

Global agricultural production has tripled over the last 50 years, but today still 820 million suffer from hunger and 2.5 billion suffer from malnutrition

## Agricultural production must rise, despite

- limited natural resources
- climate change
- water scarcity
- soil degradation
- loss of biodiversity

## Agriculture must simultaneously

- use resources more efficiently
- minimize food loss
- increase sustainability
- improve animal welfare
- adapt better to local conditions
- provide decent jobs
- revenue along the supply chain

# Rural populations

## **E-Agriculture**

Developing countries

- Access to Knowledge
- Emancipation
- Vicinity to Markets

## Common Goals

- Extend competiveness
- Increase sustainability
- Improve quality of life

## **Smart Farming**

Developed countries

- Remote Monitoring
- Permanent Control
- Extended Security

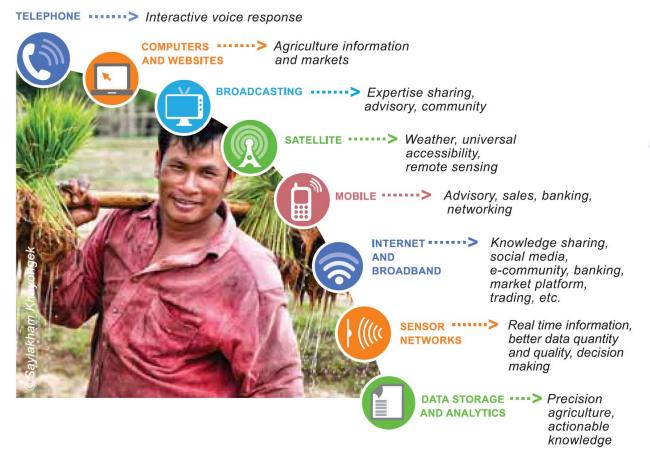




E-agriculture involves designing, developing and applying innovative ways to use information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the rural domain, with a primary focus on agriculture.\*

The aim is to boost agricultural and rural development by improving access to valuable information that can help agricultural stakeholders to make the best possible decisions and use the resources available in the most productive and sustainable manner.

ICTs that can be harnessed for e-agriculture may include devices, networks, services and applications. These can range from cutting edge Internet-based technologies and sensing tools to other technologies that have been around for much longer, such as radio, telephones, televisions, mobile phones and satellites.

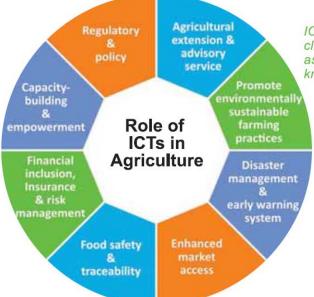


ICTs assist with implementing regulatory policies, frameworks and ways to monitor progress.

ICTs bridge the gap between agricultural researchers, extension agents and farmers, thereby enchancing agricultural production.

ICTs
widen the reach
of local communities,
including women
and youth, and provide
newer business
opportunities,
thereby enhancing
livelihoods.

ICTs increase
access to financial
services for rural
communities,
helping to secure
savings, find
affordable insurance
and tools to better
manage risk.

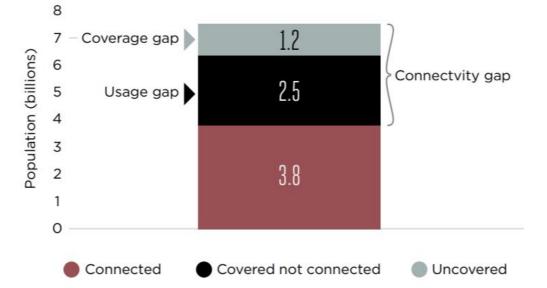


ICTs improve access to climate-smart solutions as well as appropriate knowledge to use them.

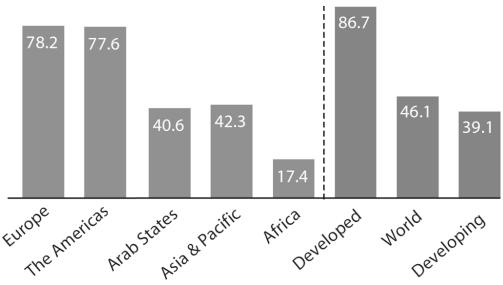
ICTs provide actionable information to communities and governments on disaster prevention, in real-time, while also providing advice on risk-mitigation techniques.

ICTs help deliver more efficient and reliable data to comply with international traceability standards.

ICTs facilitate market access for inputs as well as product marketing and trade in a variety of ways.



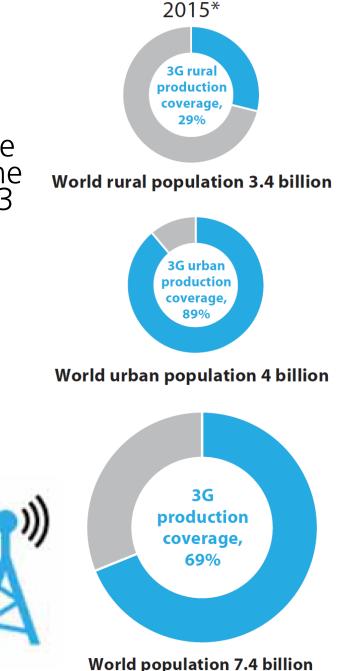
Divide of mobile penetration: less than 20% of Africans have an active subscriptions, compared to 80% in the West

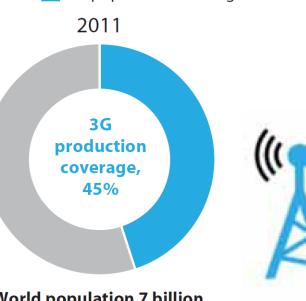


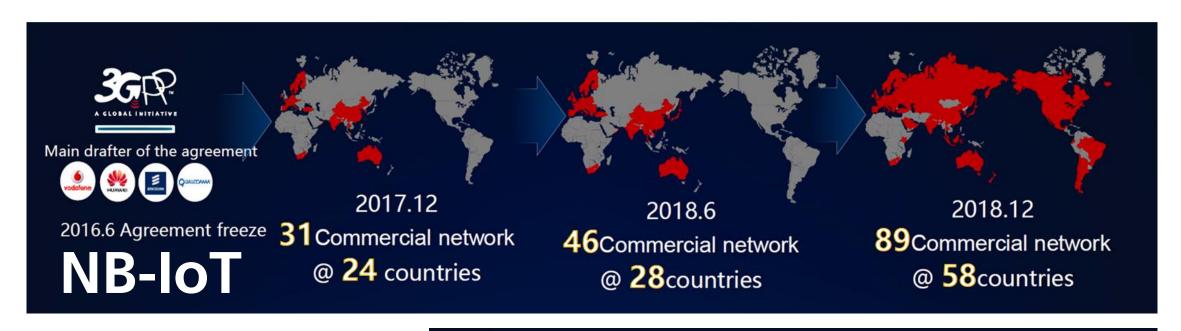
Divide of rural and urban: overall coverage increase, but half of the world population has 3 times more coverage

No 3G population coverage

3G population coverage



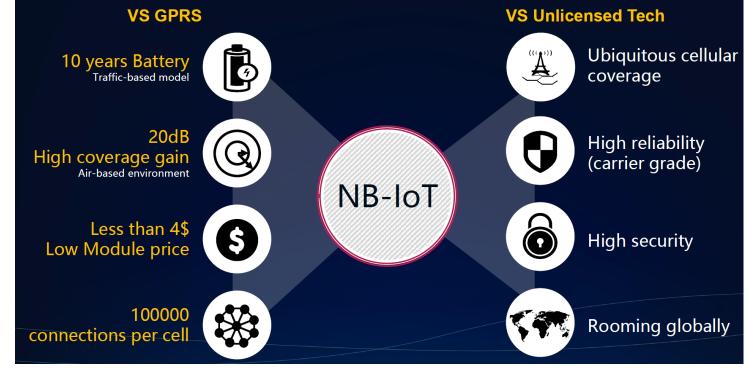




Price of NB-IoT module is similar to price of a GSM module

Cost of single user connection is around 0.05 USD per day

→ Best option for future E-Agriculture?



# Alternatives? Pieces of a Puzzle?

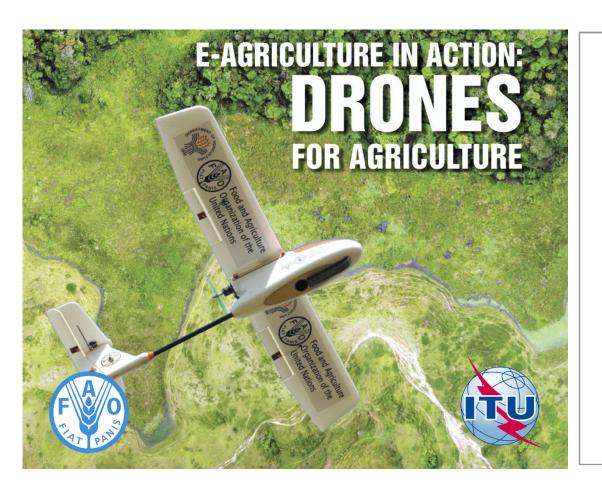








- Huawei's RuralStar
- TIP's OpenCellular
- LoRa WAN
- DIY "The Village Base Station"
- 3GPP NB-IoT
- •
- Loon
- Satellites
- Drones
- . . .



### How will drones impact business?

Predicted commercial applications and market value by industry



#### Infrastructure

Investment monitoring, maintenance, asset inventory

\$45.2 bn



#### Agriculture

Analysis of soils and drainage, crop health assessment

\$32.4 bn



#### Transport

Delivery of goods, medical logistics

\$13.0 bn



#### Security

Monitoring lines and sites, proactive response

\$10.5 bn



#### **Entertainment & Media**

Advertising, entertainment, aerial photography, shows and special effects

\$8.8 bn



#### Insurance

Support in claims settlement process, fraud detection

\$6.8 bn



#### **Telecommunication**

Tower maintenance, signal broadcasting

\$6.3 bn



#### Mining

Planning, exploration, environmental impact assessment

\$4.3 bn

Drones in agriculture can be used for crop production, early warning systems, disaster risk reduction, forestry, fisheries, wildlife conservation...

... can they also provide "piggyback" connectivity?



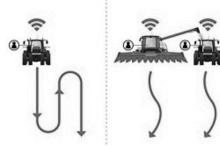


#### **AUTOMATION DEFINED BY CASE IH**

All manned vehicles

Guidance

All manned vehicles



#### Coordination Operator Assisted & Optimization Autonomy

Manned back-up



#### Supervised Autonomy

In-field supervision of unmanned vehicles



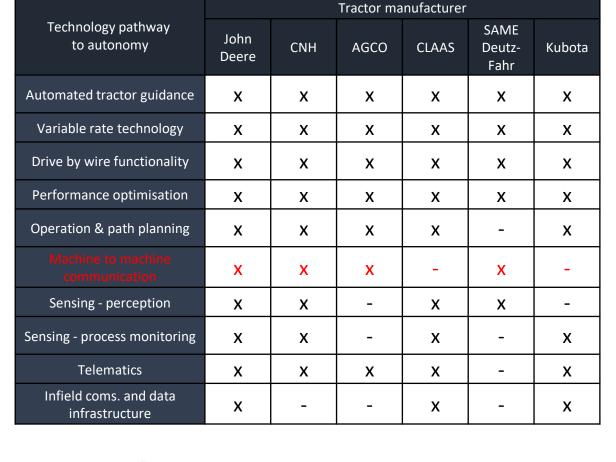
#### **Full Autonomy**

No local supervision (Remote supervision or artificial intelligence)









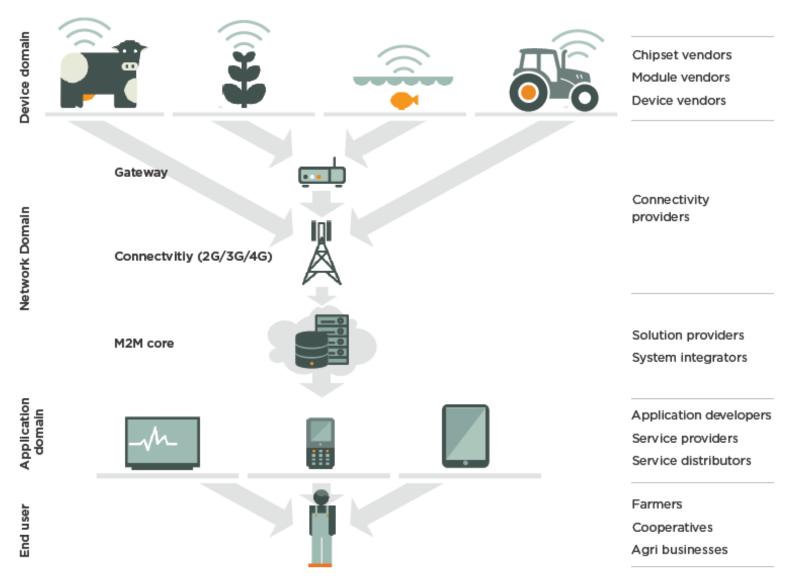


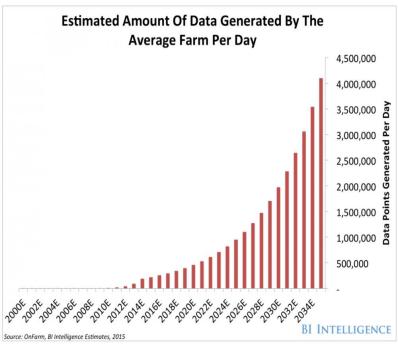




https://www.caseih.com/northamerica/en-us/innovations/automation

https://www.asirobots.com/farming/





# AI: HELPING FARMERS FEED 10 BILLION PEOPLE

WITH SENSORS, DRONES, ROBOTS, AND SERIOUS COMPUTE POWER, AI IS GIVING FARMERS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO GROW CROPS MORE SUSTAINABLY.

# THE CHALLENGE

Increase global food production 50% by 2050 to feed an additional 2 billion people'.

## **IDENTIFYING PLANT DISEASE**

Algorithms can identify 26 diseases in 14 different species with 99% accuracy<sup>2</sup>.

# **HOW AI CAN HELP**

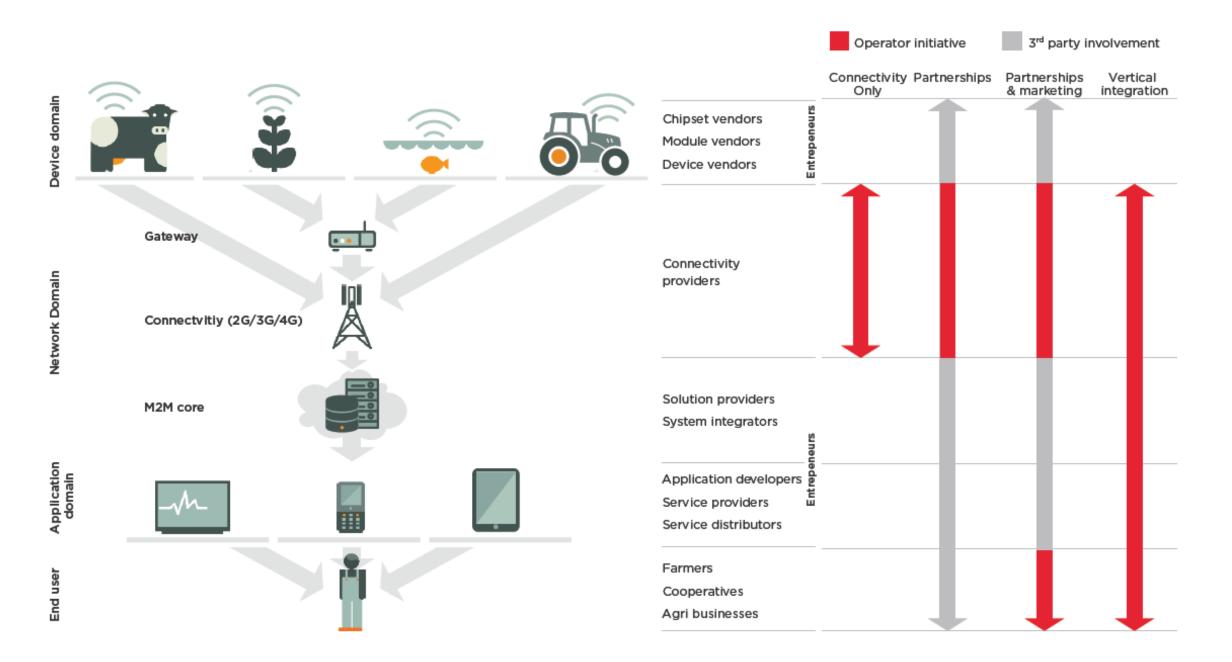
## **AUTOMATING FARM EQUIPMENT**

Machine learning helps equipment avoid obstacles and monitor plants to save water.

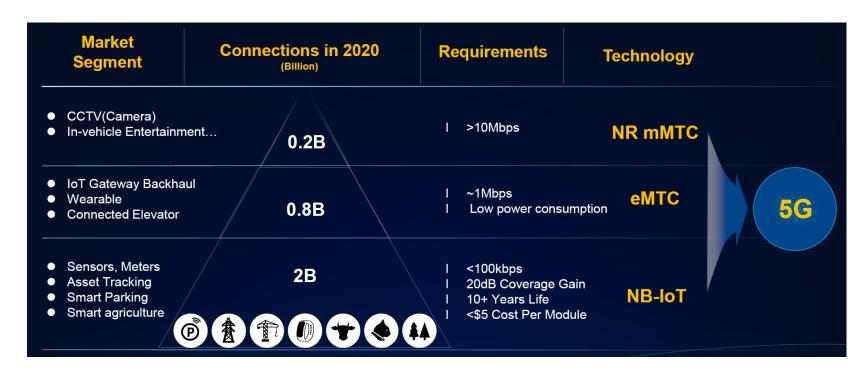
## **DETECTING PEST INFESTATIONS**

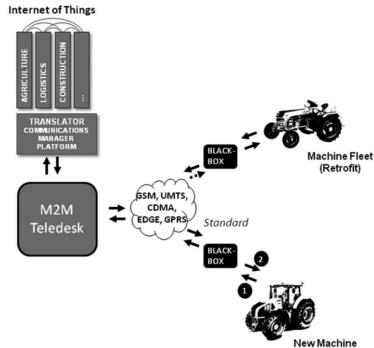
Early detection allows farmers to act quickly and minimize losses.

http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/?utm\_source=faohomepage&utm\_medium=web&utm\_campaign=featurebarathtps://arxiv.org/pdf/1604.03169.pdf



# Towards Standards for Agricultural ICT

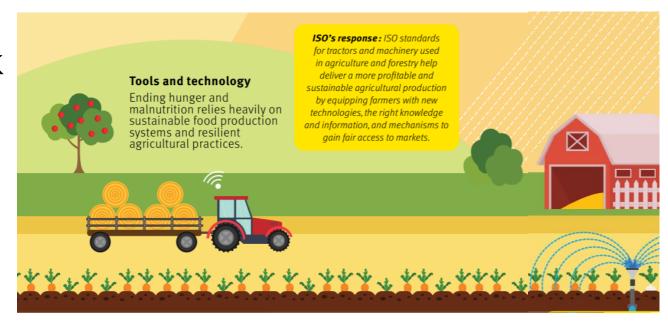




# Towards Standards for Agricultural Al

- Agricultural Information Management Standards
- ISO 11783 Serial control and communications data network for agricultural tractors
- ISO/TC 23/SC 19 Agricultural electronics

• . . .



→Agricultural AI cannot be standardized, but we might need common data formats, interfaces, trusted frameworks etc.

# Conclusions

- We need global harmonization of agricultural ICT standards
- E-Agriculture requires low-cost, low-complexity solutions with standardized methods, approaches, devices
- Smart Farming requires an integrated ICT solution as standard to account for the various emerging use cases

→ Establishment of a new ITU Focus Group might be a good start