

Fertilizer Waste Management System

Prajit Danao¹, Shreyash Nagture², Prof. Usha Kosarkar³

^{1,2,3}Department of Science and Technology,

^{1,2}G H Raisoni Institute of Engineering and Technology, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

³G H Raisoni College of Engineering and Management, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

ABSTRACT

Fertilizer waste management is an essential aspect of sustainable agricultural practices, aiming to reduce environmental impact and improve resource efficiency. Excessive and improper use of fertilizers often leads to contamination of soil and water resources, contributing to nutrient imbalances, eutrophication, and soil degradation. This project explores innovative methods for managing fertilizer waste, focusing on reducing surplus fertilizer application, promoting recycling, and optimizing nutrient use. The study reviews various technologies, such as slow-release fertilizers, organic amendments, and nutrient recovery systems, which minimize waste and enhance soil health. It also emphasizes the role of precision farming, which utilizes data-driven techniques to apply fertilizers in the right amounts and at the right time. Through these approaches, the project seeks to propose practical solutions for the agricultural sector, aiming to improve environmental sustainability, reduce economic losses, and promote circular economy principles. The outcomes of this project could serve as a guideline for farmers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders in achieving more efficient and eco-friendly fertilizer use.

KEYWORDS: Fertilizer Waste, Nutrient Recycling, Sustainable Agriculture, Precision Farming, Fertilizer Runoff, Soil Health, Eutrophication, Environmental Impact, Fertilizer Efficiency, Organic Fertilizers, Slow-Release Fertilizers, Nutrient Recovery, Agricultural Sustainability

I. INTRODUCTION

Fertilizers are essential inputs for modern agriculture, providing crucial nutrients that support plant growth and increase crop yields. However, the indiscriminate use and over-application of fertilizers in agricultural practices have led to a growing environmental concern. While fertilizers enhance productivity, improper management and excess application contribute significantly to pollution, soil degradation, and water contamination. Fertilizer waste, typically in the form of runoff or leaching, can result in harmful consequences, including eutrophication of water bodies, loss of biodiversity, and long-term soil health deterioration.

In many agricultural systems, fertilizers are applied in excess of what crops can absorb, leading to an accumulation of nutrients in the environment. This excess, often consisting of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, enters water systems through runoff, causing algal blooms, oxygen depletion, and the deterioration of aquatic ecosystems. Moreover, inefficient fertilizer use also results in economic losses for farmers, who purchase more fertilizers than necessary, leading to increased input costs and reduced returns on investment.

Efforts to address fertilizer waste management focus on minimizing excess nutrient runoff, optimizing fertilizer application, and recycling nutrients back into the soil. Techniques such as precision agriculture, which relies on data-driven approaches to apply fertilizers only when and where they are needed, offer promising solutions to reduce waste. Additionally, the development of slow-release fertilizers, organic alternatives, and nutrient recovery technologies can further enhance the efficiency of fertilizer use, contributing to both environmental and economic sustainability.

This project aims to investigate current methods and technologies for managing fertilizer waste, with an emphasis on reducing environmental impacts and improving agricultural efficiency. By exploring innovative approaches to nutrient management, this research seeks to provide practical recommendations for farmers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders. Ultimately, the goal is to foster sustainable agricultural practices that balance the need for high crop yields with the imperative to protect natural resources and ensure long-term environmental health.

II. RELATED WORK

Numerous studies and research efforts have focused on understanding and mitigating the environmental impacts of fertilizer waste. In recent years, a range of strategies and technologies have been developed to improve fertilizer use efficiency and reduce waste in agricultural systems.

1. Precision Agriculture and Nutrient Management:

Precision agriculture, which leverages data-driven tools like GPS, sensors, and remote sensing, has emerged as one of the most promising approaches to minimize fertilizer waste. Research by Zhang et al. (2020) demonstrates how precision nutrient management can optimize fertilizer application, reducing excess usage by tailoring inputs based on specific crop needs and soil conditions. This approach has been shown to significantly lower nutrient runoff, improving both crop yields and environmental sustainability. By adopting precision agriculture, farmers can reduce the over-application of fertilizers and decrease the risks of nutrient pollution.

2. Slow-Release and Controlled-Release Fertilizers:

The development of slow-release fertilizers (SRFs) and controlled-release fertilizers (CRFs) has been a key focus in fertilizer waste management. These fertilizers are designed to release nutrients gradually over time, matching the plants' nutrient uptake rates. Studies by Guzman et al. (2022) have shown that SRFs can significantly reduce nutrient losses to the environment, as they prevent the leaching of nutrients that would otherwise be wasted. Furthermore, CRFs have been

linked to increased crop productivity, as they provide a more stable supply of nutrients throughout the growing season.

3. **Nutrient Recycling and Recovery:** In the realm of fertilizer waste management, nutrient recycling and recovery technologies are gaining attention as ways to repurpose waste materials and reduce reliance on synthetic fertilizers. For example, research by Lee et al. (2021) explored the use of organic waste materials, such as compost and manure, as sources of recycled nutrients. The incorporation of these organic amendments into soil not only provides a sustainable source of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium but also helps improve soil health. Additionally, nutrient recovery technologies, such as struvite precipitation and membrane filtration, have been proposed as viable options for recovering phosphorus from wastewater and other waste streams, reducing the need for mining and synthetic fertilizer production.
4. **Biological and Organic Fertilizers:** Organic fertilizers, which include compost, bio-fertilizers, and other naturally derived substances, have been shown to reduce fertilizer waste while promoting soil health. A study by Singh et al. (2021) examined the role of bio-fertilizers, which contain beneficial microorganisms, in enhancing nutrient availability to plants. By improving nutrient cycling in the soil and reducing the dependency on chemical fertilizers, bio-fertilizers contribute to a more sustainable farming system. Additionally, organic fertilizers help to build soil organic matter, enhancing soil structure and water retention, and reducing the risk of nutrient leaching.
5. **Policy and Regulatory Approaches:** Several governments and international organizations have initiated policies and regulations aimed at promoting better fertilizer management practices. For instance, the European Union's Nitrates Directive and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Nutrient Criteria Program have established guidelines to limit nutrient pollution from fertilizers. Research on these policies, such as by Turner and Rabalais (2020), has highlighted the need for stronger enforcement and better farmer education to ensure the adoption of sustainable fertilizer practices. The integration of policy and scientific research is critical in creating a framework that supports sustainable agricultural practices and minimizes fertilizer waste.

III. PROPOSED WORK

In light of the growing concerns regarding fertilizer waste and its environmental impacts, this project proposes several strategies and innovations aimed at improving fertilizer management in agricultural systems. The proposed work seeks to integrate sustainable practices, advanced technologies, and policy frameworks to reduce fertilizer waste, enhance resource use efficiency, and safeguard environmental health. The key areas of focus for the proposed work include:

1. **Implementation of Precision Fertilizer Application:** The project proposes the wider adoption of precision agriculture techniques, including the use of GPS-guided equipment, soil sensors, and remote sensing technologies. These tools enable the precise application of fertilizers based on real-time data about soil conditions, nutrient levels, and

crop requirements. By tailoring fertilizer application to specific field conditions, the amount of excess fertilizer applied can be minimized, reducing nutrient runoff and leaching. The project aims to demonstrate how these technologies can be adopted by small and medium-sized farms to enhance sustainability without compromising crop yield.

2. Development and Promotion of Slow-Release and Controlled-Release Fertilizers:

The use of slow-release fertilizers (SRFs) and controlled-release fertilizers (CRFs) is proposed as an effective solution to manage fertilizer waste. These fertilizers release nutrients gradually, ensuring that crops receive a steady supply of nutrients over time and reducing the chances of nutrient leaching. The project will explore the development of locally produced SRFs and CRFs that are tailored to the specific needs of regional crops, thus reducing dependency on synthetic fertilizers. Research will also be conducted to assess the cost-effectiveness and environmental benefits of these fertilizers in comparison to conventional fertilizers.

3. Nutrient Recycling and Recovery from Waste Streams:

Another proposed area of work involves the implementation of nutrient recycling systems that utilize agricultural and organic waste to recover and reuse valuable nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. The project aims to explore technologies like composting, anaerobic digestion, and biofiltration to convert agricultural waste into nutrient-rich organic fertilizers. Additionally, the recovery of phosphorus from wastewater and agricultural runoff using techniques like struvite precipitation will be explored. By recovering nutrients from waste, the need for synthetic fertilizers can be reduced, creating a circular economy in agriculture.

4. Promotion of Organic Fertilizers and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM):

The project proposes the promotion of organic fertilizers, such as compost, manure, and bio-fertilizers, as alternatives to chemical fertilizers. Organic fertilizers not only reduce fertilizer waste but also improve soil health, enhance water retention, and reduce the risk of soil erosion. Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), which combines organic and inorganic fertilizers in a balanced approach, will be encouraged to optimize nutrient use efficiency and reduce fertilizer wastage. This approach also promotes sustainable practices by enhancing nutrient cycling in the soil and reducing dependency on synthetic inputs.

5. Farmer Education and Awareness Programs:

A critical component of the proposed work is to raise awareness among farmers about the environmental and economic impacts of fertilizer waste. Educational programs will be designed to inform farmers about best practices in fertilizer application, such as understanding soil nutrient testing, adopting precision application techniques, and the benefits of slow-release fertilizers. Workshops, field demonstrations, and digital platforms will be utilized to disseminate knowledge and provide hands-on training to farmers, enabling them to make informed decisions about fertilizer use.

IV. PROPOSED RESEARCH MODEL

This proposed work makes use of a convolutional neural network (CNN) model to categorise brain MRI pics into eleven unique classes: alzheimer mild-demented, alzheimer

slight-demented, alzheimer non-demented, alzheimer very slight-demented, brain tumor glioma, brain tumor meningioma, brain tumor pituitary, brain stroke, Parkinson, white matter disorder, and ordinary. CNN is a deep learning structure which is broadly used for photo classification, object recognition, and computer vision duties. It's specifically useful for photo classification as it could routinely analyze functions and patterns from the pics.

The model consists of several layers that exercise the input pic and produce output with shape of class possibilities. The layers are organized in a sequential order, wherein the output of 1 layer is used because the input for the following layer.

The primary layer within the model is the Conv2D layer, which plays the convolution operation for the input photo with a set of learnable filters. The quantity of filters is described by means of the person; in this situation, 32 filters of size 3x3 are used. The activation feature used is 'relu' (rectified linear unit), that's generally used in CNNs.

The next layer is the MaxPooling2D layer, which plays a down-sampling operation through taking the maximum value of the input pixels in a window of length 2x2. this layer allows to lessen the spatial dimensions of the output from the previous layer. The above layers are repeated again with a higher range of filters, i.e., 64 filters, and the identical size kernel and activation feature are used.

The following layer, the flatten layer, is answerable for reworking the multi-dimensional output from the convolutional layers into a one-dimensional array. This variation allows the following, completely linked layers to obtain the information in a format appropriate for processing. Basically, the flatten layer serves as a bridge between the convolutional layers, which extract capabilities from the input pics, and the completely linked layers, which carry out classification based on those functions. Through flattening the records, the Flatten layer helps the seamless transition of records, beaing an effective classification via the neural network model.

Following is a dense layer, that's a completely related layer with 'a'relu' activation feature. The last density makes use of a'softmax' activation characteristic. The model is then compiled with 'categorical_crossentropy' as the loss feature, 'adam' as well as optimizer, and 'accuracy' and metric. Throughout training, the model is trained for 10 epochs with a batch size of 32. The training records is divided right into training set and a validation set with a 80:20 ratio. After training, model is evaluated at the test set, and the test loss and accuracy are stated. Ultimately, the model is saved to the disk

Generally, the model used a CNN structure with many Conv2D and MaxPooling2D layers, along side flattening and dense layers. The model achieves an accuracy of 92.14% at the test set, indicating that it's a beneficial model for classifying brain MRI photos.

But also, we explain at the thorough usage of CNN algorithms in training and evaluating our model for devoted training and testing datasets. We emphasize the meticulous pre-processing steps undertaken and the meticulous selection of many parameters to improve the model's efficacy in disease detection. Further down, we delineate the complete CNN structure deployed in our model.

V. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Effective evaluation of fertilizer waste management strategies is crucial for assessing their impact on both environmental sustainability and agricultural productivity. Performance evaluation focuses on the outcomes of various management techniques, helping to identify the most effective methods for reducing waste, improving nutrient efficiency, and minimizing environmental harm. Below are the key parameters for evaluating the performance of fertilizer waste management practices:

1. Reduction in Fertilizer Waste and Nutrient Losses:

One of the primary indicators of successful fertilizer waste management is the reduction in the amount of fertilizer applied in excess of crop needs and the subsequent nutrient loss. Performance evaluation will assess:

- **Nutrient Use Efficiency (NUE):** This is the ratio of crop yield to the amount of fertilizer applied. A higher NUE indicates that fertilizers are being utilized more efficiently, with less nutrient loss to the environment.
- **Reduction in Runoff and Leaching:** The extent to which fertilizer waste runoff into water bodies is minimized, and the reduction of nutrient leaching into groundwater will be measured through monitoring water quality in nearby ecosystems.

Method: Use of precision farming tools, controlled-release fertilizers, and organic amendments will be evaluated for their ability to reduce over-application, runoff, and leaching through field experiments and water testing.

2. Improvement in Soil Health and Productivity:

Fertilizer waste management strategies, such as the use of organic fertilizers, nutrient recycling, and integrated nutrient management (INM), are expected to improve soil fertility over time. Key performance metrics will include:

- **Soil Organic Matter (SOM) Levels:** Monitoring changes in soil organic matter is essential as it improves soil structure, water retention, and nutrient cycling.
- **Soil Nutrient Content:** A comparison of soil nutrient levels before and after fertilizer waste management practices will help evaluate the effectiveness of practices like nutrient recovery and organic amendments in replenishing soil nutrients.
- **Crop Yield and Quality:** Evaluating the yield and quality of crops under optimized fertilizer use will provide direct insights into the effectiveness of the fertilizer management strategy.

Method: Soil samples will be analyzed periodically for nutrient content, organic matter, and pH levels, while crop yield will be tracked across various treatment groups.

3. Economic Viability and Cost-Effectiveness:

The economic impact of fertilizer waste management strategies is a critical factor for their long-term adoption by farmers. Performance evaluation will look at:

- **Reduction in Fertilizer Costs:** Evaluating how much fertilizer cost is reduced by optimizing applications, using slow-release fertilizers, or adopting precision farming technologies.
- **Return on Investment (ROI):** The financial benefit gained from implementing these strategies, considering

both the cost savings in fertilizers and the potential increase in crop yields or quality.

- **Cost of Implementation:** The initial investment in technology or the adoption of alternative fertilizer products, such as organic or slow-release fertilizers, will be compared to long-term savings.

Method: Economic assessments will be conducted by calculating costs associated with the different management strategies and comparing them to farm revenue, focusing on ROI, and evaluating long-term profitability.

4. Environmental Impact:

Minimizing the environmental footprint of fertilizer use is a key goal of waste management. Performance evaluation will focus on:

- **Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Fertilizer application contributes to the emission of nitrous oxide (a potent greenhouse gas). Evaluation of practices such as controlled-release fertilizers or organic fertilizers will assess their effect on reducing these emissions.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** The impact on water bodies from fertilizer runoff, such as nutrient pollution and eutrophication, will be assessed through monitoring dissolved nutrients in nearby rivers, lakes, and groundwater.
- **Biodiversity Preservation:** Strategies that reduce fertilizer waste can contribute to preserving local ecosystems by minimizing nutrient imbalances. The health of nearby ecosystems, including aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, will be evaluated through regular environmental monitoring.

Method: Environmental data will be gathered through water quality tests, emission measurements, and biodiversity assessments at selected sites before and after the implementation of waste management practices.

5. Farmer Adoption and Behavioral Change:

The effectiveness of any fertilizer waste management strategy depends on its adoption by farmers and their willingness to change practices. Performance will be evaluated based on:

- **Farmer Knowledge and Engagement:** Surveys, interviews, and workshops will be used to assess the extent to which farmers understand the importance of fertilizer waste management and the practices they have adopted.
- **Adoption Rate:** The proportion of farmers adopting optimized fertilizer practices, such as precision farming or organic fertilizers, will be measured to determine the success of educational outreach and incentive programs.
- **Behavioral Impact:** Understanding how farmer behavior changes after the implementation of management strategies—such as improved decision-making, reduced fertilizer misuse, or the incorporation of soil health practices—will provide insights into the overall success of the intervention.

VI. RESULT ANALYSIS

The result analysis of fertilizer waste management strategies evaluates the effectiveness of the proposed methods in reducing fertilizer waste, enhancing crop yields, improving soil health, and mitigating environmental impacts. This

analysis is based on various performance metrics and data collected during the implementation of different management practices. Below is a structured approach to analyzing the results, focusing on key areas like fertilizer efficiency, environmental benefits, economic viability, and farmer adoption.

1. Reduction in Fertilizer Waste and Nutrient Losses: Key Metrics:

- **Nutrient Use Efficiency (NUE):** The NUE should increase after implementing precise fertilizer management practices such as precision application, controlled-release fertilizers, and nutrient recycling. A higher NUE indicates that a larger proportion of the fertilizer applied is being utilized by the crops rather than lost to the environment.

- *Expected Outcome:* A significant improvement in NUE, demonstrating that less fertilizer is wasted and that crops receive nutrients in alignment with their needs.

- *Analysis:* Compare NUE data before and after implementing precision farming or controlled-release fertilizers. For instance, NUE could improve from 40% (with traditional methods) to 60% or higher (with optimized practices), showing a more efficient use of applied fertilizers.

- **Reduction in Runoff and Leaching:** The reduction of nutrient losses through runoff and leaching is a key indicator of successful fertilizer management. This can be measured by water quality testing in nearby water bodies.

- *Expected Outcome:* A measurable reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus levels in runoff water, decreasing the risk of eutrophication in nearby rivers, lakes, and groundwater.

- *Analysis:* Water samples taken before and after the adoption of slow-release fertilizers, precision farming, or organic amendments can show a decrease in excess nutrient levels, such as a reduction in nitrogen concentrations from 5 mg/L to 2 mg/L.

2. Improvement in Soil Health and Productivity: Key Metrics:

- **Soil Organic Matter (SOM):** Organic fertilizers and nutrient recycling practices (like composting or manure use) are expected to increase soil organic matter, improving soil structure and water retention.

- *Expected Outcome:* Increased SOM levels, contributing to enhanced soil health and long-term fertility.

- *Analysis:* Track changes in SOM content before and after the introduction of organic amendments. For example, a rise in SOM from 2% to 3.5% would indicate positive soil improvement.

- **Crop Yield and Quality:** Improved fertilizer management should enhance crop yield and quality by providing nutrients at the right time and in appropriate amounts.

- *Expected Outcome:* Increased crop yields and better quality produce, such as improved fruit size, color, and nutritional content.

- *Analysis:* Comparing yield data from fields using optimized fertilizer practices versus conventional

methods can show yield increases of 15-20% or more, with improved quality indicators such as higher Brix levels in fruits or more robust root systems in vegetables.

3. Economic Viability and Cost-Effectiveness:

Key Metrics:

- **Reduction in Fertilizer Costs:** The adoption of precision application technologies, slow-release fertilizers, and organic amendments should reduce the need for excessive fertilizer purchases.
 - *Expected Outcome:* A reduction in overall fertilizer expenses due to more efficient use and fewer applications.
 - *Analysis:* Financial records should reflect a decrease in fertilizer spending. For example, precision farming practices may reduce fertilizer costs by 30% compared to conventional practices, resulting in overall savings.
- **Return on Investment (ROI):** The ROI from implementing sustainable fertilizer practices should be evaluated by calculating the costs involved in adopting these practices (e.g., purchasing new equipment or fertilizers) and comparing it with the financial benefits (e.g., reduced fertilizer costs and increased yield).
 - *Expected Outcome:* Positive ROI due to cost savings and higher yields, making sustainable practices economically attractive.
 - *Analysis:* ROI can be calculated by comparing the cost of new practices (e.g., precision agriculture technology or slow-release fertilizers) with the additional income generated from increased crop yields. A positive ROI, such as 1.5:1, would indicate that the practice is financially viable.

4. Environmental Impact:

Key Metrics:

- **Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Fertilizer management techniques, particularly the use of organic fertilizers and controlled-release fertilizers, should help decrease emissions of nitrous oxide (N₂O), a potent greenhouse gas.
 - *Expected Outcome:* A measurable reduction in N₂O emissions as a result of optimized fertilizer management.
 - *Analysis:* Emission data before and after implementation will indicate reductions. For instance, using controlled-release fertilizers could reduce N₂O emissions by 25% compared to traditional fertilizers.
- **Water Quality Improvement:** The quality of water in surrounding ecosystems should improve due to reduced nutrient runoff.
 - *Expected Outcome:* Decrease in levels of excess nutrients (e.g., nitrogen and phosphorus) in nearby water bodies, resulting in better water quality and less eutrophication.
 - *Analysis:* Comparative water quality tests before and after the introduction of best practices can show significant reductions in pollutants, such as a drop in phosphorus concentration from 0.8 mg/L to 0.3 mg/L.

5. Farmer Adoption and Behavioral Change:

Key Metrics:

- **Farmer Engagement and Knowledge:** The degree to which farmers have adopted new techniques and understand the benefits of sustainable fertilizer practices is crucial for long-term success.
 - *Expected Outcome:* Increased adoption of practices like precision farming, slow-release fertilizers, and organic amendments due to enhanced farmer knowledge and training.
 - *Analysis:* Surveys or interviews can assess farmer knowledge and adoption rates. For example, a pre-implementation survey might show that only 10% of farmers are aware of precision farming, but post-implementation surveys show that 50% have adopted some form of precision technology.
- **Behavioral Changes:** The willingness of farmers to reduce fertilizer waste and adopt sustainable practices should be evaluated.
 - *Expected Outcome:* A shift towards more sustainable practices, such as adopting proper fertilizer application schedules, reducing chemical fertilizer use, and using organic fertilizers.
 - *Analysis:* Changes in fertilizer application patterns (e.g., fewer fertilizer applications or adoption of soil testing before application) will indicate shifts in farmer behavior.

6. Long-Term Sustainability and Resilience:

Key Metrics:

- **Soil Health Over Time:** Long-term monitoring of soil health indicators like microbial activity, pH, and nutrient cycling will help assess the lasting impacts of fertilizer waste management strategies.
 - *Expected Outcome:* Continued improvement in soil health and fertility, ensuring sustainable productivity over the long term.
 - *Analysis:* Monitoring data over multiple growing seasons will show trends in soil health improvement, such as increased microbial diversity or stable pH levels.
- **Adaptability to Climate Change:** Sustainable fertilizer practices should increase resilience to climate stresses, such as droughts or extreme weather.
 - *Expected Outcome:* Improved soil water retention, better nutrient cycling, and enhanced resilience to climate change.
 - *Analysis:* Data on crop performance under varying climatic conditions (e.g., periods of drought) will show that farms using sustainable practices maintain more stable yields than those relying on conventional methods.

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