



CORPUS PUBLISHERS

Current Trends in Engineering Science (CTES)

Volume 1 Issue 1, 2020

Article Information

Received date: June 05, 2020

Published date: July 02, 2020

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Keywords Remote sensing; Innovative
way; Agriculture; Crop production

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Review Article

Remote Sensing an Innovative Way to Improve Crop Production: A Review

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Abstract

Agriculture is providing fuel, fiber and food to humans but productivity of agriculture is affected due to climate change. Remote sensing is science and art in which we gather information without making physical contact with field. In agriculture it plays an important role in crop monitoring, yield assessment and classification. Moreover, it is an innovative way for timely monitoring of crop with accurate picture of agricultural sector with high accuracy and revisit frequency. Furthermore, remote sensing can improve the agricultural crop production by minimizing the input losses. The present review focuses on role of remote sensing in agricultural crop production.

Introduction

Agriculture provides significant contribution in economy of nation. It shows a considerable trading towards industry for making a country strong. In agriculture minimizing production cost is necessary and very most important goal of farmers and government [1]. Old usage of technologies and blind application of inputs negatively affect the crop production. The technology refers as "application of inputs and tools accurately and precisely for achieving maximum economic objectives". In developing countries farmers mostly adopt and perform the traditional practices due to which agriculture production is lower than the developed countries [2]. There are lot of new technologies to reduce the cost of production and maximize the quality production i.e. use of genetic modified crops and remote sensing combined with computer technology. Remote sensing is technique for collecting information regarding field without making physical contact [3]. It is a technique in which earth resources are monitored by space technologies and ground observations for more accuracy and precision. It uses different kinds of devices and tools to make electromagnetic radiation outside this range up to 400-700nm visible to human eye, mainly near, middle, thermal infrared and sometimes microwaves [4]. The major principle behind this is utilization of electromagnetic spectrum (microwaves, infrared and visible) for observing features of earth. It is used for monitoring bare soil, vegetation and water. Moreover, it is used for observing land cover changes, land use pattern, crop growth, monitoring of diseases, water status under field, pest infestation, yield estimation, weather forecasting and precision farming. This data contributes for monitoring features by providing synoptic, timely and repetitive information regarding surface of earth [5].

It plays a significant role by helping farmers to increase in production and reduce the cost of production [6]. Furthermore, by using remote sensing data decision-making ability of farmers improved. Previous studies show that through remote sensing farmers can maintain organic matter content, crop yields, pH, terrain specifics, nutrient levels and moisture [7]. The data collected from the current remote sensing satellites may be utilized to get information regarding two crop production components (GEO, 2013); acreage [8,9] and yield [10-15]. Moreover, it provides information regarding crop phenology [15,16], disturbances [5,17] and stress conditions can be detected [13,18,19]. Keeping in mind regarding remote sensing importance as an innovative way in agriculture. The present review is planned which focuses on role of remote sensing in agricultural crop production.

Remote Sensing

Remote sensing gathers information from the surface by using the reflected and emitted waves coming from the earth. It offers new opportunity to record the data of land and reduces the man efforts. The data collected by remote sensing is mainly soil, geology, vegetation cover, water, nutrients, urban sprawl and terrain [20]. It offers a lot of data like spatial spectral and temporal resolutions and facilitates the planners for mapping and characterization at various scales. It is most effective and less time consuming way of achieving economic potential of crop and soil [21]. The data of remote sensing revolutionized the land applications features [22].

Role of Remote sensing in crop production

During early days the data of remote sensing focuses on land covers and crop types but now its focus is on biophysical characterization of plant [3]. Remote sensing technology has potential to estimate crop productivity on the basis of crop and soil biophysical attributes [23]. The data obtained from remote sensing may be used for estimating crop production [15]. This technique reduces the labor cost and improve precision agriculture [7].

Role of Remote sensing in assessment of field condition

Remote sensing plays a significant role in assessing the plant health by using bio-physical indicators. Many physiological changes occur in crops due to various stresses can be detected and recorded by remote sensing [24]. Monitoring of drought by using remote sensing is used and accepted. Moreover, VCI (Vegetation Condition Index) and NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) is also utilized to identify the drought conditions in field [25-29].

Role of Remote sensing in optimizing Agricultural inputs

The most important role of remote sensing is precision agriculture it helps to optimize the water and nutrient in field. Identifying the need of particular nutrient and need of water at critical crop growth period helps to reduce production cost and improve water and fertilizer use efficiency. In areas where drought occurs drip irrigation along with remote sensing improved the crop production and reduce the inputs [30]. Under wet environment nitrogen fertilizer leaches more due to variation in water content [31]. SOM content [32] and yield [33,34]. These conditions cause TSF (traditional single-rate N fertilization) failures [35]. The nitrogen use efficiency can be improved by remote sensing (7,36).



Role of Remote sensing in pest identification and control

Remote sensing has a great potential to detect the weed infestation in an area and can be used as site specific management of weeds [37-39]. It not only identifies the weed specie but also helps to develop the appropriate amount of herbicide to control. Furthermore, it is also a good approach for assessing and monitoring infected leaves in field by spectral response to yellowing and chlorophyll of leaves [40]. Its application detects the pattern disturbance and help to manage pests in the field [41].

Role of Remote sensing in estimating crop production

Remote sensing is an innovative way to forecast the crop yield by finding a relationship among vegetation indices and yield [42]. Basically the crop yield is dependent on many factors such as variety, soil type, weather, pest and diseases. The spectral response of remote sensing is dependent on all these factors [24].

Conclusion

The present review concludes that remote sensing is an innovative way in agriculture to improve crop production. Moreover, this technique reduces the cost of production and increase the economy of a country [43].

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