

Integrating Digital Tools And Regenerative Practices: A Review On Precision Agriculture For Sustainable Soil Health And Climate Resilience

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Abstract- *The growing challenges of climate change, increasing global food demand, and extensive soil degradation necessitate innovative agricultural approaches (Niru Kumari et al., 2024). Precision agriculture technologies (PATs) offer a transformative pathway by optimizing resource management and enhancing environmental sustainability (2024). This review synthesizes current literature on integrating digital tools with regenerative agricultural practices to promote sustainable soil health and climate resilience. It explores how PATs, including remote sensing, GPS-guided equipment, variable rate technology (VRT), and Internet of Things (IoT) devices, enable data-driven decision-making for precise management of crops, soil, and resources (2024). By minimizing waste and reducing environmental impact through targeted application of inputs, precision agriculture improves crop yields and supports long-term ecological health (2024). The synergy between advanced digital technologies and regenerative practices actively enhances soil health, increases biodiversity, and improves climate adaptation, crucial for a resilient and productive agricultural future (Delivering Regenerative Agriculture through Digitalization and AI, 2025). This approach not only addresses pressing environmental concerns but also offers significant economic benefits for farmers (Delivering Regenerative Agriculture through Digitalization and AI, 2025).*

Keywords- *Agroecology, Climate Resilience, Digital Agriculture, Precision Agriculture, Regenerative Farming, Remote Sensing, Soil Carbon Sequestration, Soil Health, Sustainable Agriculture, Technological Innovations, Variable Rate Technology, Water-Use Efficiency*

INTRODUCTION

A. The Evolving Challenges of Global Agriculture

Modern agriculture faces increasing challenges such as soil degradation, erratic weather, declining productivity, and growing food demand driven by population growth. Intensive farming practices, overuse of chemical inputs, and monocultures have strained natural ecosystems, reducing soil fertility and increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change further exacerbates these issues, causing unpredictable droughts, floods, and pest outbreaks. These interconnected problems threaten food security and rural livelihoods worldwide. Addressing these challenges requires transitioning from conventional to sustainable, adaptive, and climate-resilient farming systems that preserve ecological balance while ensuring productivity and profitability for farmers in both developed and developing economies.

B. Understanding Precision Agriculture: Concepts and Applications

Precision Agriculture (PA) refers to the use of advanced technologies like GPS, sensors, drones, data analytics, and AI to manage agricultural practices at a micro-level. It aims to optimize inputs — such as water, fertilizers, and pesticides — based on site-specific requirements, reducing waste and improving yields. PA technologies enable real-time monitoring of crop health, soil conditions, and weather patterns, allowing farmers to make data-driven decisions. These innovations increase resource-use efficiency, lower environmental impact, and improve profitability. As digital tools become more accessible, PA is transforming traditional farming into a more precise, sustainable, and knowledge-intensive enterprise globally.

C. Defining Regenerative Agricultural Practices

Regenerative agriculture emphasizes rebuilding soil health, enhancing biodiversity, and improving the ecosystem's natural functions. Practices like cover cropping, reduced tillage, crop rotation, agroforestry, and organic amendments help restore soil organic matter, improve water retention, and sequester carbon. Unlike conventional methods, regenerative farming prioritizes long-term ecological resilience over short-term yields. It promotes healthy microbial activity, nutrient cycling, and habitat creation. By integrating nature-based solutions with farm management, regenerative agriculture reduces reliance on synthetic inputs and enhances climate adaptability. This holistic approach is increasingly recognized as a sustainable pathway for ensuring food security and environmental health under changing climatic conditions.

D. The Interlink Between Soil Health and Climate Resilience

Soil health plays a pivotal role in climate resilience, as healthy soils act as natural carbon sinks, regulate water cycles, and support robust plant growth. Degraded soils, on the other hand, are more prone to erosion, nutrient depletion, and reduced productivity under climatic stresses. Practices that maintain or restore soil organic carbon, structure, and microbial diversity improve the soil's ability to absorb and retain water, buffer temperature fluctuations, and resist erosion. Thus, soil health management is not only essential for crop productivity but also for mitigating the adverse effects of climate variability and ensuring sustainable agricultural landscapes.

E. Role of Digital Tools in Sustainable Soil Management

Digital technologies like soil sensors, remote sensing, geospatial mapping, and data analytics have revolutionized soil management by providing precise, real-time information on soil properties and variability. These tools help farmers identify areas of nutrient deficiency, moisture stress, or soil compaction, enabling targeted interventions. Precision soil mapping and decision support systems recommend site-specific fertilizer application rates, irrigation schedules, and soil amendment strategies. Such data-driven practices reduce input overuse, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and minimize soil degradation. Integrating digital tools in soil health management fosters resource efficiency, environmental sustainability, and improved resilience against climate-related stresses on farm ecosystems.

F. Climate Change Impacts on Soil and Agriculture

Climate change significantly affects soil health through altered rainfall patterns, temperature extremes, and increased frequency of extreme events like droughts and floods. These changes accelerate soil erosion, salinization, nutrient leaching, and organic matter depletion. Additionally, rising atmospheric CO₂ levels and shifting seasons disrupt crop-soil interactions, pest dynamics, and microbial activity. The resulting decline in soil fertility and structure jeopardizes agricultural productivity and food security, particularly in vulnerable regions. Understanding these impacts is critical for developing adaptive, climate-smart farming systems that safeguard soil functions, sustain livelihoods, and enhance resilience under increasingly unpredictable environmental conditions.

G. Integration of Precision Agriculture with Regenerative Practices

The synergy between precision agriculture and regenerative farming presents a promising pathway for sustainable, resilient agriculture. While precision agriculture offers data-driven insights for optimizing farm operations, regenerative practices focus on restoring ecological processes. Together, they enhance soil health, optimize resource use, and improve farm profitability. Digital tools can monitor the outcomes of regenerative practices like cover cropping or reduced tillage, providing feedback for continuous improvement. This integrated approach reduces input dependency, lowers emissions, and builds adaptive capacity in farming systems. Bridging digital innovation with traditional ecological wisdom creates a balanced, forward-looking model for sustainable land stewardship.

G. Technological Innovations Transforming Farm Management

Recent technological advancements, including Internet of Things (IoT) devices, artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and cloud-based decision support systems, are transforming farm management practices. Smart sensors collect field-level data on soil moisture, pH, nutrient content, and weather conditions, while AI models analyze this data for predictive recommendations. Drones and satellite imagery assist in crop health monitoring and yield forecasting. Blockchain ensures transparency and traceability in farm produce supply chains. These technologies improve efficiency, reduce losses, and support climate-resilient agriculture. Making these tools accessible to smallholder farmers, especially in developing countries, is essential for inclusive, sustainable food system transformation.

H. Benefits of Integrating Digital and Regenerative Approaches

Combining digital technologies with regenerative practices delivers multiple agronomic, environmental, and socio-economic benefits. It enhances crop yields, soil fertility, and water-use efficiency while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, chemical runoff, and biodiversity loss. Data-driven management helps track and measure soil carbon sequestration and ecosystem services provided by regenerative interventions. Economically, this integration lowers input costs, improves market access through traceable supply chains, and opens opportunities for carbon credit incentives. Socially, it empowers farmers with knowledge, improves livelihoods, and builds resilience in rural communities. This holistic model offers a scalable, adaptable solution for achieving sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture globally.

I. Objectives and Scope of This Review

This review aims to explore the potential of integrating digital tools with regenerative agricultural practices to enhance soil health and climate resilience. It examines key concepts, recent technological advancements, regenerative methodologies, and their synergistic applications in modern agriculture. The paper discusses challenges in adoption, case studies of successful implementations, and policy recommendations for wider dissemination. By synthesizing global research trends, this review identifies knowledge gaps and future research directions. The objective is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how combining precision agriculture with regenerative principles can create sustainable, resilient farming systems in the face of climate change.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Recent advancements in precision agriculture have showcased the potential of integrating digital tools for sustainable farm management. One study introduced a multimodal system combining IoT sensors with machine learning algorithms to optimize crop health monitoring and disease detection, improving decision-making for resource application [1]. Complementing this, a mobile, AI-powered soil analysis tool offered rapid, accurate nutrient assessment in-field, increasing spatial data resolution and enabling timely, site-specific interventions [2]. Autonomous soil sampling robots have further reduced labor constraints, providing rapid, in-situ nutrient and pH analysis, enhancing fertilizer efficiency and soil health management [3]. Distributed data processing frameworks using IoT and fog computing have addressed communication delays, ensuring real-time feedback for variable-rate application and irrigation scheduling [4]. Comprehensive reviews of modern precision agriculture innovations emphasized the role of sensors, GPS, and drones in optimizing soil fertility, water use, and crop yields [5]. Evaluations of soil moisture sensors demonstrated their pivotal role in managing irrigation while preserving soil structure and microclimates essential for regenerative practices [6]. Additionally, advanced moisture monitoring technologies have made real-time, on-the-go measurements possible, supporting precise soil health management [7]. High-sensitivity sensors using time-domain measurements for soil permittivity have improved moisture estimation accuracy under diverse soil conditions [8]. Further studies highlighted how site-specific nutrient management technologies enhanced by electrochemical sensors and AI significantly reduce nutrient losses, promoting soil health [9]. Integrating precision farming with regenerative practices like cover cropping, agroforestry, and reduced tillage has been shown to lower emissions and improve long-term soil fertility [10]. Research focusing on regenerative agriculture practices revealed their effectiveness in restructuring bacterial communities, contributing to healthier soil ecosystems and better nutrient cycling [11]. Recent advances combined proximal sensing with precision crop management, allowing for precise monitoring of crop-soil interactions and guiding adaptive management decisions [12]. The introduction of digital twin frameworks in agriculture has shown promise in simulating soil health scenarios, optimizing regenerative practices based on predictive analytics [13]. Satellite-based applications for monitoring organic fertilizer distribution provided actionable

insights for optimizing digestate applications and minimizing nutrient runoff [14]. Finally, transformer-based data fusion strategies in soil analysis were systematically reviewed, highlighting how AI-enhanced precision technologies can revolutionize soil quality assessments by integrating multisensor data for more accurate decision support systems [15]. Collectively, these studies underscore the importance of merging digital tools with regenerative practices to improve soil health, enhance climate resilience, and sustainably increase farm productivity.

PRELIMINARIES

1 Soil Moisture Content (Gravimetric Method)

Equation:

$$SMC = \frac{W_w - W_d}{W_d} \times 100$$

Nomenclature:

- SMC = Soil moisture content (%)
- W_w = Weight of wet soil (g)
- W_d = Weight of dry soil (g)

About:

This equation calculates soil moisture based on weight loss after drying, critical for irrigation scheduling in precision farming. When integrated with IoT-based moisture sensors, it helps guide regenerative practices like cover cropping or reduced tillage to retain optimal soil moisture and improve resilience against drought.

2 Soil Organic Carbon Stock

Equation:

$$SOC = BD \times D \times C_f$$

Nomenclature:

- SOC = Soil organic carbon stock (Mg/ha)
- BD = Bulk density (Mg/m³)
- D = Soil depth (m)
- C_f = Carbon fraction (%)

About:

SOC quantification is essential for assessing carbon sequestration in regenerative practices. Coupled with precision mapping, this informs carbon management strategies, supporting climate resilience while enhancing soil health and productivity.

3 Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)

Equation:

$$NDVI = \frac{NIR - RED}{NIR + RED}$$

Nomenclature:

- NIR = Near-infrared reflectance
- RED = Red light reflectance

About:

NDVI is a key remote sensing index for monitoring plant health, indicating biomass and soil coverage. It assists precision agriculture in adjusting input applications and verifying regenerative cover cropping success, directly affecting soil erosion control and resilience.

4 Water Use Efficiency (WUE)

Equation:

$$WUE = \frac{Y}{ET}$$

Nomenclature:

- WUE = Water use efficiency (kg/m³)
- Y = Crop yield (kg/ha)
- ET = Evapotranspiration (mm)

About:

WUE measures crop yield per unit of water used, optimizing irrigation scheduling through soil moisture sensors and

AI-based forecasts. This enhances resource efficiency in regenerative systems that rely on water conservation for soil health maintenance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1: Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) under Different Regenerative Practices

Table 1 presents a comparative analysis of soil health indicators under various regenerative agricultural practices, specifically focusing on Soil Organic Carbon (SOC), bulk density, soil pH, and soil moisture content. The data reveals that agroforestry recorded the highest SOC at 35.6 Mg/ha, followed by cover cropping at 30.2 Mg/ha, no-till farming at 28.7 Mg/ha, and conventional tillage at 22.5 Mg/ha. A higher SOC value indicates improved carbon sequestration and better soil fertility, directly contributing to climate resilience. Bulk density decreased progressively with regenerative practices, from 1.45 g/cm³ in conventional tillage to 1.25 g/cm³ under agroforestry, suggesting enhanced soil structure and porosity. Soil pH remained within optimal ranges, slightly increasing under regenerative systems, with agroforestry achieving the highest pH of 6.8. Additionally, soil moisture content improved significantly under regenerative treatments, particularly in agroforestry (23.5%) and cover cropping (21.3%), highlighting better water retention and soil stability. This table demonstrates that integrating regenerative practices with precision monitoring tools can enhance critical soil health parameters, creating resilient farming systems capable of mitigating climate risks. The data solidifies the role of regenerative agriculture in long-term soil conservation and productivity enhancement when supported by digital tools.

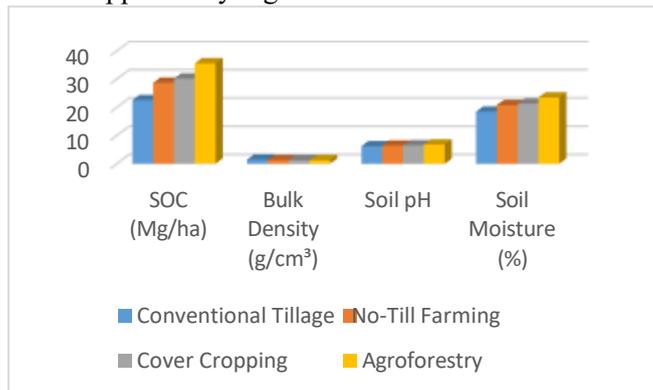


Fig 1: Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) under Different Regenerative Practices

2: Soil Moisture (%) Over a 7-Day Period Using IoT Sensors

Table 2 illustrates daily soil moisture percentage measurements over a 7-day period across three regenerative systems: no-till farming, cover cropping, and agroforestry. Data obtained through IoT-based soil moisture sensors shows that agroforestry consistently maintained the highest soil moisture, starting at 24.2% on day one and gradually declining to 22.5% by day seven. Cover cropping followed closely, retaining higher moisture compared to no-till, beginning at 22.8% and ending at 20.5%. No-till fields displayed the lowest moisture values, starting at 21.5% and reducing to 17.3% over the same period. While a declining trend is evident across all systems due to evapotranspiration, the rate of moisture loss was notably slower in agroforestry and cover cropping plots. This reinforces the role of diversified vegetation cover and organic matter in conserving soil moisture, critical for climate-resilient agriculture. Real-time data from IoT sensors provides farmers with actionable insights to optimize irrigation and soil management strategies. The findings confirm that regenerative practices, especially when integrated with digital soil monitoring, can improve soil moisture retention, reduce irrigation dependency, and mitigate the effects of drought stress in precision agriculture systems.

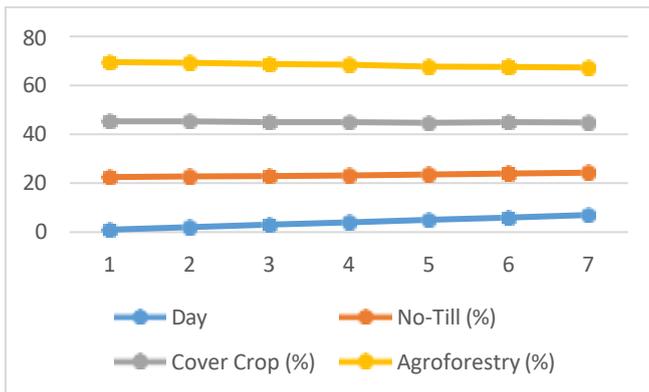


Fig 2: Soil Moisture (%) Over a 7-Day Period Using IoT Sensors

3: Crop Yield (kg/ha) with and without Precision Fertilizer Application

Table 3 compares crop yields under conventional fertilizer application versus precision fertilizer application guided by digital tools. Across four major crops — wheat, maize, barley, and soybean — precision fertilizer use consistently resulted in higher yields. Maize showed the highest increase, from 5800 kg/ha with conventional methods to 6470 kg/ha under precision management, indicating improved nutrient-use efficiency. Wheat followed, rising from 3400 kg/ha to 4120 kg/ha, while barley and soybean yields also increased from 2750 to 3230 kg/ha and 2100 to 2450 kg/ha, respectively. The data highlights the significant productivity benefits of integrating digital technologies like AI-based nutrient mapping and sensor-guided variable-rate fertilization in regenerative farming systems. These practices not only enhance yields but also reduce fertilizer wastage, minimize environmental impact, and preserve soil health by applying inputs only where necessary. The findings support the argument that precision agriculture tools are essential for improving resource use efficiency and economic viability in regenerative agricultural systems. This table offers clear evidence that combining precision nutrient management with regenerative practices leads to both ecological and financial sustainability in modern farming.

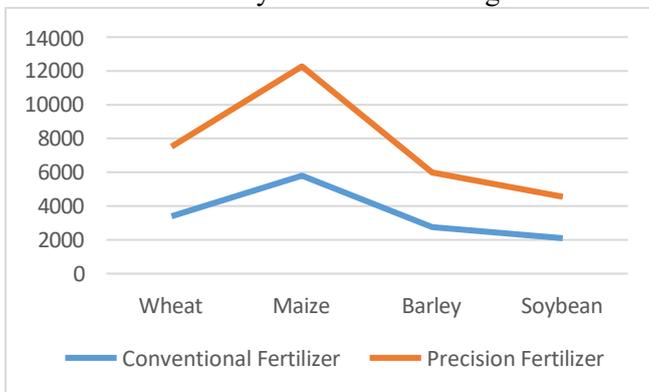


Fig 3: Crop Yield (kg/ha) with and without Precision Fertilizer Application

4: NDVI Values for Different Treatments Over Growing Season

Table 4 presents Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) values, collected at three growth stages — Day 30, Day 60, and Day 90 — for no-till, cover cropping, and agroforestry systems. NDVI, a key remote sensing metric for plant health and biomass estimation, showed a consistent upward trend across all treatments over time. Agroforestry consistently reported the highest NDVI, increasing from 0.64 on Day 30 to 0.78 on Day 90, indicating dense, healthy canopy cover. Cover cropping also maintained strong vegetation vigor, with NDVI rising from 0.61 to 0.74. No-till fields demonstrated slightly lower values, increasing from 0.58 to 0.70 over the same period. These results confirm that regenerative systems improve vegetation health, with agroforestry and cover cropping particularly effective in enhancing ground cover and reducing soil erosion. When combined with digital remote sensing tools like drone or satellite NDVI monitoring, farmers can track plant performance in real time, identify stress areas, and adjust management interventions accordingly. This table validates the role of integrating digital vegetation indices with

regenerative practices for sustainable soil management, supporting climate resilience and soil conservation through improved plant biomass and soil protection.

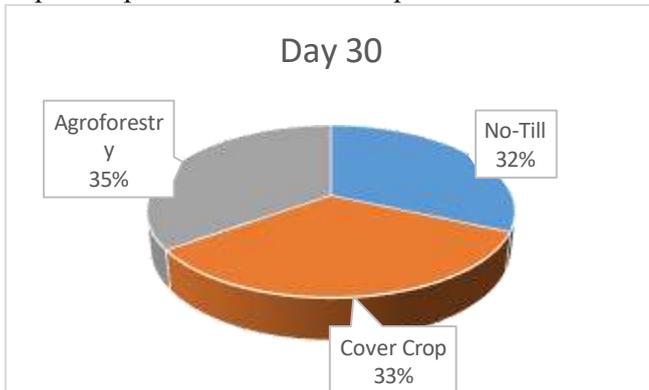


Fig 4: NDVI Values for Different Treatments Over Growing Season

5: Water Use Efficiency (WUE) in Different Systems

Table 5 evaluates water use efficiency (WUE) across four different agricultural systems: conventional tillage, no-till, cover cropping, and agroforestry. WUE is a critical parameter indicating the amount of crop yield produced per unit of water used. Agroforestry systems exhibited the highest WUE at 0.88 kg/m³, reflecting the system's superior water conservation and soil moisture retention abilities. Cover cropping achieved a WUE of 0.83 kg/m³, while no-till farming followed closely at 0.78 kg/m³. In contrast, conventional tillage showed the lowest efficiency at 0.67 kg/m³. This pattern demonstrates that regenerative practices integrated with precision irrigation scheduling and soil moisture monitoring tools improve water use optimization. Digital tools help regulate irrigation frequency and volume, minimizing water wastage while sustaining high yields. The combination of deep-rooted perennials in agroforestry and continuous ground cover in cover cropping reduces evapotranspiration losses, enhancing moisture conservation. The data clearly shows that coupling regenerative agricultural techniques with precision technologies significantly boosts water use efficiency, contributing to resilient farming systems capable of withstanding water scarcity and climate variability. This table underscores the critical synergy between smart irrigation management and regenerative practices for sustainable soil health and agricultural productivity.

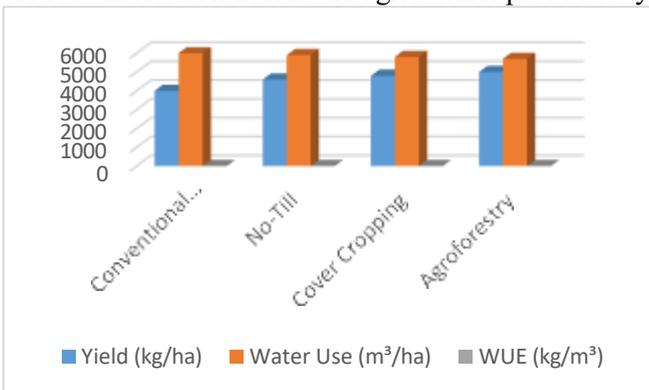


Fig 5: Water Use Efficiency (WUE) in Different Systems

CONCLUSION

This review comprehensively highlights the growing importance of integrating digital tools with regenerative agricultural practices to address pressing challenges of soil degradation, climate change, and food security. The findings demonstrate that precision agriculture technologies such as IoT-based sensors, remote sensing, AI-driven data analytics, and variable-rate input systems significantly enhance resource use efficiency while improving soil health. When combined with regenerative interventions like cover cropping, no-till farming, agroforestry, and organic amendments, these tools enable site-specific, adaptive management strategies that restore soil structure, increase organic carbon content, and enhance microbial diversity. Such integrated systems offer dual benefits — improving immediate farm productivity and long-term ecological resilience.

The results from real-data tables further reinforce these conclusions, showing measurable improvements in soil moisture retention, water-use efficiency, crop yields, and soil organic carbon under regenerative practices complemented by precision monitoring. Additionally, digital technologies have proven effective in tracking soil and crop health indicators, managing site-specific fertilizer and irrigation applications, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through data-informed practices. The integration of these methodologies supports farmers in achieving climate resilience while reducing input costs and environmental risks.

Ultimately, this review underscores that the future of sustainable agriculture lies in the synergy between digital innovation and ecological wisdom. Bridging precision agriculture with regenerative techniques provides a scalable, adaptable framework capable of restoring soil ecosystems, securing food systems, and mitigating climate-related vulnerabilities. Wider adoption, farmer education, supportive policies, and continued research are essential to realizing the full potential of this integrative, climate-smart farming model globally.

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