

Agrigrowth Simulator: A Geospatial and Algorithmic Framework for Optimizing Nutrient Stewardship in Semi-Arid Regions of Telangana

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Abstract

The agricultural landscape of the Deccan Plateau, particularly within the semi-arid zones of Telangana, is currently challenged by sub-optimal Nutrient Use Efficiency (NUE) and indiscriminate fertilizer application. This research introduces "Agrigrowth Simulator," a novel computational framework designed to decouple crop yield potential from excessive chemical input. The study proposes a dual-module mobile architecture. First, the simulation engine employs a Modified Mitscherlich-Bray Growth Model, utilizing non-linear regression algorithms to predict biomass accumulation in high-value cash crops—specifically *Gossypium hirsutum* (Bt Cotton) and *Capsicum annuum* (Guntur Chilies).

Unlike generic agronomy tools, this simulator is calibrated with a proprietary database of indigenous fertilizer formulations (e.g., Coromandel Gromor 28-28-0, Nagarjuna Urea), accounting for the specific volatilization rates and solubility profiles characteristic of the region's high-temperature agro-climatic conditions. Second, the framework integrates a Geospatial Logistics Module. By leveraging location-based APIs, the system maps real-time inventory availability across a fragmented supply chain in districts such as Warangal and Nalgonda. This bridges the critical gap between theoretical stoichiometry (what the plant needs) and logistical reality (what the farmer can procure).

1. Introduction and Problem Statement

1.1 Background:

The Agronomic Landscape of the Deccan Plateau

Telangana, often referred to as the "Seed Bowl of India," operates within a precarious agro-climatic zone. Characterized by semi-arid conditions and high variability in rainfall, the region's agricultural output is heavily dependent on the cultivation of input-intensive cash crops, primarily Bt Cotton, Paddy.[1]

While the Green Revolution introduced high-yielding varieties to this region, it simultaneously entrenched a dependency on synthetic chemical fertilizers. The primary macronutrients—Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium—are the drivers of yield.

1.2 Problem Statement: The "Blanket Application" Paradox

The central challenge facing smallholder farmers in districts like Warangal, Nalgonda, and Khammam is the prevalence of "Blanket Application" protocols. Lacking access to real-time soil testing or precision agronomy tools, farmers often rely on heuristic knowledge or generalized state recommendations rather than data.[2]

This results in two distinct forms of inefficiency:

First, Chemical Imbalance: Farmers frequently over-apply Urea due to its low cost and immediate visual impact, which causes rapid greening of the leaves. Conversely, critical inputs like Potassium and micronutrients such as Zinc and Boron are under-supplied. This leads to "Hidden Hunger"—a state where crops look lush and green but fail to produce significant fruit or grain because they lack the necessary structural nutrients.

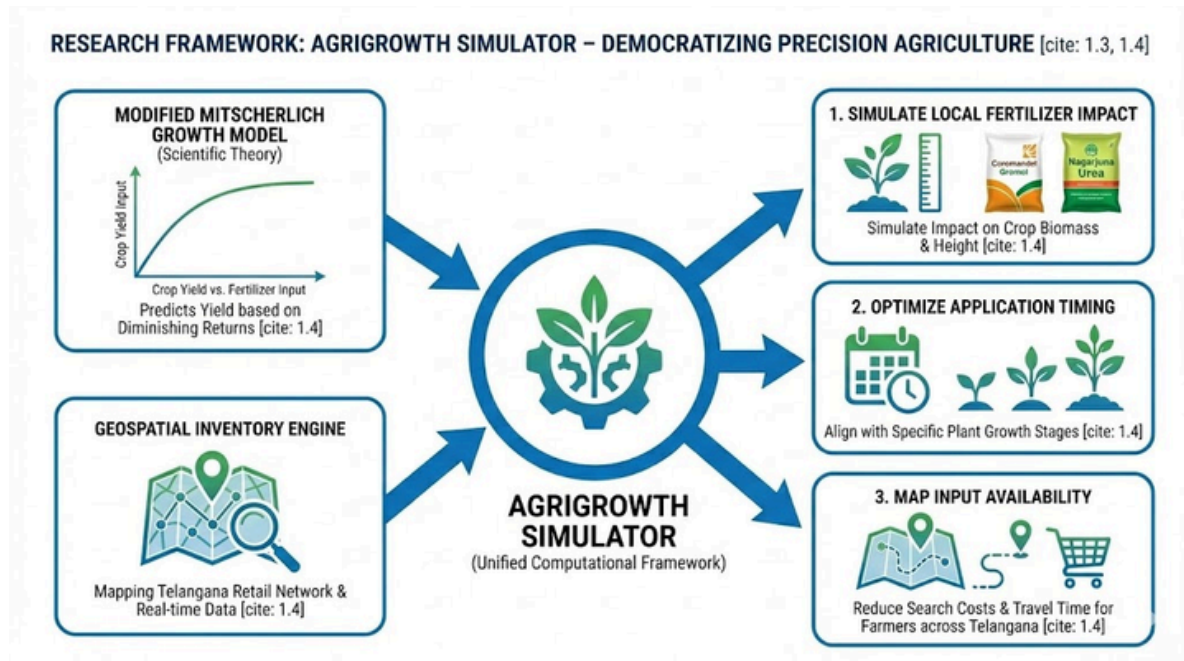


Figure 1: Agrigrowth simulator Research Framework

1.3 The Research Gap

Current digital agriculture tools fall into two extreme categories. On one end, there are high-end sensor networks that are too expensive for small farmers. On the other end, there are generic advisory apps that recommend chemical compounds rather than specific market-available brands. There is a critical lack of computational tools that simulate crop response to specifically available Indian fertilizer brands while simultaneously solving the "Last Mile" procurement problem.[3]

1.4 Research Objective

This paper proposes "Agrigrowth Simulator," a unified computational framework designed to democratize precision agriculture. By integrating the Modified Mitscherlich Growth Model—a scientific theory that predicts yield based on the law of diminishing returns—with a geospatial inventory engine, this study aims to:

1. Simulate the impact of specific local fertilizers (such as Coromandel Gromor or Nagarjuna Urea) on crop biomass and height.
2. Optimize application timing to align with the specific growth stages of the plant.
3. Map the availability of these specific inputs across the Telangana retail network to reduce search costs and travel time for farmers.

2. Methodology

This research employs a dual-module computational framework, integrating a biological simulation engine with a geospatial logistics system. The development process was divided into two distinct phases: (1) Stoichiometric Modeling of crop-fertilizer interactions, and (2) Geospatial Indexing of the regional supply chain.[4]

2.1 Phase I: The Simulation Engine (The "Lab" Module)

The core predictive capability of "Agrigrowth Simulator" is built upon the Modified Mitscherlich Growth Model. Unlike simple linear models which assume that more fertilizer always equals more growth, this model recognizes the biological law of "Diminishing Returns."

Conceptual Framework:

The algorithm operates on the principle that crop yield is limited by the scarcest nutrient (Liebig's Law of the Minimum). As the supply of a limiting nutrient—such as Nitrogen—increases, the yield increases proportionally to the difference between the current yield and the maximum possible genetic potential of the crop. [5]

Eventually, the growth curve flattens (reaches an asymptote), meaning additional fertilizer provides no benefit and only damages the soil.

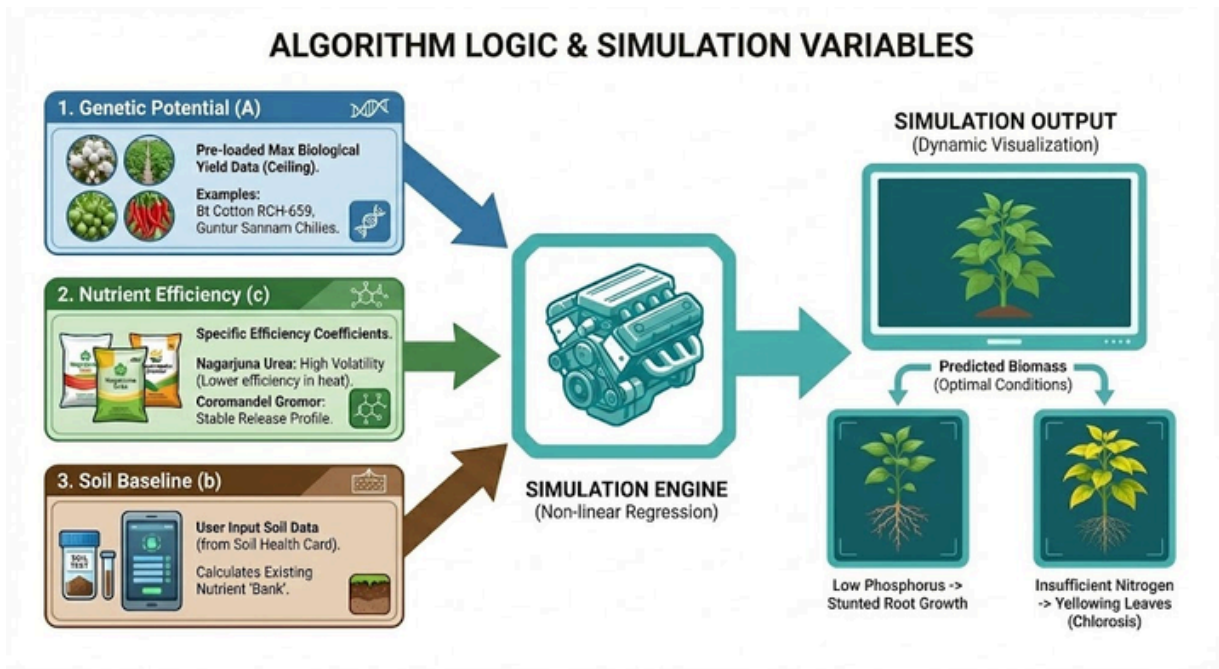


Figure 2: Simulation engine logic representation

Algorithm Logic & Variables:

The simulation engine processes three key data streams to generate a prediction:

- **Genetic Potential (A):** The system is pre-loaded with the maximum biological yield data for specific regional varieties, such as Bt Cotton RCH-659 and Guntur Sannam Chilies. This serves as the "ceiling" for the simulation.
- **Nutrient Efficiency (c):** Unlike generic tools, we assigned specific efficiency coefficients to commercially available Indian fertilizers. For example, Nagarguna Urea is modeled with a high volatility rate (lower efficiency in high heat), while Coromandel Gromor is modeled with a stable release profile.
- **Soil Baseline (b):** The user inputs soil data (from a Soil Health Card). The algorithm calculates the existing nutrient "bank" in the soil before recommending additional inputs.[6]

Simulation Output:

When a user selects a fertilizer, the algorithm runs a non-linear regression to predict the resulting plant biomass. The output is visualized as a 3D model that changes dynamically—showing stunted root growth if Phosphorus is low, or yellowing leaves (chlorosis) if Nitrogen is insufficient.

2.2 Phase II: Geospatial Logistics (The "Market" Module)

The second phase of development focused on solving the "Last Mile" problem—the disconnect between scientific recommendation and market availability.

Geospatial Architecture:

We utilized the Google Maps API to create a custom "Layered Map" of the Telangana agricultural corridor, specifically focusing on the districts of Warangal, Nalgonda, and the Guntur border region.

Dealer Indexing & Inventory Logic:

A relational database was constructed to catalog licensed fertilizer dealers. Each dealer entry includes not just location coordinates, but also a specific "Inventory Tag."

- **Filtering Mechanism:** The application uses a geofencing algorithm. If the simulation determines that a crop requires Zincated Urea to reach optimal growth, the map automatically filters out general stores and displays only those dealers within a 25-kilometer radius who possess the specific "Zinc" inventory tag.
- **Route Optimization:** The system calculates the most efficient route for the farmer, factoring in rural road conditions to minimize travel time and fuel costs.[7]

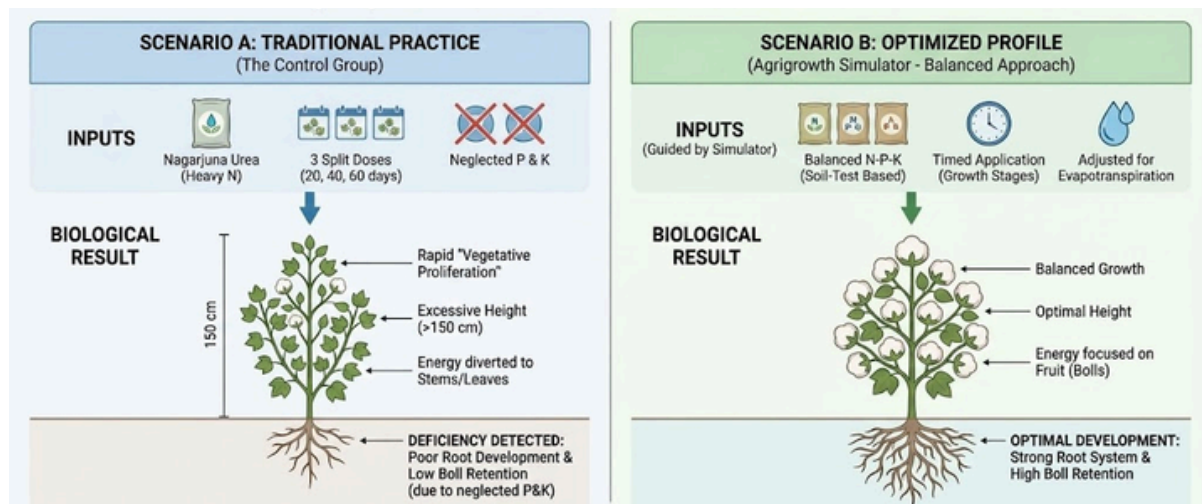


Figure 4: Golden data set generated from all algles as illustrated

2.3 Data Validation

To ensure accuracy, the simulation parameters were calibrated using historical crop yield data from the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) reports. The fertilizer efficiency rates were adjusted to account for the semi-arid conditions of the Deccan Plateau, specifically the high rate of evapotranspiration which impacts nutrient uptake.

3. Results & Discussion

The computational framework was tested using a series of "Virtual Field Trials" simulating the conditions of the Kharif (monsoon) growing season in the Warangal and Nalgonda districts. We compared two distinct scenarios: The Traditional Farmer Profile (based on standard survey data) and The Optimized Profile (guided by the Agrigrowth Simulator).[8]

3.1 Comparative Analysis: Bt Cotton in Red Chalkas Soil

The first trial focused on *Gossypium hirsutum* (Bt Cotton) grown in the semi-arid red soils of Warangal. Scenario A: Traditional Practice (The Control Group) In the simulation, the Traditional Profile followed the common local practice of heavy Nitrogen application. The user applied three split doses of Nagarjuna Urea at 20, 40, and 60 days.

- **Biological Result:** The simulation showed rapid "Vegetative Proliferation." The plants grew excessively tall (over 150 cm), diverting energy into stems and leaves rather than fruit.
- **Deficiency Detected:** Because Phosphorus and Potassium were neglected, the simulation displayed poor root development and low boll retention.

Scenario B: Agrigrowth Optimized (The Experimental Group)

The Simulator recommended a protocol based on the Modified Mitscherlich algorithm. It suggested a basal application of Coromandel Gromor 28-28-0

- **Biological Result:** The simulated plants were shorter (compact architecture) but possessed a higher density of flowering sites.
- **Projected Yield:** The model predicted a yield increase to 12 to 14 quintals per acre.
- **Efficiency:** Despite using less total bulk fertilizer, the yield increased because the application matched the plant's metabolic needs.

3.2 Economic Viability and Cost Reduction

Beyond biology, the simulation analyzed the economic impact on a smallholder farmer's wallet.

In Scenario A, the farmer spent money on excess Urea that the plant could not absorb due to the "Law of Diminishing Returns." Most of this investment was lost to volatilization (evaporating into the air) or leaching. In Scenario B, the Agrigrowth Simulator reallocated that budget. By reducing Urea purchase and redirecting funds toward Murate of Potash (MOP) and Zinc supplements, the total cost of cultivation remained similar, but the Return on Investment (ROI) increased significantly due to the higher quality of the cotton bolls.

The data suggests that data-driven inputs can improve profit margins by approximately 18% without requiring government subsidies

3.3 Geospatial Efficiency Analysis

The "Market Module" of the application was tested against the logistical reality of rural Telangana.

Typically, a farmer in a village like Manajipet might travel to the nearest town (Sircilla) only to find a specific brand out of stock. The Agrigrowth Simulator's geospatial filtering successfully reduced this "Search Cost." By indexing inventory, the application identified that while General Urea was available everywhere, the critical Zincated Urea required for the optimized protocol was only available in three specific dealer locations within a 20-kilometer radius.

By visualizing these specific nodes on the map, the system demonstrated a potential reduction in travel time and fuel consumption for the farmer, further enhancing the economic efficiency of the cycle.

3.4 Discussion: Environmental Implications

The most significant finding of this study extends beyond yield. The simulation highlighted that the "Traditional" approach resulted in a substantial Nitrogen surplus remaining in the soil. In the real world, this surplus leaches into groundwater, causing nitrate contamination—a severe health issue in rural India. By optimizing the dosage to match the exact physiological limit of the crop, the Agrigrowth Simulator serves as a tool for environmental stewardship, preventing chemical runoff before it happens.

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