperature Has a Negative Impact on Yield**

- From the t-test and regression results, it was evident that rising temperatures reduced crop output. The negative coefficient (-34.21) supports this conclusion.

❖ **Rainfall Positively Influences Yield**

- The second t-test showed a statistically significant difference in yield under different rainfall conditions.
- Regression analysis confirmed that rainfall is a strong positive predictor (Coefficient = 0.82).

❖ **Smart Irrigation Plays a Crucial Role**

➢ Farms with AI-powered smart irrigation systems had significantly better yield outcomes, adding 562.73 kg/ha to output on average.

❖ **Soil pH and Crop Diseases Are Also Crucial**

➢ Acidic or highly alkaline soil (lower or higher pH) and crop diseases contributed negatively to yield.

➢ These parameters emphasize the importance of continuous soil health and pest monitoring using AI.

Conclusions

This study proves that AI-powered agricultural practices can dramatically improve the efficiency and productivity of Indian farming. Technologies like NDVI sensing, rainfall prediction, smart irrigation, and real-time disease detection are not just theoretical tools but practical solutions with measurable benefits.

Statistical tools such as regression analysis and t-tests confirm that AI influences farming decisions and outcomes, especially when environmental variables are unpredictable due to climate change.

Furthermore, the model explains 88% of the variability in yield, demonstrating that AI and related variables are highly relevant in current Indian agricultural contexts.

Suggestions / Recommendations

❖ **Promote AI Training for Farmers**

The government and private sectors should offer training programs for rural farmers to help them adopt AI technologies effectively.

❖ **Deploy AI-Driven Irrigation Systems**

Encourage the use of smart irrigation systems, especially in water-scarce regions, to ensure optimal usage and increased productivity.

❖ **Use NDVI Monitoring Tools in All Zones**

NDVI tools should be provided at affordable rates or through subsidies to monitor crop health and forecast yield accurately.

❖ **Integrate AI with Traditional Practices**

Farmers should be educated on how to combine traditional methods with AI inputs to make sustainable decisions.

❖ **Soil pH Testing and Treatment Services**

Regular AI-assisted soil testing should be made accessible to avoid negative impacts from poor pH conditions.

Scope for Future Research

- **Crop-Specific Studies**: Further research can focus on specific crops (e.g., rice, wheat, cotton) to identify crop-wise AI influence.
- **AI vs Traditional Method Comparison**: Comparative longitudinal studies can evaluate yield and cost differences over time.

- **Region-Based AI Analysis**: More granular studies across Indian states and climate zones could refine the understanding of localized AI impact.
- **AI with IoT & Drones**: Integration with emerging tech like drones and IoT sensors can provide deeper insights into precision agriculture.

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