

National Agricultural AI Institute for Transforming Workforce & Decision Support

Artificial Intelligence for Specialty Crop Agriculture

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULUTRE

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WHO WE ARE

We build and foster human-AI partnerships to sustain specialty-crop agriculture and help feed our growing population. We bring together top researchers from diverse disciplines to empower agriculture professionals with trailblazing AI-tools to assist decision making. Our research can transform the way AI systems are designed and built to solve complex societal problems.

AgAID INNOVATIONS & IMPACTS

- Simulating orchard environments to train robot workers
- Optimizing water allocation using deep temporal models
- Developing streamlined human-AI workflows
- Advancing robot sensing and control
- Improving streamflow forecasting models
- Designing Inclusive user interfaces

HOW WE HELP

We work with specialty crops that demand long term management, use a lot of water, and are vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather. We harness the combined power of human and artificial intelligence in three key areas:



Water Intelligence

fallow prediction | streamflow forecasting | water use modelling



Farm Operations Intelligence

irrigation management | frost mitigation | heat-stress management



Labor Intelligence

farm robotics | improved workflows | human-AI interaction



Our **Farm Intelligence Thrust** is developing tools to support decision-making at the farm scale, helping farmers manage the impacts of extreme weather and other uncertainties.



Heat Stress

Improved heat-stress prediction models to manage crop loss and improve the quality of farm produce



Frost Mitigation

improving machine learning models for cold-hardiness prediction for specialty crops | supporting grower decision making using AgWeatherNet



Deficit Irrigation

innovating neural networks to improve site-specific weather and soil-water content prediction



Our **Labor Intelligence Thrust** is developing innovative and inclusive human-AI workflows and improving the efficiency of farm robots and the productivity of farm workers.



Human-Robot Dormant Fruit Tree Pruning

Training machine learning models for pruning | simulating orchard environments | improving robot sensing and control

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Human-Robot Fruit Tree Flower and Blossom Thinning

Improving flower-thinning decision making and workflows | developing deep learning models for for flower detection



Nut Harvesting

Developing the next generation of nut harvesting machines | Cutting-edge AI control systems to optimize tree-nut shaking

Our **Water Intelligence Thrust** is designing AI solutions to assist better stewardship of water resources, and addressing water scarcity challenges.



Fallow Prediction

developing empirical and simulation-based models to predict fallowing of drought-affected irrigated cropland



Streamflow Prediction

improving overall streamflow prediction accuracy and uncertainty quantification using deep temporal AI models



developing a machine learning model to reliably predict snowpack and snowmelt



Irrigation Infrastructure Mapping

Mapping the network of canals and waterways from remote sensing images through deep-learning