Agrorobotics

- JUAN MARTÍN-GIL FANCONI
- ALFONSO LOZANO HERNANDO
- JORGE ENRIQUE LARA TONDORF
- JERONIMO GAST
- BORJA RINCÓN LOZADA

Universidad
Francisco de Vitoria
UFV Madrid

Abstract

- **Focus:** In-depth exploration of agrorobotics and its potential future, driven by advancements in AI and IoT.
- **Goal:** Understand robotics key role in agriculture development.
- **Content:**
  - Analysis of various robot types (planting, picking, fertilizing).
  - Evaluation of their advantages and disadvantages.
  - Examination of debates and concerns: job displacement, environmental impact, and data privacy/security.
- **Conclusion:** Reflection on the possibilities and challenges presented by agrorobotics for humanity.

Introduction

- **Definition & Motivation**
  - **Agrorobotics** refers to automated machines (robots) using AI, machine learning, and GPS to perform farming tasks (planting, harvesting, monitoring) with minimal human intervention.
  - **Motivation:** Inspired by the efficient, highly automated farms seen in the movie *Interstellar*. Our group interest lies in exploring the technology that will eliminate the need for simple, repetitive human tasks.
  - **Goal:** Understand how this technology can make agriculture more efficient.

- **Objectives**

The main objective is to analyze the current and future role of agricultural robots in automating farm work, focusing on their applications, pros, cons, and ethical impact.

Specifically, this paper aims to:

  - Define agricultural robots and describe their main types.
  - Detail the technologies (sensors, GPS, AI, IoT) enabling their operation.
  - Evaluate their benefits and limitations compared to traditional farming.
  - Analyze future trends, particularly the integration of AI and IoT.
  - Reflect on the ethical, social, and environmental consequences of agrorobotics.

- **Paper Outline**
  1. **Overview and Definition** of agricultural robotics.
  2. **Types and enabling technologies** (sensors, GPS, AI).
  3. **Advantages and Disadvantages** (productivity, costs, employment).
  4. **Future Developments** (AI & IoT integration).
  5. **Ethical Analysis** (power, data privacy, environmental effects).

Description of Agriculture Robots

A **robot** is a machine, typically programmable by a computer, designed to execute a series of complex tasks automatically. It can operate under the direction of an external controller or through an internal control system. While some robots are built to resemble humans, most are engineered for specific functions, prioritizing efficiency and practicality over appearance or expressiveness.

Agricultural Robot: any robot system that can impulse agricultural process, by taking over many of the farmer's works that are slow or labour intensive. Applying robots in agriculture make many tasks simpler, faster and more effective. Driverless tractors, drones for crop monitoring and data collection, autonomous precision seedings, automated irrigation and harvesting systems, as well as milking dairy herds are some of the commonly used agricultural robots used for farming, crop, and soil management, and livestock production.

Types of Agrorobots

- Planting and seeding robots
- Harvesting and picking robots
- Drones
- Crop sprayers
- Weeding and mowing machines
- Sorting and grading robots
- Autonomous tractors
- Livestock management robots

Advantages

- Increased efficiency and productivity:
- Precision and consistency:
- Enhanced sustainability:

Disadvantages

- Farmers don't know how to fix the robots:
- Maintenance is complicated and expensive:
- Potential job losses:

The Future of the Technology

- **We're Not at the Peak:** We are just getting started. The future is being built on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and the **Internet of Things (IoT)**.
  - **AI: Smart Decisions**, robots will move beyond automation to *learn*. They will detect diseases, recognize growth patterns, and optimize harvesting.
  - **IoT: Connected Farms,** all parts of the farm (sensors, drones, weather stations) will communicate, allowing robots to make real-time decisions on water or fertilizer.
- **The Goal: Precision & Sustainability:** The main benefit is giving *each plant* exactly what it needs. This drastically **reduces waste, cuts costs, and protects the environment.**
- **The Human Role: Collaboration, Not Replacement:** Robots will handle the repetitive, physical tasks. Humans will have to adapt for the future, focusing on **planning, data analysis, and management.**
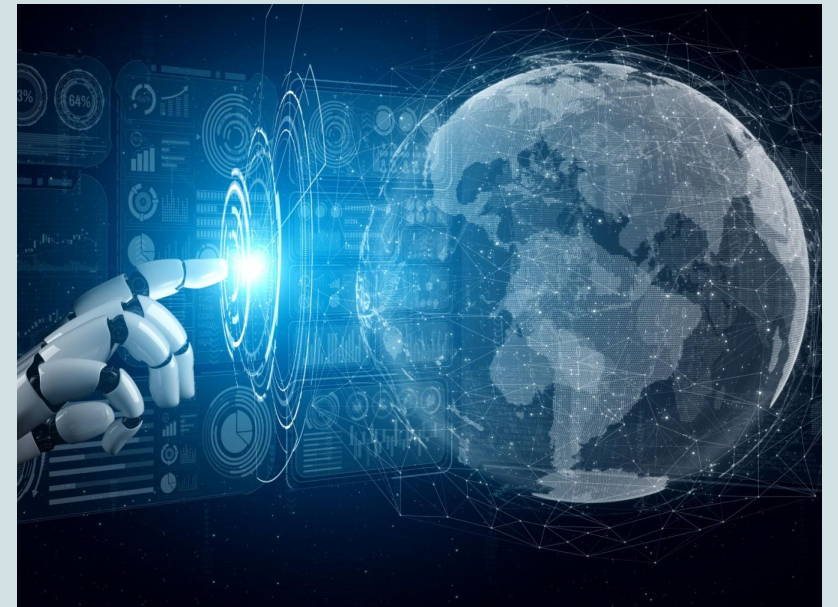
The Ethical View

- Environmental impact
- Data and privacy
- Cybersecurity concerns
- Sustainability
- Job displacement
- Centralization of the power

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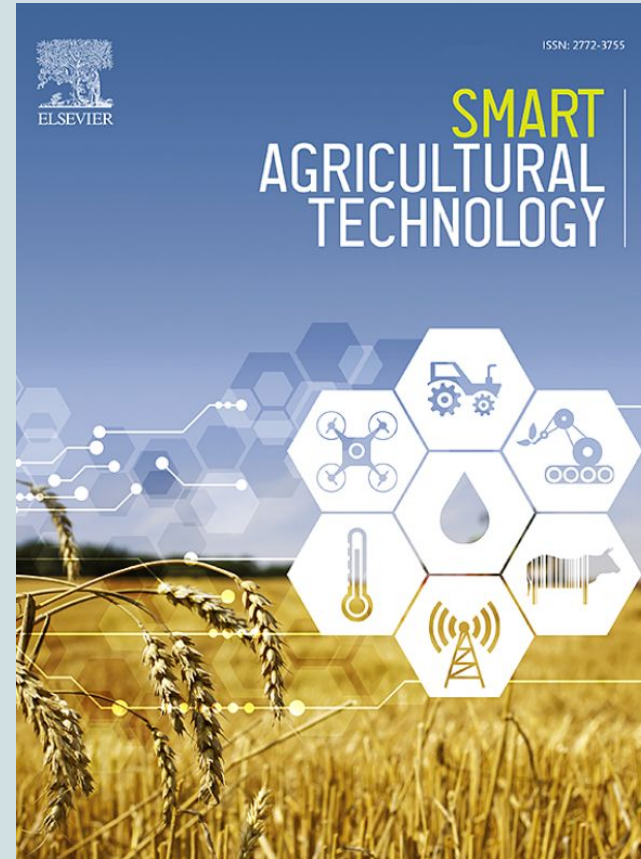
Social and ethical considerations for agricultural robotics

Kirsten Ayris, University of Reading, UK and David Christian Rose, Cranfield University, UK

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Conclusion

- **Agrorobotics** offers a path to efficient, precise, and sustainable food production, vital for a growing global population.
- **The rapidly expanding market** confirms its transformative potential in modern agriculture.
- **However, major challenges persist:**
  - **Socioeconomic:** High costs limit access for small farmers, leading to market consolidation and initial job displacement.
  - **Ethical/Security:** Concerns over data privacy, cyber-attacks, and the environmental footprint of heavy machinery/materials.
- **The Way Forward:** Success requires structured governance (rules and ethics) and a commitment to human-robot collaboration, where people remain essential for planning, oversight, and maintaining a balanced future for farming.