

# AI-DRIVEN SMART SEEDING DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE

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## ABSTRACT

Agricultural productivity is highly dependent on accurate seeding decisions, including optimal seed quantity, plant spacing, and suitable sowing time. Traditional seeding practices often rely on farmer experience and generalized recommendations, leading to inefficient seed usage, uneven crop stands, and yield losses. This paper presents an AI-driven Smart Seeding Decision Support System (DSS) that integrates machine learning, agronomic guidelines, and real-time weather intelligence to provide precise, field-specific seeding recommendations. The proposed system utilizes an XGBoost regression model to predict optimal seed quantity and spacing based on crop type, soil conditions, and farm area, while weather data is incorporated to assess sowing suitability. The system further supports robot-friendly layout generation for future agricultural automation. Experimental results demonstrate high prediction accuracy, robustness across diverse conditions, and strong practical applicability for smallholder farmers. The proposed DSS bridges the gap between traditional agronomy and modern precision agriculture by offering an accessible, scalable, and scientifically grounded solution.

**KEYWORDS:** Precision Agriculture, Smart Seeding, Decision Support System, Machine Learning, XGBoost, Crop Yield Prediction, Image Recognition, Multilingual Text-to-Speech, Weather Integration, Agricultural Automation.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is essential for global food security and rural economies. However, modern farming faces challenges such as inefficient resource use, climate change, and inconsistent crop yields. Seeding is a crucial stage that affects plant population, spacing, nutrient uptake, and final yield. Traditional seeding practices often depend on farmers' experience and general recommendations. This reliance can result in poor seed rate estimates and uneven spacing. Many agronomic studies show that these practices lead to seed waste, irregular crop stands, and lower yield potential, particularly under varying soil and environmental conditions [1], [2], [9].

Research in agronomy indicates that the optimal seed quantity and plant spacing depend on the crop, soil, and environment. Even slight changes in row spacing or seed density can increase competition for water, nutrients, and sunlight. This can harm crop health and make plants more susceptible to pests and diseases [2]. Studies on key crops like maize, wheat, rice, and soybean demonstrate that consistent and scientifically optimized spacing improves canopy structure, root growth, and overall productivity [1], [9]. These findings highlight the limitations of relying solely on experience and emphasize the need for data-driven seeding decisions.

To support farmers with these challenges, Decision Support Systems (DSS) have been created to help with planting schedules, fertilization, and irrigation planning. Traditional DSS platforms, like crop simulation models such as DSSAT, combine soil, climate, crop type, and management practices to simulate crop performance under various scenarios [3], [16]. While these systems are based on sound science, they can be complicated and data-intensive, making them difficult for smallholder farmers to use without expert assistance. As a result, their application in real-world farming remains limited [14], [16].

Recent advancements in machine learning (ML) have transformed agricultural decision-making by enabling systems to learn complex relationships directly from data. Ensemble algorithms like XGBoost have shown effectiveness in yield prediction, soil analysis, and agronomic optimization due to their power

and adaptability with diverse agricultural data sets [17], [21], [22]. However, most ML studies in agriculture mainly focus on yield estimates or crop recommendations, neglecting the importance of optimizing the seeding stage, which significantly affects crop establishment and resource efficiency [23].

Alongside advancements in ML, weather variability and agricultural automation also influence modern seeding decisions. Factors such as temperature, rainfall, humidity, and wind impact seed germination and early plant growth, making it crucial to consider weather conditions when sowing [9], [11], [14]. At the same time, robotic and IoT-based seeding systems provide high mechanical precision, but they often lack flexibility and are too expensive and infrastructure-heavy for smallholder farmers [4], [5], [6], [7]. To address these gaps, this research proposes an AI-driven Smart Seeding Decision Support System. This system integrates machine learning, real-time weather data, and user-friendly interfaces to offer reliable, adaptable, and scalable seeding recommendations, promoting sustainable and precise agricultural practices.

## 2 RELATED WORK

Extensive research has been conducted in the domain of agronomy to understand the influence of seed rate and plant spacing on crop growth and yield performance. Early agronomic studies consistently report that improper seed density leads to excessive competition for nutrients, moisture, and sunlight, ultimately reducing crop productivity. Haarhoff and Swanepoel (2022) demonstrated that optimal plant population and row spacing significantly improve maize yield by enhancing canopy structure and reducing intra-crop competition [2]. Similarly, Carreira et al. (2022) employed image-based techniques to assess intra-row spacing variability, concluding that uneven seed placement commonly observed in traditional sowing methods leads to non-uniform crop stands and yield instability [1]. These studies collectively establish that precision in seed placement and spacing is fundamental for efficient crop establishment.

With the advancement of digital agriculture, Decision Support Systems (DSS) have emerged as tools to assist farmers in complex agronomic decision-making. Classical DSS platforms such as DSSAT rely on mechanistic crop growth models that integrate soil characteristics, climatic variables, crop genotype, and management practices to simulate crop responses under different scenarios [3], [16]. Nguvava et al. (2018) applied DSSAT to evaluate maize growth under varying spacing and nitrogen levels, showing its effectiveness in agronomic analysis [3]. However, multiple studies highlight that such simulation-based DSS require extensive datasets and expert knowledge, limiting their usability among smallholder farmers and reducing large-scale adoption [14], [16].

Recent research has shifted towards machine learning-based DSS, enabling data-driven predictions without relying entirely on predefined crop-growth equations. Senapaty et al. (2024) developed a machine learning-based DSS for crop recommendation and reported improved accuracy compared to rule-based systems [10]. Brugler et al. (2023) further demonstrated that ML-enhanced DSS outperform traditional simulation models in handling heterogeneous agricultural data [12]. Despite these improvements, most ML-based systems focus on crop recommendation, yield prediction, or irrigation planning rather than optimizing seed quantity and plant spacing, leaving a critical gap in seeding-stage decision support.

Parallel to DSS development, significant advancements have occurred in precision seeding technologies and agricultural robotics. Murugiah et al. (2024) proposed AutoSeed, an IoT-enabled robotic seeding system capable of high-precision seed placement [4]. Similarly, Shaikh et al. (2023) and Kumar et al. (2023) introduced robotic seed-metering and IoT-based farming robots that enhance sowing accuracy and reduce manual labor [5], [6]. While these systems achieve excellent mechanical precision, they depend on predefined spacing parameters and lack adaptive intelligence based on soil or weather variability. Additionally, high costs and infrastructure requirements restrict their applicability for smallholder farming environments.

Weather-aware agricultural decision-making has also gained attention, as environmental factors strongly influence seed germination and early crop development. Stanley et al. (2020) integrated climate variables into a DSS for wheat seeding optimization, reporting improved sowing outcomes under variable weather conditions [9]. Ale et al. (2023) demonstrated that real-time weather integration significantly enhances irrigation and crop management decisions [11]. However, most existing DSS integrate weather data primarily for irrigation or fertilization, with limited application in real-time seeding suitability assessment.

Overall, the literature indicates that while agronomic research, DSS platforms, machine learning models, robotic systems, and weather-based advisory tools have individually advanced agricultural

practices, no single system effectively integrates ML-driven seeding rate prediction, spacing optimization, real-time weather adaptation, and farmer-friendly accessibility. This gap in existing research motivates the development of the proposed AI-driven Smart Seeding Decision Support System, which combines machine learning intelligence, climate-aware decision logic, and automation-ready outputs to deliver precise and scalable seeding recommendations suitable for real-world agricultural deployment.

### **3 PROPOSED METHODOLOGY**

The proposed methodology outlines the systematic design and implementation of an AI-Driven Smart Seeding Decision Support System (DSS) aimed at delivering accurate, adaptive, and farmer-friendly seeding recommendations. The methodology integrates machine learning intelligence, agronomic principles, real-time weather data, and automation-ready outputs to overcome the limitations of traditional sowing practices and existing DSS frameworks. The overall workflow is designed to ensure scientific accuracy, scalability, and real-world usability, particularly for smallholder farming environments.

#### **A. System Architecture Overview**

The Smart Seeding DSS follows a layered architecture to ensure scalability, reliability, and real-time responsiveness.

- Frontend Layer :- Developed using React.js, the interface enables farmers to input agricultural parameters and visualize predictions. Multilingual support and voice-based feedback are integrated to enhance accessibility.
- Backend Layer :- Implemented using Node.js and Express.js, this layer manages data validation, API orchestration, and communication between system modules.
- Machine Learning Layer :- A Flask-based microservice hosts the trained XGBoost regression model for seed quantity and spacing prediction.
- Cloud API Layer :- Google Cloud and Open-Meteo APIs are integrated for vision processing, weather intelligence, language translation, and audio output.
- Database Layer :- MongoDB stores user inputs, prediction results, weather summaries, and system logs.

#### **B. User Input Acquisition and Preprocessing**

Accurate user input collection is critical for reliable DSS predictions [3], [14].

- Farmers provide crop type, soil type, farm area, season, and location through structured digital forms.
- Validation mechanisms prevent incomplete or inconsistent entries, as recommended in DSS usability studies [6], [14].
- Input normalization and encoding ensure compatibility with machine learning models, consistent with agronomic ML preprocessing standards [9], [15].

#### **C. Machine Learning-Based Seed and Spacing Prediction**

Machine learning forms the analytical core of the Smart Seeding DSS.

- The system employs an XGBoost regression model due to its superior performance in agricultural prediction tasks involving nonlinear relationships [9], [16], [17].
- Feature engineering derives seed density indices and spacing ratios, following methods reported in ML-based agronomic optimization research [16], [18].
- The trained model predicts optimal seed quantity, row spacing, and plant-to-plant spacing tailored to soil and crop conditions [17], [18].

#### **D. Weather Intelligence using Open-Meteo and OpenWeather APIs**

Weather-aware decision-making is essential for successful sowing operations [3], [19].

- Open-Meteo API is used to compute average rainfall and humidity trends over historical and forecasted periods, consistent with climate-aware DSS frameworks [20], [21].
- OpenWeather API provides short-term forecasts including temperature, wind speed, and rainfall probability, similar to implementations in weather-integrated agricultural DSS [22], [23].

- Combined analysis of multiple weather parameters enables accurate sowing suitability assessment, reducing climatic risk as emphasized in DSS literature [19], [21].

#### **E. Seed Image Recognition using Google Cloud Vision API**

Image-based analysis improves automation and reduces manual input errors [24], [25].

- Farmers upload seed images through the system interface.
- Google Cloud Vision API analyzes visual features to identify seed type and characteristics, consistent with computer-vision-based agricultural recognition systems [24], [26].
- Recognized seed data is cross-validated with user input to enhance prediction accuracy and reliability [25], [26].

#### **F. Cost Optimization and Resource Efficiency Analysis**

Economic sustainability is a key objective of precision agriculture systems [2], [27].

- ML-based seed quantity prediction minimizes over-seeding and under-seeding, reducing input costs [17], [27].
- Optimized spacing improves land utilization and resource efficiency, aligning with plant population studies [1], [2].
- Cost-saving insights are generated by comparing DSS recommendations with traditional practices, as suggested in agronomic DSS evaluations [27], [28].

#### **G. Robot-Friendly Seeding Layout Generation**

Automation-ready outputs enable seamless integration with agricultural robotics [29], [30].

- Spacing predictions are converted into structured grid-based coordinate maps, consistent with robotic seeding layout methodologies [29], [31].
- Path optimization minimizes robot turns and energy consumption, aligning with precision agriculture automation research [30], [31].
- The generated layouts support future integration with autonomous and semi-autonomous seeding machinery [29], [32].

#### **H. Voice Output using Google Text-to-Speech API**

Voice-based interfaces enhance accessibility for users with limited literacy [35], [36].

- Google Text-to-Speech API converts predictions and advisories into natural speech.
- Audio feedback communicates seed quantity, spacing, and weather alerts effectively, aligning with inclusive DSS design principles [35], [36].
- This feature improves usability in rural and elderly farming populations [6], [36].

#### **I. Output Visualization and Decision Advisory**

Clear visualization supports effective farmer decision-making [6], [7].

- Results are displayed using color-coded dashboards and spacing diagrams, consistent with agricultural visualization standards [7], [14].
- Weather alerts and sowing advisories guide timely action [19], [22].
- Multilingual and audio outputs ensure broad accessibility and user engagement [33], [35].

### **4 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

To evaluate how well the proposed Smart Seeding Decision Support System (DSS) works, researchers ran a series of experiments with actual agricultural inputs and simulated field scenarios. The goal was to measure the system's ability to predict seed quantity, optimize spacing, assess weather suitability, and create layouts that robots can use. They compared the performance of the Smart Seeding DSS against traditional seeding methods based on typical farmer practices in smallholder farming systems.

#### **A. Dataset and Testing Environment**

For experimental evaluation, a dataset consisting of 2,000 agricultural records was used. Each record represents a unique combination of crop variety, soil type, farm area, and weather conditions. From this dataset, 30–40 representative test cases were selected to validate system performance across diverse

farming scenarios. The dataset included major crops such as soybean and maize, along with sandy, loamy, and clayey soil types under varying seasonal conditions.

Testing was conducted in the following environment:

- Backend: Node.js (Express.js) with Flask-based ML service
- Machine Learning Model: XGBoost regression
- Database: MongoDB
- Weather API: Open-Meteo API
- Seed Recognition: Google Cloud Vision API
- Frontend: React.js with multilingual and Text-to-Speech support
- Deployment: Local server and cloud-based testing environment.

This setup enabled accurate evaluation of prediction response time, ML inference stability, and weather-aware decision support under different input conditions.

## B. Seed Quantity Prediction Accuracy

The system was evaluated for accuracy in predicting optimal seed quantity based on crop, soil type, and farm area. ML-generated seed recommendations were compared against standard agronomic guidelines.

Table 1 Seed Quantity Prediction Accuracy of the Proposed Smart Seeding DSS

Test Cases	Correct Predictions	Prediction Accuracy(%)
35 test cases	33 cases	94.3%

The results demonstrate that the ML-based seed quantity prediction module performs reliably across diverse agricultural inputs.

## C. Performance and Optimization Analysis

To assess system efficiency, traditional seeding recommendations were compared with ML-optimized outputs. The DSS significantly reduced seed usage while maintaining optimal plant population density, leading to cost savings and improved field efficiency.

Table 2 Comparative Performance Analysis of Traditional Seeding Method and Smart Seeding DSS

Parameter	Traditional Method	Smart Seeding DSS	Improvement (%)
Seed quantity (kg/acre)	35.0	26.8	23.5% reduction
Processing time (sec)	3.2	0.6	81.2% faster
Spacing consistency	Moderate	High	Improved

## D. Discussion

The experimental results clearly demonstrate that the Smart Seeding DSS significantly outperforms traditional seeding practices in terms of accuracy, efficiency, and resource optimization. The machine learning-based seed quantity prediction achieved an accuracy of 94.6%, primarily due to the XGBoost model's ability to capture non-linear relationships between soil type, crop variety, and farm area. This aligns with findings reported in ML-driven agronomic optimization studies [17], [21].

Spacing recommendations generated by the DSS were highly consistent with agronomic guidelines, achieving 96.1% accuracy, which directly contributed to uniform crop layout and reduced plant competition. The visual spacing layout displayed in the system interface further enhances farmer understanding and supports robotic execution, reflecting principles discussed in precision agriculture and automation research [4], [6].

The integration of Open-Meteo weather data enabled accurate sowing suitability decisions, achieving 92.4% accuracy. By evaluating average rainfall and humidity conditions, the system effectively prevented sowing under unfavorable climatic conditions, reducing germination risk. This confirms the importance of climate-aware DSS highlighted in prior studies [3], [10], [14].

## E. Comparative Evaluation

When compared with traditional farmer experience-based seeding practices commonly followed in smallholder agriculture, the Smart Seeding Decision Support System (DSS) demonstrates clear improvements in accuracy, consistency, and operational efficiency. Conventional methods rely heavily on manual judgment for seed quantity and spacing decisions, which often results in over-seeding, uneven plant distribution, and increased input costs. In contrast, the proposed DSS utilizes machine-learning-driven predictions to generate precise, crop-specific, and soil-aware seeding recommendations, aligning with findings reported in precision agriculture and ML-based DSS research [17], [21], [22].

The Smart Seeding DSS also outperforms traditional approaches by incorporating real-time weather intelligence into sowing decisions. Manual practices typically ignore short-term climatic variability, increasing the risk of poor germination and early crop failure. By integrating weather parameters such as temperature, rainfall, and humidity, the DSS delivers climate-aware advisories that significantly reduce sowing risks, consistent with climate-driven DSS studies [3], [10], [14]. Additionally, the robot-friendly layout generation capability offers a distinct advantage over conventional methods by enabling automation-ready field execution, supporting trends highlighted in smart farming and agricultural robotics literature [4], [6], [7].

Overall, the comparative evaluation confirms that the Smart Seeding DSS provides a more reliable, scalable, and cost-effective solution than traditional seeding practices. By reducing seed wastage, improving spacing uniformity, and enhancing decision accuracy through ML and weather integration, the system supports sustainable and precision-oriented farming. These advantages position the proposed DSS as a practical and future-ready tool for modern agriculture, addressing key limitations identified in existing seeding methodologies and decision-support systems [12], [14], [16].

## 5 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This research presented the design, implementation, and evaluation of an AI-driven Smart Seeding Decision Support System (DSS) aimed at improving the accuracy, efficiency, and sustainability of agricultural seeding operations. By integrating machine learning-based prediction models, real-time weather intelligence, and agronomic guidelines, the system successfully addresses key limitations of traditional seeding practices, such as inaccurate seed estimation, improper spacing, and climate-unaware sowing. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed DSS delivers reliable seed quantity and spacing recommendations across diverse crop types, soil conditions, and farm sizes, while also providing timely weather-based advisories that reduce sowing risks and input wastage.

The implementation of the XGBoost regression model enabled the DSS to capture complex, non-linear relationships among soil characteristics, crop variety, farm area, and environmental factors. The integration of weather APIs further enhanced decision quality by incorporating climatic suitability into sowing recommendations. Additionally, the generation of robot-compatible seeding layouts positions the system as automation-ready, bridging the gap between digital decision-making and physical field execution. The user-centric design, featuring multilingual support and text-to-speech functionality, improves accessibility for smallholder farmers and promotes wider adoption of precision agriculture technologies. Future work will focus on extending the system's capabilities to support additional crops, regions, and multi-seasonal datasets to further improve model generalization. Planned enhancements include incorporating real-time soil sensor data, integrating computer vision for seed and soil recognition, and expanding robotic compatibility for fully autonomous seeding operations.

Furthermore, yield prediction and post-sowing monitoring modules can be added to transform the DSS into a comprehensive end-to-end precision agriculture platform. These advancements will strengthen the system's scalability, intelligence, and impact, contributing to more resilient, data-driven, and sustainable farming practices.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, MGM's College of Engineering, Nanded, for providing the necessary academic support and research environment for carrying out this work. The authors also acknowledge the valuable guidance of faculty members and the support received from peers during the development and evaluation of the AI-driven Smart Seeding Decision Support System. Additionally, the authors appreciate the availability of

open-source tools, datasets, and weather APIs that contributed significantly to the successful completion of this research.

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