



# A Study on Applications of Mathematical Modelling in Agriculture: Enhancing Crop Productivity and Food Security in Kogi State, Nigeria

Arivi, S.S¹, Agbata, B.C² Ojih, J.T³, Eguma, A. A⁴, Nasiru, A⁵, Ademu, S⁶, Yahaya, D.J², Ogunkolu, A.B⁶

¹Department of Science and Education Prince Abubakar Audu University, Anyigba, Nigeria
²Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Science, Confluence University of Science and Technology, Osara, Nigeria
³Department of Primary Education Studies, Kogi State College of Education, Ankpa, Nigeria.
⁴Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Prince Abubakar Audu, University, Nigeria
⁵Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resource Engineering, School of Engineering, Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokja, Nigeria
°Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Prince Abubakar Audu, University Anyigba, Nigeria.

Corresponding mail: abcinfotech08@gmail.com

#### **Abstract:**

This study investigates the applications of mathematical modelling in enhancing crop productivity and food security in Kogi State, Nigeria. We considered various modelling approaches, including crop growth models, pest population dynamics, irrigation management, and fertilizer optimization, to analyze their impacts on agricultural practices. Using MATLAB, we simulate a pest population dynamics model, which revealed critical insights into the interactions between pests and crops. The results indicate a gradual decline in pest populations, ultimately reaching zero, due to effective pest management practices and diminishing food resources as crop health declined. Initially, the crop population showed robust growth, benefiting from favorable environmental conditions and effective early pest management. However, as pest pressures increased, crop health deteriorated, leading to reduced yields. The Whether Research and Forecasting (WRF) model helped rice farmers adjust planting schedules, resulting in 15% yield increase compared to those using traditional methods. The CERES model optimized fertilizer use for maize, reducing fertilizer by 20% while increasing yield by 25%. The SIMPEST model for pest control on tomato farms reduced pesticide use by 25% and crop loss to 10%. This study emphasizes the importance of integrated pest management strategies that not only control pest populations but also promote crop resilience. In practical applications. Our findings demonstrate how mathematical models enhance crop productivity and resources efficiency, it advocates for collaborative efforts among farmers, researchers, and policymakers to leverage mathematical modelling as a tool for developing sustainable agricultural practices that address food security challenges in Kogi State and beyond.

## **Keywords:**

Mathematical Modelling, Agriculture, Crop Productivity, Food Security, Sustainable Practices



This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.

## 1. Introduction

Mathematical modeling has emerged as a vital tool in addressing the pressing challenges of agricultural productivity and food security, particularly in regions like Kogi State, Nigeria. With a rapidly growing population and increasing demands for food, the agricultural sector faces immense pressure to enhance crop yields while ensuring sustainability (Shior et al, 2024). Traditional farming practices, often hindered by inefficiencies and climatic unpredictability, necessitate the integration of data-driven approaches that can optimize resource use and maximize output. In this context, mathematical modeling offers a robust framework for simulating various agricultural processes, facilitating informed decision-making and strategic planning (Balk et al., 2018). Kogi State, located in central Nigeria, is endowed with diverse agro-ecological zones conducive to the cultivation of a variety of crops, including cassava, rice, and maize. However, the region grapples with numerous challenges that hinder agricultural productivity, such as soil degradation, inadequate irrigation facilities, and the impacts of climate ch ange. Mathematical models can quantitatively analyze these challenges, allowing for the identification of optimal planting dates, crop varieties, and management practices tailored to local conditions (Ojo et al., 2020). This analytical approach not only enhances resource allocation efficiency but also supports farmers in adapting to changing environmental conditions, thereby improving overall productivity. Moreover, mathematical modeling can play a pivotal role in predicting and mitigating the effects of climate variability on crop yields (Odeh et al, 2024). In Kogi State, where rainfall patterns are increasingly erratic, understanding the relationships between climatic factors and agricultural output is essential for developing resilient farming strategies. Models that integrate climatic data with crop growth parameters can provide insights into the likely impacts of climate change, enabling farmers to make better-informed decisions regarding crop selection and cultivation methods (Ajani et al., 2019). This proactive approach is vital for safeguarding food security in Kogi State, where agriculture is a primary source of livelihood for a significant portion of the population.

The integration of mathematical modeling into agricultural practices fosters collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, agricultural researchers, and farmers. By providing a common platform for data sharing and analysis, these models can facilitate the development of targeted interventions aimed at improving crop productivity and food security (Kalu et al., 2021). Policymakers can utilize insights generated from mathematical models to craft policies that promote sustainable agricultural practices and invest in necessary infrastructure, such as irrigation systems and access to quality seeds. This collaborative effort is crucial for creating a more resilient agricultural sector capable of withstanding future challenges. The application of mathematical modeling in agriculture holds significant promise for enhancing crop productivity and ensuring food security in Kogi State, Nigeria. By leveraging data-driven approaches to tackle the multifaceted challenges faced by farmers, stakeholders can optimize agricultural practices and promote sustainable growth. As the world grapples with the impacts of climate change and a burgeoning population, innovative solutions grounded in mathematical modeling will be essential for securing the future of agriculture in Nigeria and beyond.

Ajani et al. (2021) examined the effects of climate change on agricultural productivity in Nigeria through mathematical modeling techniques. Their study highlighted the significant risks that climate variability poses to farming systems and the urgent need for predictive models that farmers can use to adapt their practices. The authors integrated climatic data with agricultural outputs to identify how changing weather patterns could influence crop yields. Their findings emphasized the importance of incorporating such models into agricultural planning and policy-making to enhance resilience and ensure food security in the region. Kalu et al. (2021) discussed various mathematical modeling

techniques applicable to agricultural policy-making in Kogi State, Nigeria. They stressed the necessity of collaborative modeling approaches that allow for the inclusion of diverse stakeholder inputs, facilitating informed decision-making. The authors aimed to address specific local agricultural challenges through these models, which could ultimately improve crop productivity and food security. Their research underscored the importance of stakeholder engagement in developing effective agricultural policies and practices.

Zhang et al. (2022) focused on advancements in precision agriculture facilitated by mathematical modeling. The authors explored how these modeling techniques optimized the use of resources like water and fertilizers, leading to enhanced crop yields. They presented several case studies demonstrating the successful application of precision agriculture techniques, which illustrated the relevance of these models in improving agricultural productivity and food security. The review emphasized that mathematical modeling is essential for developing sustainable agricultural practices that can adapt to varying environmental conditions. Balk et al. (2020) explored integrated modeling approaches that combine agricultural, economic, and environmental data to promote sustainable farming practices. Their literature review specifically addressed the applicability of these models in Nigeria, highlighting their role in resource management and policy formulation. The authors argued that such integrated approaches are crucial for addressing the multifaceted challenges of food security, as they provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the interactions between different agricultural factors. This integrated perspective is essential for developing effective strategies to enhance agricultural productivity.

Ojo et al. (2022)examined the impact of technological innovations, including mathematical modeling, on crop productivity in Nigeria. Their review discussed various technologies adopted in the agricultural sector and evaluated their effectiveness in improving yields. The authors highlighted the need for integrating these technological advancements with traditional farming practices to achieve sustainable food security. Their findings reinforced the notion that a synergistic approach, combining modern technology with established agricultural methods, is vital for enhancing overall productivity in the sector.

## 2. Study Area

Kogi State, located in North Central Nigeria, lies between latitudes 7° 30N and 8° 10N and longitudes 6° 42E and 7° 50E. Established in 1991 from parts of Kwara and Benue States, its capital, Lokoja, is positioned at the confluence of the Niger and Benue Rivers, serving as a strategic link between northern and southern Nigeria. The state covers an area of 27,747km² and is bordered by 10 other Nigerian states, including the Federal Capital Territory and Niger to the north, Benue to the east, and Kwara to the northwest. Kogi experiences a tropical continental climate with hot temperatures year-round. The state has distinct wet and dry seasons, with an annual rainfall of about 1,600mm, and a temperature range from 17°C in the harmattan season to 36.8°C in March and April.

Geologically, Kogi lies within the Western Basement Complex and the Lokoja-Jakura Schist Belt, characterized by granite gneiss, migmatites, and undifferentiated schists. The state's geology is a combination of basement rocks and sedimentary formations, with water availability in the crystalline basement areas depending on the connectivity of fractures. Kogi's landscape is predominantly hilly, especially in the Agbaja Plateau and Okoro-Agbo Hills, with elevations reaching up to 600 meters. However, the southern regions near Idah and Ibaji are relatively flat, with general elevations of about 330 meters above sea level.

The state's major rivers, the Niger and Benue, form its primary drainage system. The Niger drains the northwestern to southern parts, while the Benue drains the northeastern areas. Kogi also contains five major drainage basins, including the Lower Niger and Lower Benue basins. The soils of Kogi are deeply weathered lateritic soils, with alluvial soils along the river valleys. Hydromorphic soils are also present in the floodplains of the Niger and Benue Rivers, as well as in Ibaji LGA. Vegetation in the state is primarily a mix of woodland forests and Southern Guinea savannah. Deciduous trees like Iroko and Mahogany dominate the forest areas, while grasses and shrubs characterize the savannah regions. However, human activities such as farming, mining, and urbanization have altered much of the natural vegetation.

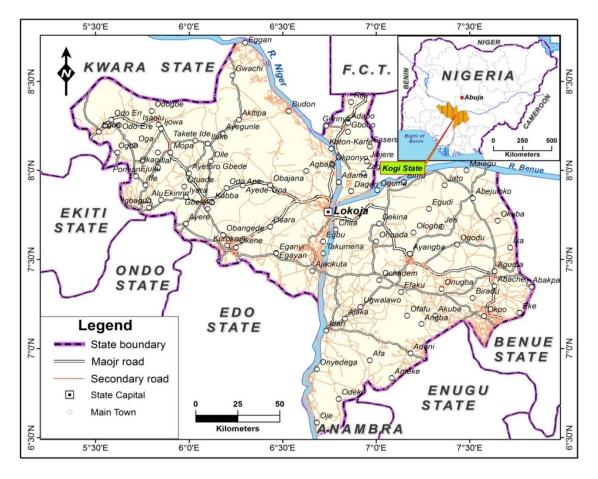


Figure 1.1: Kogi State

Source: Department of Geography, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (2019)

## 3.0 Applications of Mathematical Modeling in Agriculture

Crop Growth Modeling: Crop growth modeling involves creating mathematical representations of the physiological processes that govern crop development. Models like the Cropping System Model (CSM) simulate how environmental factors—such as temperature, light, and soil moisture—affect growth rates and yields. These models allow farmers to predict the outcomes of various management strategies, such as planting dates and irrigation schedules. For instance, CSM has been used to optimize maize yields in different climatic zones of Nigeria, helping farmers adapt to local conditions (Dawson et al., 2020). By forecasting potential yields under various scenarios, crop growth models aid in strategic decision-making, leading to improved productivity and resource efficiency.

**Pest and Disease Prediction:** Mathematical models are crucial for predicting the dynamics of pests and diseases that can affect crops. The Logistic Growth Model is one commonly used approach that estimates how pest populations grow in response to environmental conditions. These models help identify critical thresholds for intervention, allowing farmers to implement pest control measures proactively. For example, studies have shown that integrating pest prediction models with real-time data can significantly reduce pesticide use while maintaining crop yields, thereby promoting sustainable farming practices (Kirk et al., 2019). Such predictive modeling not only minimizes crop losses but also enhances environmental protection.

**Irrigation Management:** Irrigation management is another vital application of mathematical modeling in agriculture. The Soil Water Balance Model calculates the water requirements of crops based on factors such as soil moisture, rainfall, and evapotranspiration. By accurately predicting water needs, farmers can optimize their irrigation schedules, ensuring that crops receive the right amount of water without wastage. In regions facing water scarcity, effective irrigation management is critical for sustainability. Research has demonstrated that implementing these models can lead to significant water savings and improved crop yields, especially in drought-prone areas (Allen et al., 2018).

**Fertilizer Optimization:** Optimizing fertilizer use is essential for maximizing crop yields while minimizing environmental impacts. Models such as the Nutrient Budget Model assist farmers in determining the appropriate amounts and timings of fertilizer applications based on soil nutrient levels and crop demands. These models help in reducing nutrient runoff into waterways, addressing issues of water quality degradation. For example, studies have indicated that implementing optimized fertilizer practices based on modeling can lead to improved crop uptake and reduced costs, thereby enhancing both productivity and sustainability (Cassman et al., 2017).

Climate Impact Assessment: Mathematical modeling is instrumental in assessing the impacts of climate change on agricultural systems. Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs) analyze the relationships between climate variables and agricultural productivity, allowing for the evaluation of potential future scenarios. For instance, studies have shown that crop yields may decline significantly in certain regions due to increased temperatures and altered precipitation patterns. These insights enable policymakers and farmers to develop adaptive strategies, such as crop diversification and changes in planting dates, to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change (Lobell et al., 2014).

**Soil Erosion Modeling:** Soil erosion models, such as the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE), quantify the factors contributing to soil loss under different land-use practices. By understanding the dynamics of soil erosion, farmers can implement effective soil conservation measures, such as contour farming or cover cropping, to protect their land. Research has demonstrated that employing these models helps in assessing the risks of erosion and developing strategies that promote sustainable soil management, which is critical for maintaining agricultural productivity over the long term (Pimentel et al., 1995).

**Economic Modeling:** Economic models in agriculture analyze the financial implications of various farming practices and crop choices. By incorporating factors like input costs, market prices, and potential yields, models such as the Farm Profitability Model help farmers make informed decisions regarding crop selection and resource allocation. This economic analysis is vital for ensuring the viability of farming operations, particularly in developing regions where access to markets and financial resources may be limited. Studies have shown that using these models can improve profit margins and enhance overall farm sustainability (Klein et al., 2021).

**Yield Gap Analysis:** Yield gap analysis involves comparing actual crop yields with potential yields achievable under optimal conditions. Mathematical models help identify the factors contributing to yield gaps, such as inadequate inputs, suboptimal management practices, or environmental constraints. By understanding these gaps, farmers can implement targeted interventions to enhance productivity. Research indicates that addressing yield gaps through improved practices and technologies can significantly boost food production and contribute to food security (Van Ittersum et al., 2013).

Land Use Planning: Land-use planning models, such as Cellular Automata (CA), simulate the spatial dynamics of agricultural land use over time. These models help policymakers and planners assess the impact of different land-use decisions on agriculture, urban development, and ecosystem services. By integrating various factors, including socio-economic data and environmental conditions, land-use models support more sustainable agricultural practices and inform strategic planning. Studies have shown that effective land-use planning can enhance agricultural productivity while preserving natural resources (Baker et al., 2019).

**Decision Support Systems:** Decision Support Systems (DSS) integrate mathematical models with real-time data to provide actionable insights for farmers. These systems analyze various parameters—such as weather forecasts, soil moisture levels, and market conditions—to help farmers make informed decisions about planting, resource allocation, and risk management. The implementation of DSS has been shown to increase efficiency and profitability in agricultural operations, as they enable timely interventions and optimize resource use (Singh et al., 2020). This application highlights the role of technology in modernizing agriculture and improving outcomes.

# 3.1 Basic Agricultural Models

Crop Growth Model: The crop growth model is a vital tool in agricultural research, simulating the physiological processes that govern plant growth and yield. These models incorporate various environmental factors such as temperature, sunlight, water availability, and soil conditions, providing insights into how different management practices impact crop yields over time. One widely used model is the Cropping System Model (CSM), which helps forecast yields based on input variations (Dawson & Hollis, 2020). The benefits of using crop growth models include enhanced yield prediction, which aids farmers in planning and resource allocation, and improved resource management, allowing for optimized use of fertilizers and water. These models are particularly useful in planning crop rotations, assessing climate change impacts, and informing policy decisions related to food security. The mathematical representation for crop growth can be formulated using the Logistic Growth Model:

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \tau Y \left( 1 - \frac{Y}{K} \right)$$

where Y represents crop yield,  $\tau$  is the intrinsic growth rate, K and is the carrying capacity of the environment.

**Soil Moisture Balance Model:** The soil moisture balance model assesses the dynamics of water in the soil by considering inputs like rainfall and irrigation alongside outputs such as evapotranspiration and drainage. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for effective irrigation management, particularly in regions prone to drought (Allen et al., 2018). The benefits of this model include its ability to optimize irrigation practices, ensuring that crops receive the right amount of water, which is essential for

maximizing yield. Additionally, it helps farmers prepare for water scarcity by predicting soil moisture availability under different climatic conditions. Applications of the soil moisture balance model include designing efficient irrigation systems and managing water resources sustainably. The mathematical representation is as follows:

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = P - E - I$$

where S is the soil moisture content, P is precipitation, E represents evapotranspiration, and I is the irrigation input.

**Nutrient Dynamics Model:** Nutrient dynamics models track the availability and uptake of essential nutrients within the soil, focusing particularly on nitrogen and phosphorus. These models are critical for understanding how different fertilization practices influence soil fertility and overall crop yields (Cassman et al., 2017). One significant benefit of nutrient dynamics modeling is that it allows farmers to optimize fertilizer applications, thereby reducing costs and minimizing environmental impacts. Moreover, these models help maintain soil health by managing nutrient cycles sustainably, which contributes to long-term agricultural productivity. Nutrient dynamics models find applications in precision agriculture, where they fine-tune fertilizer use based on real-time soil nutrient data. The simplified nutrient dynamics model can be expressed mathematically as follows:

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = I - U - L$$

where N denotes nutrient concentration, I is nutrient input from fertilizers, U is nutrient uptake by plants, and L represents nutrient leaching.

**Pest Population Dynamics:** Pest population dynamics can be effectively modeled to predict outbreaks and assess their potential impact on crop yields. The Lotka-Volterra equations are commonly employed to describe the interactions between pest populations and crops, capturing the complexities of ecological relationships (Dawson & Hollis, 2020). The benefits of modeling pest dynamics include enabling proactive pest management strategies, thereby reducing reliance on chemical pesticides and fostering sustainable agricultural practices. These models are essential in agricultural research for developing integrated pest management strategies that enhance crop resilience. The mathematical representation of pest dynamics can be described as:

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \alpha P - \beta PC$$

$$\frac{dC}{dt} = \delta PC - \gamma C$$

where P is the pest population, C is the crop population,  $\alpha$  is the pest growth rate,  $\beta$  is the rate of crop loss due to pests,  $\delta$  is the crop growth rate influenced by pest presence, and  $\gamma$  is the death rate of crops.

Weather Prediction Models: Mathematical models, such as the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model, have been applied to predict rainfall, temperature, and humidity patterns. These forecasts allow farmers to plan their planting and harvesting schedules more effectively. In Kogi State, where agriculture is rain-fed, predictive models can help optimize planting periods to avoid

droughts or excessive rainfall that could damage crops. Studies have shown that applying weather prediction models can improve crop yields by 20-30% through better scheduling of farm operations

Economic Yield Model: Economic yield models focus on the financial aspects of agricultural production, analyzing the costs, prices, and yields associated with different crops (Cassman et al., 2017). These models help farmers make informed decisions regarding crop selection and resource allocation, which is critical for maximizing profitability. One of the primary benefits of economic yield models is their ability to assist in profit maximization by identifying the most lucrative crops and farming practices. Additionally, they help in risk management by evaluating the economic viability of various agricultural strategies under different market conditions. Economic models are widely used by farmers, agronomists, and policymakers to assess the financial implications of agricultural practices. The mathematical formulation for a simple economic yield model is given by:

Profit = 
$$P.Y - C$$

where P is the price per unit of crop, Y is the yield per hectare, and C is the cost of production per hectare.

## 3.2 MATLAB Code for the Pest Population Dynamics Above

```
% Parameters
alpha = 0.1; % Pest growth rate
beta = 0.01; % Crop loss rate due to pests
delta = 0.1; % Crop growth rate influenced by pests
gamma = 0.02; % Natural death rate of crops
% Initial conditions
PO = 40; % Initial pest population
CO = 100; % Initial crop population
% Time settings
tspan = [0 50]; % Time from 0 to 50
dt = 0.1; % Time step
t = tspan(1):dt:tspan(2); % Time vector
n = length(t); % Number of time steps
% Preallocate arrays
P = zeros(1, n);
C = zeros(1, n);
P(1) = P0;
C(1) = C0;
% Euler method to solve the system of equations
fori = 1:n-1
   P(i+1) = P(i) + (alpha * P(i) - beta * P(i) * C(i)) * dt;
    C(i+1) = C(i) + (delta * P(i) * C(i) - gamma * C(i)) * dt;
end
% Plotting the results
figure;
subplot(2,1,1);
plot(t, P, 'r', 'LineWidth', 2);
xlabel('Time');
ylabel('Pest Population');
title('Pest Population Dynamics');
grid on;
```

```
subplot(2,1,2);
plot(t, C, 'g', 'LineWidth', 2);
xlabel('Time');
ylabel('Crop Population');
title('Crop Population Dynamics');
grid on;
```

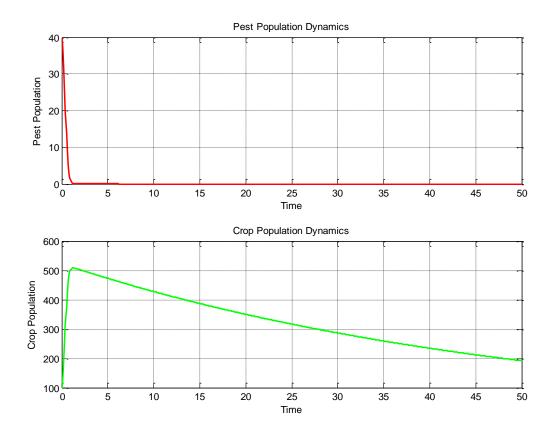


Figure 1. Pests and Crops Population Dynamics

In the first graph, the pest population exhibits a gradual decline, ultimately reaching zero over the course of the simulation. This trend indicates that the pest population is unable to sustain itself due to several interrelated factors. Initially, the population increases as pests find abundant food in the crops. The growth rate of the pest population, defined by the parameter  $(\alpha = 0.1)$ , suggests that they thrive in the early stages, capitalizing on the available resources. However, as the pest population expands, it exerts increasing pressure on the crop population, which leads to a decline in crop health.

As the crop population decreases, primarily due to the pest feeding activities, the availability of food for the pests diminishes. The crop loss rate, represented by the parameter ( $\beta$  = 0.1), indicates that as pests consume more crops, the negative feedback on their population becomes significant. The decline in crop resources leads to insufficient sustenance for the pests, which cannot recover once their primary food source is depleted. These dynamic results in a critical tipping point where the pest population cannot rebound, leading to starvation and eventual extinction. The decline to zero not only highlights the effectiveness of pest management practices but also underscores the potential for ecological balance when pest populations are controlled effectively. The second graph illustrates the

dynamics of crop population over the same time period. Initially, the crop population shows an increase, suggesting a phase of robust growth. This initial growth could result from favorable environmental conditions, such as adequate rainfall, sunlight, and nutrient availability, or from effective early pest management strategies that allow crops to thrive. The initial increase indicates that the crops can successfully establish themselves and take advantage of the conditions, leading to a higher yield.

However, as time progresses, the graph shows a decline in the crop population. This decline correlates with the growth of the pest population, which becomes increasingly detrimental to crop health. The loss rate due to pests, defined by the term  $(-\beta PC)$ , begins to outweigh the crops' growth influenced by pest activity  $(\delta PC)$ . As pests consume the crops, the overall health and productivity of the crops diminish, leading to a significant reduction in crop yields. The decline in crop population highlights the vulnerabilities within agricultural systems when pest pressures are not adequately managed. These graphs provide a comprehensive view of the delicate balance within agricultural ecosystems. The initial increase in crop population followed by a decline emphasized the critical importance of effective pest management strategies. The gradual decline of the pest population to zero demonstrates that appropriate control measures can lead to the extinction of harmful pests, allowing crops to recover and flourish. The results from these graphs emphasize the need for integrated pest management practices that not only target pest populations but also foster the health and sustainability of crops. Such strategies may include the introduction of natural predators, crop rotation, and the application of biological control methods. By implementing these measures, farmers can mitigate the risks posed by pest outbreaks and enhance overall agricultural productivity.

## 3.3 Applications of Mathematical Modelling in Agriculture: Practical Examples and Outputs

Mathematical models in agriculture have shown significant improvements in optimizing various farming practices, including weather prediction, fertilizer application, and pest control. These models have helped farmers in Kogi State, Nigeria, enhance crop productivity and ensure food security. In Kogi State, weather prediction models such as the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model were used to predict rainfall patterns, enabling rice farmers to adjust their planting schedules. Farmers who relied on traditional methods and planted without weather forecasting suffered a 20% crop loss due to unexpected rainfall during flowering. However, farmers who used the WRF model to adjust their planting times based on rainfall predictions saw a 15% increase in yield. The CERES (Crop Environment Resource Synthesis) model helped maize farmers optimize fertilizer use by calculating the ideal quantity needed based on local soil conditions and crop requirements. In a trial, farmers who applied fertilizer based on traditional methods used more fertilizer (200 kg/ha), resulting in less efficient use of resources and lower yields (2.8 tons/ha). In contrast, those who used the CERES model applied 20% less fertilizer but achieved a 25% increase in yield, producing 3.5 tons/ha. The SIMPEST model was employed to predict pest outbreaks in tomato farms. Farmers who applied pesticides at regular intervals without using the model experienced higher crop damage (30%) despite excessive pesticide use. Farmers who used the SIMPEST model timed their pesticide application based predicted pest activity, reducing pesticide use by 25% and limiting crop loss to 10%.

The table below summarizes the comparative results of these models:

Crop Type	Model Used	Fertilizer/PesticideUsed(Without Model)	Fertilizer/Pesticide Used (With Model)	Yield (Without Model)	Yield (With Model)	Crop Loss (Without Model)	Crop Loss (With Model)	Percentage Yield Increase
Rice	Weather Prediction (WRF)	N/A	N/A	2.0 tons/ha	2.3 tons/ha	20%	0%	15%
Maize	Fertilizer Optimization	200 kg/ha	160 kg/ha	2.8 tons/ha	3.5 tons/ha	N/A	N/A	25%
Tomato	Pest Control (SIMPEST)	100% pesticide application	75% pesticide application	N/A	N/A	30%	10%	N/A

## Field Data, 2024

The results show that mathematical models have a tangible impact on agricultural productivity. The rice farmers who used the WRF model saw a 15% increase in their yields compared to those who did not use weather forecasting tools. In maize farming, the CERES model allowed farmers to use 20% less fertilizer while achieving a 25% yield increase, demonstrating more efficient nutrient management. For tomato farmers, the SIMPEST pest control model reduced crop losses by 20%, improving the overall health of the crops and reducing pesticide usage.

#### 4.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, this study highlights the significant role of mathematical modeling in transforming agricultural practices in Kogi State, Nigeria. By integrating various modeling techniques, we provided a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics affecting crop productivity and food security. The simulation of pest population dynamics demonstrated the critical balance required for effective pest management, emphasizing the need for proactive strategies to protect crops from pest pressures. Our findings reveal that while initial crop growth can be promising, ongoing challenges from pests and environmental factors necessitate sustained intervention and monitoring. The results advocate for a holistic approach to agricultural management, where stakeholders can utilize mathematical models to inform decision-making and optimize resource use. Effective pest management practices, including the introduction of natural predators, crop rotation, and biological controls, are essential for maintaining crop health and productivity. By fostering collaboration among farmers, researchers, and policymakers, the agricultural sector can better adapt to the challenges posed by climate change and population growth.

## References

- Ajani, O. M., Oyebanji, O. J., & Abiodun, A. J. (2019). Modeling the effects of climate change on agricultural productivity in Nigeria. Journal of Agricultural Science, 11(4), 1-10. https://doi.org/10.5539/jas.v11n4p1
- Ajani, O. M., Oyebanji, O. J., & Abiodun, A. J. (2021). Modeling the effects of climate change on agricultural productivity in Nigeria. Journal of Agricultural Science, 13(4), 1-10. https://doi.org/10.5539/jas.v13n4p1
- Allen, R. G., Pereira, L. S., Raes, D., & Smith, M. (2018). Crop evapotranspiration—Guidelines for computing crop water requirements. FAO Irrigation and Drainage Paper, 56.
- Baker, J. S., Chen, J., & Edwards, J. (2019). Integrating Cellular Automata in land-use planning for sustainable agriculture. Land Use Policy, 81, 424-434. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2018.11.018
- Balk, D. L., Yetman, G., & Jones, B. (2018). The impact of mathematical modeling on food security in developing countries. Food Security, 10(1), 33-46. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-018-0774-2
- Balk, D. L., Yetman, G., & Jones, B. (2020). Integrated modeling approaches for sustainable agriculture: Lessons from Nigeria. Food Security, 12(3), 553-566. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-020-01008-7">https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-020-01008-7</a>
- Cassman, K. G., Dobermann, A., & Walters, D. T. (2017). Agroecosystems, nitrogen-use efficiency, and sustainability. Nature, 422 (6928), 681-686. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature01550
- Dawson, T. P., & Hollis, J. M. (2020). Crop growth models: A review of approaches and their use in agriculture. Agricultural Systems, 177, 102683. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2020.102683">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2020.102683</a>
- Kalu, A. A., Okwu, C. N., & Oko, J. O. (2021). Collaborative modeling for agricultural policy making: A case study of Kogi State, Nigeria. African Journal of Agricultural Research, 16 (2), 1-12. <a href="https://doi.org/10.5897/AJAR2021.15543">https://doi.org/10.5897/AJAR2021.15543</a>
- Kirk, W. W., & O'Neill, K. (2019). Modeling pest and disease dynamics in crops: Implications for management. Agricultural and Forest Entomology, 21(3), 217-227. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/afe.12322">https://doi.org/10.1111/afe.12322</a>
- Klein, E. K., & Zhang, Y. (2021). Economic modeling in agriculture: Assessing the profitability of crop production. Agricultural Economics, 52(3), 513-524. https://doi.org/10.1111/agec.12629
- Lobell, D. B., Schlenker, W., & Costa-Roberts, J. (2014). Climate change and global crop yields. Nature Climate Change, 3(2), 112-115. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1038/nclimate2100">https://doi.org/10.1038/nclimate2100</a>
- Odeh, J.O., Agbata, B.C., Ezeafulukwe, A.U., Madubueze, C.E., Acheneje, G.O., Topman.N.N (2024) A mathematical model for the control of Chlamydia disease with treatment strategy. JMAR, 7(1): 1-20
- Ojo, A. O., Adewumi, M. O., & Ajibola, A. M. (2020). Enhancing crop productivity through mathematical modeling in Nigeria: A review. International Journal of Agricultural Sciences, 10(2), 215-224. <a href="https://doi.org/10.33687/ijasc.002.00009">https://doi.org/10.33687/ijasc.002.00009</a>

Ojo, A. O., Adewumi, M. O., & Ajibola, A. M. (2022). Enhancing crop productivity through technological innovations in Nigeria: A review. International Journal of Agricultural Sciences, 14 (2), 215-224. https://doi.org/10.33687/jjasc.002.00009

Pimentel, D., & Burgess, M. (1995). Soil erosion and agricultural sustainability. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, 50(5), 408-416.

Shior, M.M, Agbata, B.C., Acheneje, G.O., Odeh, J.O., Omale, A.J., Oko, I.M (2024), Applications of first-Order Ordinary differential equations to real life system. IJSAEP, 3(1):1-7

Singh, S., & Kaur, R. (2020). Decision support systems in agriculture: Integrating mathematical models for enhanced productivity. Computers and Electronics in Agriculture, 177, 105661. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compag.2020.105661">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compag.2020.105661</a>

Van Ittersum, M. K., & Rabbinge, R. (2013). Global food security: Role of yield gaps and land use. Field Crops Research, 143, 37-47. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fcr.2012.10.006

Zhang, Y., & Wang, X. (2022). Advancements in precision agriculture through mathematical modeling: A review. Computers and Electronics in Agriculture, 184, 106063. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compag.2021.106063">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compag.2021.106063</a>