FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The intelligent farm includes the use of technology such as:

- Sensors for soil scanning and water, light, humidity and temperature management.
- Telecommunications technologies such as advanced networking and GPS.
- Hardware and software for specialized applications and for enabling IoT-based solutions, robotics and automation.
- Data analytics tools for decision making and prediction. Data collection is a significant part of smart farming as the quantity of data available from crop yields, soil-mapping, climate change, fertilizer applications, weather data, machinery and animal health continues to escalate.
- Satellites and drones for gathering data around the clock for an entire field. This information is forwarded to IT systems for tracking and analysis to give an “eye in the field” or “eye in the barn” that makes remote monitoring possible.

The combination of these technologies facilitates machine-to-machine (M2M) derived data. This data feeds into a decision support system so that farmers can see what is happening at a more granular level than in the past. For example, by precisely measuring variations within a field and adapting the strategy accordingly, farmers can greatly increase the effectiveness of pesticides and fertilizers and use them more judiciously. Similarly, smart farming techniques, help farmers better monitor the needs of individual animals and adjust their nutrition to prevent disease and enhance herd health.