



Towards Sustainable Agriculture: Integrating Agronomic Practices, Environmental Physiology and Plant Nutrition

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable agriculture aims to meet the growing global demand for food without compromising environmental integrity. This review paper explores the integration of agronomic practices, environmental physiology, and plant nutrition as pathways toward sustainable crop production. Intensive agricultural practices have led to significant problems such as soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and environmental pollution. Recent advancements in plant physiology have enhanced our understanding of plant growth and response to biotic and abiotic stresses. Optimizing crop production in a sustainable manner depends on insights into key processes like photosynthesis, water use efficiency, and nutrient uptake. This review discusses the role of plant growth-promoting

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microorganisms (PGPMs) as biofertilizers, providing an alternative to harmful agrochemicals. PGPMs can improve soil health and promote plant growth when applied to soil, seeds, or plant surfaces, reducing reliance on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Additionally, nanotechnology in agriculture is examined, illustrating how nanomaterials (NMs) and nano-based fertilizers can enhance nutrient absorption and increase crop yields. Beyond these scientific approaches, there is an urgent need to implement novel agricultural practices that support sustainability. The world population is growing at a disquieting rate, placing tremendous pressure on natural resources. This threatens future generations' access to nutritious food and clean air. Innovative approaches like climate-smart agriculture, organic farming, biodynamic agriculture, sustainable intensification, and regenerative agriculture, along with practices such as integrated farming systems, precision agriculture, integrated nutrient management, and integrated pest management, have proven to safeguard agricultural sustainability. By integrating these innovative approaches and practices, it is possible to meet the increasing demands for food while preserving the environment.

Keywords: Physiology; sustainable; photosynthesis; PGPMs, nanomaterials; biotic; abiotic stresses.

1. INTRODUCTION

As the global population continues to grow exponentially, the challenge of sustaining agricultural productivity to meet rising food demands becomes increasingly critical. The United Nations projects that the world's population could reach over 8.5 billion by 2030, 9.7 billion by 2050, and peak at about 10.4 billion during the 2080s [1]. This trend underscores the urgent need to boost agricultural output in a way that balances demand with sustainability, ensuring that no one suffers from hunger or malnutrition [2]. To meet the needs of this expanding population, annual food production must increase substantially. Failure to achieve these production targets could lead to severe economic crises, with people migrating in search of food and basic necessities. This potential scenario compels agricultural scientists and policymakers to identify and overcome barriers to crop production while maximizing the use of available resources and technologies. The goal is to ensure a reliable food supply that meets both current and future needs.

Sustainable agricultural practices offer a way forward. These practices aim to produce food and other agricultural products at a low environmental cost, without jeopardizing food accessibility or the well-being of future generations [3]. Sustainable agriculture is characterized by integrated systems of plant and animal production that are designed to meet human food and fiber needs over the long term. This approach enhances environmental quality, optimizes the use of non-renewable and on-farm resources, and integrates natural biological cycles. Moreover, it strives to maintain the economic viability of farming operations while

enhancing the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole. Another key aspect of sustainable agriculture is its focus on ecosystem services. This approach ensures that the farming system satisfies current food and textile demands without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. By understanding and leveraging ecosystem services, sustainable agriculture promotes resilience and stability in the food production system. The challenge now is to continue developing and implementing these sustainable practices on a global scale to secure a stable and prosperous future for all [4].

Food insecurity and hunger are growing concerns in the modern world, with 820 million people experiencing hunger and two billion people suffering from moderate to severe food insecurity, according to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization [5]. This alarming situation underscores the need to achieve the United Nations' Sustainability Goal 2, which focuses on eradicating hunger and promoting food security and human nutrition. Several factors, such as climate change and biotic disturbances, are aggravating the challenge by reducing crop productivity, widening the gap between food demand and supply (FAO, 2017) [39]. To tackle these challenges, transformative breakthroughs in plant research are essential. The role of integrative plant physiology in addressing future agronomy challenges. The historical context and current characteristics of integrative plant physiology are outlined, showcasing how this field can bridge the gap between fundamental plant science and practical agronomy. Several examples are provided to illustrate the complex relationship between plant physiology and future agronomy, indicating the

importance of interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders [2-3].

In the quest to improve crop yields and resilience, crop physiology plays a central role by elucidating the fundamental processes that govern plant growth, development, and responses to environmental stressors [6]. With increasing global population and climate change pressures, optimizing crop production and ensuring sustainable food security has become imperative. Recent advances in crop physiology have leveraged interdisciplinary collaborations, integrating technologies like genomics, bioinformatics, and remote sensing to study crop-environment interactions with greater accuracy [50]. The findings from crop physiology have practical implications for enhancing agricultural practices. By understanding the physiological mechanisms underlying plant growth and stress responses [51], scientists can develop innovative strategies to boost crop resilience and yield, contributing to a more sustainable and secure food system [7]. Achieving this goal will require a transdisciplinary mindset, involving stakeholders from various fields to work together in solving the complex challenges facing global agriculture and food security.

2. NOVEL APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Advancing sustainable agriculture involves adopting innovative approaches that aim to maintain productivity while minimizing environmental impact [53]. These strategies are designed with specific principles and goals, often addressing environmental, economic, and social aspects of agriculture. Some approaches, like agroecology and sustainable intensification, have developed over time, while others, such as carbon farming, emerged with a clear focus on environmental policy [48-49]. The adaptability of these approaches allows them to suit various production methods and conditions, often with established professional support and market recognition, such as organic farming [56].

2.1 Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) has become a pivotal approach in addressing the challenges of climate change and its impact on agriculture. It aims to improve agricultural practices to boost production, adapt to changing climate conditions, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The need for CSA has grown as climate change

threatens food and nutrition security, with the FAO estimating that by 2050, global crop and livestock production must increase by 60% compared to 2006 levels to meet demand. CSA offers a comprehensive framework for achieving these goals while minimizing environmental degradation. CSA focuses on enhancing production while reducing greenhouse gas emissions through practices that improve carbon sequestration in soils and plants [47, 49]. It encompasses a wide range of strategies, including improved agricultural techniques, resource optimization, and the promotion of resilience to climate-induced stress. CSA also emphasizes the integration of adaptive practices to increase the resilience of agricultural systems to climate variability and extremes [8].

Mitigation is a core aspect of CSA, targeting the reduction or elimination of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. It aims to achieve this by promoting practices that enable soils and plants to act as carbon sinks, thereby reducing the overall carbon footprint of agricultural activities. CSA also aims to improve food and nutritional security by enhancing crop yields, livestock production, and fisheries, all while minimizing the environmental impact of these activities.[9] The concept of CSA has gained significant traction on international and national policy agendas, recognized as a key component in aligning agricultural practices with climate change mitigation goals. The approach seeks to balance the goals of productivity, adaptation, and mitigation, recognizing that trade-offs may occur but can be managed through effective policies, institutions, and financing mechanisms. Ultimately, CSA is about creating a more resilient and sustainable agricultural system that can meet the needs of a growing global population while safeguarding the environment.

2.2 Organic Farming

Organic farming emphasizes environmental protection, animal welfare, food quality and safety, resource sustainability, and social justice [10]. It leverages market mechanisms to support these objectives and cover the costs of internalized environmental impacts. Organic farming aims to create integrated, humane, and sustainable production systems that rely on farm-derived renewable resources, manage ecological and biological processes, and ensure acceptable levels of crop, livestock, and human nutrition while providing a fair return for labour and other resources [49]. At the turn of the century, organic farming gained significant attention due to

growing concerns over the adverse effects of conventional agriculture, particularly the use of synthetic chemicals. The "return to nature" lifestyle, driven by a preference for natural products and a heightened awareness of the health risks associated with chemical pesticides and fertilizers, contributed to the rise in demand for organic products. As of 2018, organic farming was actively practiced in over 186 countries, with organic agriculture land accounting for only 1.5 percent of total agricultural land worldwide. Despite this relatively small share, the number of farmers adopting organic practices has been increasing, reaching 2.8 million in 2018.

Organic farming offers several ecological and agricultural benefits. It promotes soil health, reduces environmental pollution, conserves biodiversity, and fosters sustainable agricultural practices. It minimizes the use of synthetic chemicals, focusing instead on natural fertilizers, biological pest control, and other eco-friendly methods. Organic farming is also recognized for producing high-quality, chemical-free food [56], making it a popular choice among health-conscious consumers. The key features of organic agriculture include respect for the environment and animals, sustainable cropping methods, non-chemical fertilizers and pest control, production of high-quality food, and the exclusion of genetically modified (GM) crops. Organic farming aims to ensure food security through environmentally sound practices with low external inputs [11]. It has gained social

acceptance and offers opportunities for farmers to meet market demand for organic products while promoting environmental responsibility.

2.3 Biodynamic Agriculture

Biodynamic agriculture, a precursor to organic farming, combines organic practices with metaphysical principles based on the teachings of Rudolf Steiner. Established in 1924, it is one of the earliest organic agriculture movements. Biodynamic practices focus on creating a harmonious relationship between the land, plants, and animals, often considering cosmic rhythms such as solar and lunar cycles to guide planting and harvesting. Biodynamic agriculture shares common traits with organic farming, including the avoidance of synthetic chemicals and GMOs. However, it goes further by incorporating holistic concepts, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all living systems and recognizing the unseen forces that influence agricultural outcomes. Biodynamic practices aim to regenerate the soil, restore life to plants and animals, and ultimately heal the planet. While both organic and biodynamic farming avoid synthetic inputs, biodynamic agriculture promotes a broader ecological perspective, emphasizing sustainability and adaptability to various climatic conditions. This approach encourages farmers to align their practices with natural cycles, fostering a deeper connection with the environment and promoting agricultural resilience.

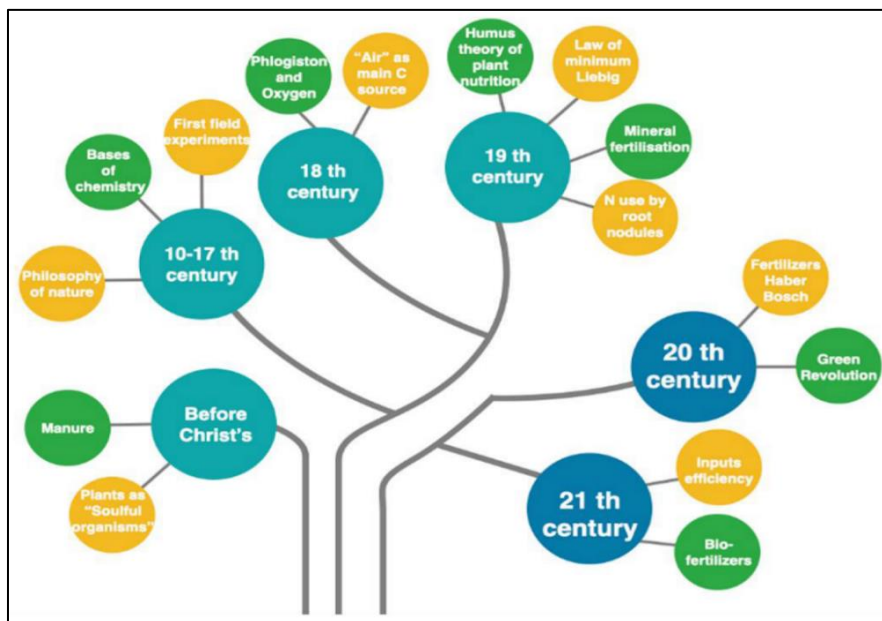


Fig. 1. Evolution of some historical marks on plant nutrition [12]

Plant nutrition is a crucial field of study that underpins both agriculture and human well-being. It involves understanding how plants obtain, utilize, and manage nutrients to grow and develop. This knowledge is essential for improving crop yields, ensuring food security, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. The study of plant nutrition is a collaborative effort, engaging scientists, industry experts, technicians, and even the public. Fig 1, if it were visible, would illustrate the evolution of key discoveries in the field of plant nutrition, charting significant milestones and shifts in understanding [40-41]. These historical marks reflect the progression from basic observations to complex scientific insights. Initially, there was limited knowledge about plant nutrition, leading to theories that were often more speculative than factual. For instance, early botanists believed that plants derived their nutrients primarily from soil humus or air, with little consideration for the role of mineral nutrients or the complex interactions within the soil. As scientific methods improved, researchers began to uncover the essential nutrients required by plants, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. The development of hydroponics and other controlled environment systems played a critical role in advancing our understanding of plant nutrient requirements and uptake mechanisms.

3. NOVEL PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Sustainable agriculture encompasses a range of practices designed to optimize resource use, minimize environmental impact, and promote adaptability in the face of climate variability and other challenges. [12]. These practices contribute directly to achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as those addressing poverty, hunger, inequality, responsible consumption, climate change, and ecosystem health. By adopting these practices, farmers can create agricultural systems that are more resilient and sustainable, leading to broader social, economic, and environmental benefits.

3.1 Integrated Farming Systems (IFS)

Integrated farming systems (IFS) represent an approach to agriculture that combines various types of production, such as livestock and crops or fish and livestock. This integration mirrors natural ecosystems, where different elements work in harmony, and "waste" from one

component serves as input for another. By adopting IFS, farmers can reduce costs, minimize waste, and increase productivity and revenue. The concept is based on a circular economy model, where nothing is truly wasted, and each part of the system supports the other.

An integrated farming system often involves combining crops, animals, birds, fish, and other aquatic flora and fauna. This approach can enhance biodiversity by reducing competition for resources like water and nutrients through mixed cropping, crop rotation, and intercropping. Additionally, IFS employs multi-story architecture, allowing for optimal use of space and fostering high levels of interaction between biotic and abiotic components [42-45]. This diversity can lead to more efficient farm management and improved productivity. Beyond efficiency, IFS can enhance ecological sustainability by reducing the need for synthetic inputs and promoting natural cycles within the farm system [13, 55]. By creating interconnected subsystems, farmers can achieve higher yields and contribute to a more sustainable agricultural model. This holistic approach to farming aligns with the principles of sustainability, providing a framework for robust and environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

3.2 Precision Farming

Precision agriculture (PA), also known as satellite farming or site-specific crop management (SSCM), represents a technological approach to farming that allows producers to measure, analyze, and respond to crop variability both within and between fields [22]. This methodology aims to develop a decision support system (DSS) for whole-farm management, optimizing input utilization while conserving resources. Precision farming relies on high-tech sensors, data analysis, and advanced technology to improve crop yields and support informed management decisions [46]. Site-specific management (SSM), an integral component of precision farming, focuses on "doing the right thing at the right time and in the right place" [14]. This approach uses variable rate applications (VRA), yield monitors, and remote sensing to tailor agronomic processes to specific field conditions [15]. The advent of GPS and GNSS technology allows farmers to create detailed maps that show the geographic variability of key agricultural variables, enabling precise applications of inputs like water, fertilizer, and pesticides [16].

Precision farming offers several benefits, including increased efficiency in resource use, reduced environmental impact, and improved crop quality. It promotes sustainability by optimizing the use of critical inputs, leading to higher yields, reduced fertilizer and pesticide use, fuel savings, and better water management [52]. Farmers who employ precision agriculture technology often "use less to grow more," demonstrating the efficiency of this approach. However, precision agriculture has its challenges, such as high initial capital costs, the need for long-term investment, and the demanding work of collecting and analyzing data. It can take several years to fully implement a precision farming system, requiring a significant amount of time and effort. Despite these limitations, the benefits of precision agriculture, including environmental sustainability and resource optimization, make it a valuable tool for modern agriculture.

3.3 Agroforestry

Agroforestry is the intentional integration of agricultural and forestry-based land-use systems, offering numerous benefits for long-term sustainability. This approach can transform degraded lands, conserve sensitive ecosystems, and diversify farm production systems. When combined with ecologically-oriented land management, agroforestry practices contribute to preserving ecosystem diversity and promoting environmental quality.

Agroforestry has both economic and environmental advantages, especially in addressing modern agriculture's limitations and promoting sustainable agricultural and natural resource systems. [18]. It bridges the gap between agriculture and forestry by creating integrated systems that support both environmental and economic goals. Agroforestry can help agricultural systems adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects by providing wind and water erosion protection and enhancing annual plant yields [19]. Additionally, agroforestry creates habitats and refuges for plants and animals by using strips of land with shrubs and trees. Overall, agroforestry represents a sustainable approach to land use, allowing for improved resource management, enhanced biodiversity, and greater adaptability to environmental challenges. It aligns with the principles of sustainable agriculture by promoting long-term productivity and environmental stewardship [29].

4. PLANT GROWTH-PROMOTING MICRO ORGANISMS AS SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

Plant probiotics, also known as plant growth-promoting microorganisms (PGPMs), are emerging as a sustainable solution to the challenges posed by traditional agricultural practices [17, 20, 37]. Conventional farming, which heavily relies on chemical-based fertilizers and pesticides, has led to a range of environmental issues, including soil degradation, disruption of soil microbial communities, health risks from chemical residues, and water pollution. These negative effects have spurred interest in eco-friendly alternatives that can support agricultural productivity without compromising the environment. PGPMs offer a natural and effective way to boost plant health and crop yields [21]. These beneficial microorganisms colonize plant tissues or the rhizosphere, where they promote growth and increase resistance to various stressors. Through mechanisms such as nutrient solubilization, nitrogen fixation, and phytohormone production, plant probiotics improve plant growth and resilience (Fig 2). They also produce enzymes, antibiotics, and volatile compounds that help plants fend off pathogens, providing a form of biological pest control [37-38].

Beyond these direct benefits, plant probiotics contribute to soil health by producing exopolysaccharides and biofilms, which help with root colonization and improve soil structure [23]. This contributes to better soil aggregation and stabilization, creating a more favourable environment for plant roots. As a result, crops treated with plant probiotics often exhibit enhanced growth traits, including longer shoots and roots, increased biomass, and greater photosynthetic efficiency. The use of plant probiotics has shown promising results across various crops, such as rice, wheat, and maize, demonstrating their potential to boost yields and reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. [23] In some cases, these microorganisms have also been shown to enhance the nutritional content of crops by increasing micronutrient levels, such as zinc, in the harvested products. To fully harness the benefits of plant probiotics, more research is needed to identify and characterize effective strains and microbial consortia. Additionally, deeper studies into the molecular interactions between plants and microbes could provide valuable insights into how these relationships

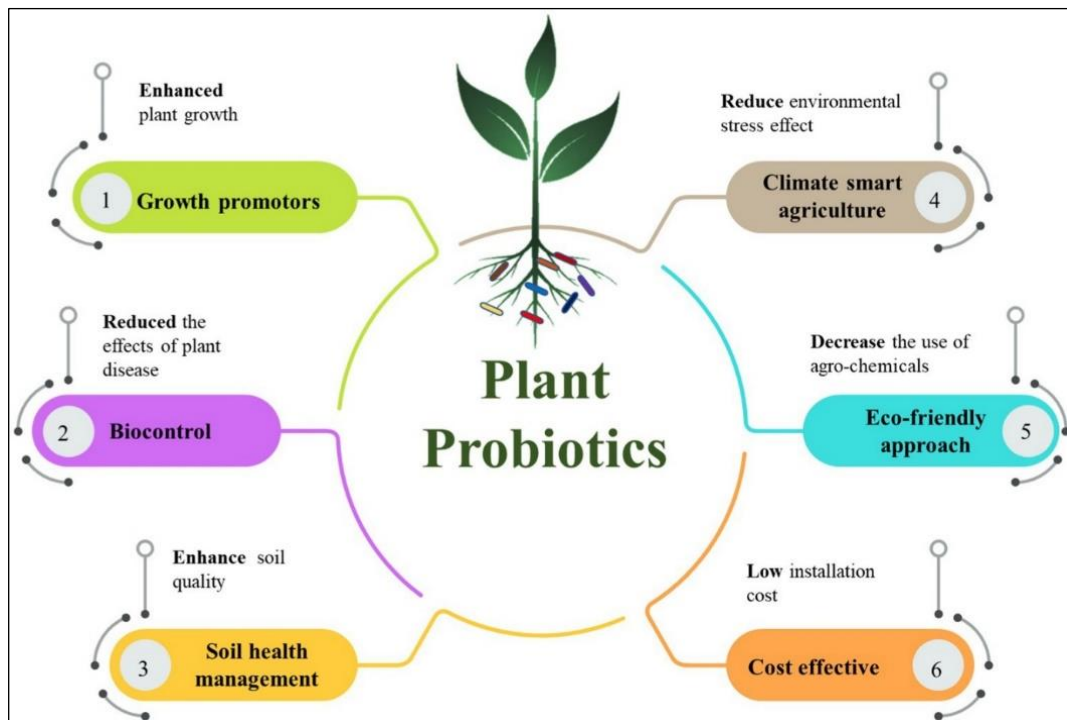


Fig. 2. Plant probiotics used in various management of crop [57]

work and how they can be optimized for agricultural success. Plant probiotics represent a key component in the shift toward sustainable agriculture, offering a path forward that aligns with both productivity and environmental stewardship [24].

5. KEY AREAS OF ADVANCEMENT IN MODERN AGRONOMIC PRACTICES

Agronomic practices have evolved to address the challenges of modern agriculture, focusing on sustainability, productivity, and resilience to environmental changes. **Table 1** outlines key areas of advancement in modern agronomic practices, along with specific examples for each category.

5.1 Irrigation Technology

Innovative methods for water delivery to crops have improved irrigation efficiency. Examples include drip irrigation, which minimizes water waste by delivering water directly to the plant roots, and sprinkler systems, which can be automated for precision watering [48]. Computerized irrigation control allows farmers to optimize water use, reducing waste [32] and ensuring adequate moisture for crops [25].

5.2 Crop Genetics

Developments in crop genetics have led to the creation of crop varieties with enhanced traits, such as higher yields, resistance to diseases, and tolerance to adverse conditions. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), hybrid crops, and disease-resistant strains are prime examples of how crop genetics can improve agricultural outcomes [26].

5.3 Soil Management

Effective soil management techniques focus on maintaining or improving soil health and fertility [47]. Practices such as crop rotation, cover crops, and the use of organic amendments contribute to healthier soils, promoting sustainable agriculture.

5.4 Pest and Disease Control

Innovative methods to protect crops from pests and diseases include Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which combines biological, chemical, and cultural controls to minimize pesticide used [27]. Biological control agents, pesticides, and herbicides are used judiciously to maintain crop health while reducing environmental impact [28].

Table 1. Key Areas of advancement in modern agronomic practices

Key Area	Description	Examples
Irrigation Technology	Improvement in methods to supply water to crops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drip irrigation • Sprinkler systems • Computerized irrigation control
Crop Genetics	Development of crop varieties with enhanced traits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) • Hybrid crops • Disease-resistant strains
Soil Management	Techniques to maintain or improve soil health and fertility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop rotation • Cover crops • Organic amendments
Pest and Disease Control	Methods to protect crops from pests and diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Pest Management (IPM) • Biological control agents • Pesticides and herbicides
Precision Agriculture	Use of technology to optimize field-level management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS-guided equipment • Remote sensing • Data analytics for decision making
Sustainable Practices	Approaches that promote environmental stewardship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic farming • Conservation tillage • Agroforestry
Climate Resilience	Strategies to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought-tolerant varieties • Crop diversification • Weather forecasting models
Farm Machinery and Automation	Advances in machinery and automation for farming efficiency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autonomous tractors • Drones for monitoring • Robotic harvesters

5.5 Precision Agriculture

Precision agriculture uses technology to optimize field-level management. This includes GPS-guided equipment, remote sensing, and data analytics to support decision-making. These technologies enable farmers to apply inputs with greater accuracy, reducing waste and enhancing productivity.

5.6 Sustainable Practices

Approaches that emphasize environmental stewardship are gaining traction. Organic farming, conservation tillage, and agroforestry are examples of sustainable practices that promote ecological health while supporting agricultural productivity [36].

5.7 Climate Resilience

Strategies to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change are critical for modern agriculture. Drought-tolerant crop varieties, crop diversification, and weather forecasting models help farmers respond to climate variability and maintain productivity [33-35].

5.8 Farm Machinery and Automation

Advances in farm machinery and automation contribute to greater efficiency in agricultural operations. Autonomous tractors, drones for monitoring, and robotic harvesters are examples of how automation can enhance farming practices, reducing labour costs and increasing precision.

These key areas of advancement represent the ongoing evolution of agronomic practices, focusing on sustainability, productivity, and resilience in a changing agricultural landscape (Table 1).

6. FUTURE ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The future of sustainable agriculture hinges on a comprehensive approach that integrates advanced agronomic practices, environmental physiology, and efficient plant nutrition. As the demand for food rises due to population growth and climate change, sustainable agriculture must evolve to meet these challenges while minimizing environmental impacts. A key aspect of future

agronomic practices is the use of technology to improve efficiency and precision. Precision agriculture, which incorporates GPS, drones, and remote sensing, allows farmers to manage their fields with greater accuracy, reducing resource waste and environmental degradation. These tools enable site-specific management, allowing for tailored applications of water, fertilizers, and pesticides, thereby promoting more sustainable farming practices. Sustainable soil management is another critical area, focusing on techniques that regenerate and maintain soil health [30]. Practices such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, and the use of organic amendments are expected to become more widespread, promoting soil biodiversity and structure. These approaches not only enhance soil fertility but also contribute to carbon sequestration and reduced erosion. In the face of climate change, resilient agriculture is crucial. Future strategies will involve developing crops with enhanced tolerance to extreme weather conditions, such as drought-resistant and heat-tolerant varieties. Diversified cropping systems and advanced weather forecasting models will help farmers mitigate climate-related risks, ensuring stable crop production despite shifting climates.

Environmental physiology, which studies plant responses to stressors, will continue to play a significant role in sustainable agriculture. By understanding how plants cope with biotic and abiotic stresses [54], researchers can develop crops that require fewer chemical inputs while maintaining productivity. This focus on plant physiology will inform sustainable practices that reduce reliance on synthetic chemicals and promote natural resilience. Plant nutrition is at the heart of sustainable agriculture, and future approaches will aim to optimize nutrient use while minimizing environmental impact. Precision agriculture will enable more efficient fertilizer applications, and eco-friendly alternatives like plant growth-promoting microorganisms (PGPMs) and biofertilizers will gain prominence, promoting healthier soils and reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers. The integration of ecosystem-based approaches, such as agroforestry and permaculture, will become increasingly important in sustainable agriculture [31]. These practices enhance biodiversity, provide ecosystem services like pollination and pest control, and promote a more balanced agroecosystem. Collaboration among scientists, farmers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders is essential to drive innovation in sustainable agriculture. Supportive policies and regulations

that encourage sustainable practices will be crucial for fostering a resilient and productive agricultural sector. In summary, the future of sustainable agriculture requires a holistic approach that combines advanced technology, climate resilience, and eco-friendly practices. By embracing these strategies, sustainable agriculture can meet global food demands while safeguarding the environment for future generations.

7. CONCLUSION

Sustainable agriculture is a multifaceted field that requires the integration of advanced agronomic practices, environmental physiology, and efficient plant nutrition to meet the growing demands of a rapidly expanding global population. The central goal is to produce sufficient food while minimizing environmental impact and maintaining long-term ecological health. We explored several key areas contributing to the evolution of sustainable agriculture. Precision agriculture has emerged as a powerful tool for optimizing resource use, with technologies like GPS and remote sensing allowing farmers to tailor their practices for greater efficiency. Sustainable soil management techniques, such as reduced tillage and organic amendments, are gaining traction for their role in maintaining soil health and supporting ecosystem services. Climate resilience is another critical focus, with strategies like developing drought-tolerant crops and using weather forecasting models to adapt to a changing climate. Environmental physiology offers insights into plant responses to stressors, informing the development of crops that are more robust and require fewer chemical inputs. Innovations in plant nutrition, including precision fertilizer applications and the use of plant growth-promoting microorganisms (PGPMs), are leading to more sustainable nutrient management. At the same time, approaches like agroforestry and permaculture promote biodiversity and natural cycles within agricultural systems. The future of sustainable agriculture relies on collaborative efforts involving scientists, farmers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders. Interdisciplinary collaboration is crucial for developing effective solutions, while supportive policies and regulations will help implement sustainable practices on a larger scale. In summary, the path toward sustainable agriculture requires a comprehensive and adaptive approach. By integrating advanced agronomic practices, environmental physiology, and efficient plant nutrition, we can address the challenges of

food security while preserving the environment for future generations. The ongoing commitment to innovation and sustainability will be key to ensuring a resilient and productive agricultural sector.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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