

**Opinion Article**

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Think Twice before using AI in Organic Farming

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Organic farming stands as a beacon of sustainability and holistic agricultural practices, contributing significantly to human well-being. Embracing a chemical-free approach, organic farming champions health benefits, environmental consciousness, a connection to nature, community support, ethical considerations, mindful living, and the sheer pleasure of tasting fresh produce. These pillars not only build a healthier and more connected society but also promote happiness among individuals who choose organic over conventional farming.

Health benefits

One of the primary advantages of organic farming is its commitment to steering clear of synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. By prioritizing natural and sustainable practices, organic produce becomes a source of food free from chemical residues, thereby promoting better health and well-being.

Environmental Impact: Organic farming's emphasis on soil health, biodiversity, and conservation aligns with environmentally friendly principles. Choosing products from organic farms becomes a tangible way for individuals to contribute to the well-being of the planet, fostering a sense of happiness among those concerned about the environment.

Connection to nature

Organic farming's holistic and traditional approaches create a profound connection to the natural world. Those involved or supportive of organic farming find fulfilment and happiness in

working harmoniously with nature, rather than against it.

Community and social aspects

The association of organic farming with local and community-supported agriculture initiatives fosters a sense of community and support for local businesses. These social connections contribute significantly to overall happiness.

Ethical Considerations

Supporting organic farming aligns with values related to sustainability, animal welfare, and social responsibility. Making ethical choices in food consumption brings satisfaction and joy, as individuals know their choices resonate with principles they hold dear.

Mindful living

The principles of organic farming naturally align with a more mindful and intentional approach to living. Choosing organic products becomes a part of a broader lifestyle that values mindfulness, conscious consumerism, and overall well-being.

Taste and enjoyment

Beyond health benefits, some argue that organic produce has a superior taste compared to conventionally grown food. Enjoying flavourful and fresh food contributes to a positive and satisfying culinary experience, further enhancing happiness.

While the merits of organic farming are clear, the introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) in agriculture, including organic farming, raises philosophical, practical, and ethical concerns.

I. Philosophical Principles: Organic farming's foundation in sustainability and natural processes may clash with the introduction of AI, which is perceived as an artificial element disrupting the harmony between agriculture and nature.

II. Chemical-Free Approach: The reliance on AI applications, especially those involving precision agriculture and automation, might inadvertently lead to the use of non-organic inputs, challenging the chemical-free approach central to organic farming.

III. Complexity and Cost: The complexity and financial investment required for implementing AI in agriculture may create disparities, particularly for small-scale organic farmers who might find it challenging to adopt these technologies.

IV. Loss of Human Connection: AI technologies, if not thoughtfully implemented, could diminish the close connection between farmers and the land, contradicting the hands-on approach emphasized by organic farming.

V. Risk of Dependence on Technology: Overreliance on AI systems may pose a risk, as a failure or technical issues could disrupt the farming process, presenting challenges for organic farmers who may lack alternative methods.

VI. Data Privacy Concerns: The collection and analysis of large amounts of data in AI-driven agriculture may raise concerns about data privacy and ownership, particularly in a sector that often prefers traditional, decentralized approaches to information management.

VII. In conclusion, the integration of AI into organic farming requires careful consideration of its impact on the philosophical foundations, practical applications, and ethical values that underpin organic agriculture. Ongoing discussions and collaborative efforts within the organic farming community are crucial to finding sustainable and ethical solutions that uphold the principles of organic farming while embracing the benefits of technological innovation.

Acknowledgement

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Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest.