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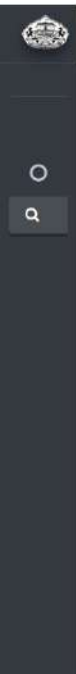
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A POST IMPLEMENTATION STUDY OF SUGARCANE IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

□ Dr. Nilam Jadhav*
Dr. Shivaji Mundhe**

ABSTRACT

Management science is most applicable not only to solve various irrigation problems of various parts of India but also for efficient irrigation management for any kind of farm. Current irrigation techniques are manual and have lots of drawbacks. More water is required for Sugarcane irrigation. Researcher has used management science is an interdisciplinary ability to come out with a solution that will help to take decisions regarding irrigation scheduling. Researcher has designed Expert System that will focus this area. The present study focuses on post implementation study of developed expert system for the assessment in terms of its applications and efficiency.

Keywords: Management Science, Irrigation Management, Sugarcane Irrigation, Expert System, Irrigation Scheduling

INTRODUCTION

Management science is a branch that study different other application areas. Researcher has used this approach to design, develop and implement model that has proved useful in reduce irrigation scheduling issues and tackle sugarcane irrigation problems. Sugarcane is one of the major crop in India which is water intensive. As water resources are limited, it need to properly manage. Expert system, can be developed with a knowledge base using its different techniques. The field of Agriculture is also require a expert knowledge that can be divided into heuristic and factual knowledge to manage required resources efficiently.

Researcher has undertaken the study to find out various sugarcane irrigation problems of western Maharashtra region. The research is further extended to study of various factors governing water requirements to find exact water requirement for the sugarcane. The knowledge thus generated is used for development of expert system for irrigation management of sugarcane. This paper

focuses the assessment of efficiency of developed expert system.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In India Sugarcane is major cash crop which is water very intensive. Most of the farmer use traditional irrigation methods that results in problems such as water logging, salinity and severe water pollution by chemical fertilizers. This is also because farmers cant get exact water requirement and use calendar method for irrigation. Effective rainfall varies largely in the regions of the western Maharashtra. Researcher has designed Expert System for effective irrigation management and scheduling which could tackle above problems. The post implementation study of such system is also important to get effectiveness of the model. The present research paper highlights the post implementation study of developed expert system.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Various research papers available on agricultural applications of management science.

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But very few of them cover the area studies here. Some of them are discussed here.

Les Levidow et al in their paper entitled "Improving water-efficient irrigation: Prospects and difficulties of innovative practices"[1] presented their view on irrigation management systems.

Zongkun Tan et. al., in their paper entitled "The Design And Implementation of Sugar-Cane Intelligence Expert System Based On EOS/MODIS Data Inference Model" [2] presents how Sugarcane spatially distributed.

This paper, "Designing and Simulation of an Automated Irrigation Management System Deployed by using Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN)" by Joseph Haule and Kisangiri Michael [3] presents an use of wireless sensor network in automated irrigation management system that looks after real time water amount in the soil.

After rigorous review of related literatures researcher found following research gap

- The studies were not carried out for western region of Maharashtra
- Post implementation study was not carried out for any such developed model

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Present study is particularly evaluative analysis type of study. Other details are as below:

Scope of the Study

This paper presents findings of Post implementation analysis of irrigation scheduling model and is confined to only 33 farmers and 10 experts study area only to verify results whether it is able to solve sugarcane irrigation problems or not.

Hypothesis of the Study

The hypothesis set for the study is,
"There is a significant difference between irrigation problems faced by farmers before and after implementation of expert system."

Hence null hypothesis is,

Ho: There is no significant difference between irrigation problems faced by farmers before and after implementation of expert system.

This main null hypothesis is divided into following sub null hypotheses,

- a. There is no significant difference between getting exact water requirement before and after implementation of expert system.
- b. There is no significant difference between efficient use of water before and after implementation of expert system.
- c. There is no significant difference between irrigation management before and after implementation of expert system.
- d. There is no significant difference between the soil salinity and erosion before and after implementation of expert system.

Objectives

The broad objective of the research is to test whether the usefulness and efficiency of expert system to solve analysed problems. The study also focuses on its advantages and applications and challenges to implement the system

Sample Size

Kolhapur division having three districts (Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara) is considered for the study. 386 farmers and 33 experts were selected for main study. 10% of it was selected for post analysis study.

Questionnaire

An questionnaire was prepared in Marathi to collect data. The questionnaire for farmers contains 19 closed-ended questions and for experts 30 closed-ended questions to gather specific answers.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data thus collected was cleaned and tabulated in SPSS for detail analysis. The data is also used to test the hypothesis.

HYPOTHESIS TESTING

For testing this sub hypothesis 9 experts and 32 farmers are selected who were interviewed before for sugarcane irrigation problem identification. Developed system were provided to them and again asked for same problems. Pre and post measurement of the opinion of each respondent is studied on a Likert scale, here 1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree. Wilcoxon sign test was performed for comparison of average of these two dependent samples.

Following are the reasons for selecting this test for testing all sub hypotheses

- As mentioned earlier both pre and post measurement of the opinions of each respondent are studied on a Likert scale and this test works well for ordinal data
- The test is nonparametric test hence used as both data are not normally distributed.
- Through this hypothesis researcher wants to prove that sugarcane irrigation problems have been resolved through this expert system. Same sample is considered for pre and post study. For pre and post study the given test is useful to statistically say whether or not the expert system resolved the irrigation problems faced by farmers.

TABLE I. TEST STATISTICS OF RESPONDENTS OPINION ABOUT ALL 4 SUBHYPOTHESIS

Subhypothesis	Z (Based on positive ranks)		Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	
	Expert	Farmer	Expert	Farmer
I	-2.724	-5.208	0.006	0.00000019
II	-2.724	-4.920	0.006	0.00000086
III	-2.588	-4.960	0.010	0.00000070
IV	-2.701	-5.014	0.007	0.00000053

Source: Data compiled by researcher using SPSS

From table 1 it is clear that, the opinion of both respondents for the sugarcane irrigation problem of getting exact water requirement, the calculated value of test statistics is 0.006 and 0.00000019 which is less than 0.05. Thus the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. It shows much more difference between getting exact water requirement before and after implementation of expert system.

It is also clear that, the opinion of both respondents for the sugarcane irrigation problem of efficient water use for irrigation, the result of test statistics is 0.006 and 0.00000086 which is less than 0.05. Thus null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted which means that there is a significant difference between efficient use of water before and after implementation of expert system.

It is also observed that, the opinion of both respondents for the sugarcane irrigation problem of irrigation management, the result of test statistics is 0.010 and 0.00000070 which is less than 0.05. Thus null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted which means that there is a significant difference between irrigation management before and after implementation of expert system

From table no. 1, it is clear that, as per the opinion of both respondents for the sugarcane irrigation problem of soil erosion and salinity, the result of test statistics is 0.007 and 0.00000053 which is less than 0.05. Thus null hypothesis is rejected and accept alternative hypothesis is accepted which means that there is a significant difference between the soil salinity and erosion before and after implementation of expert system.

From above it can be observed that result of test statistics is less than level of significance for both the respondents for all above sub hypotheses. All of the above results also indicate that after implementation of expert system the sugarcane irrigation problems seem to be minimized.

Thus main null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. Hence it can be concluded that the irrigation problems can be minimized.

Thus it can be concluded that the implementation of expert system caused a significant decrease in sugarcane irrigation problems.

FINDINGS

The findings of the study are as under:

Application of Expert System:

- Out of total sample data selected for post implementation analysis of expert system named as 'Expert Irrigator' all 32 farmers and 9 experts (100 % of sample) used and tested all functionalities of Expert Irrigator. All of them agree to the fact that all functionalities of Expert irrigator work satisfactory.
- Overall, 100 % of the farmers and experts state that EI provides help to get exact water requirement of sugarcane
- Majority of them (72.73 % of the farmers and 100 % of the expert) state that after use of EI water for irrigation can be used efficiently.
- Majority of the respondents (100% of farmers and experts) state that after effective irrigation scheduling of EI Irrigation management is proper.
- Majority of the farmers (72.73 %) and experts (88 %) state that after implementation of EI problems of soil erosion and fertility loss are minimized.

Irrigation Estimation Method of Expert System

- All experts agree to the fact that weather condition, soil type, growth phase, sugarcane type are considered for estimation of sugarcane water requirement in expert irrigator.

- 100 % experts agree to the fact that wind speed and water flow is also considered determining exact irrigation requirement sugarcane in EI.
- All experts are agree to the fact that method used for irrigation scheduling is accurate thereby generating correct results.

Advantages of Expert System

- Most of the farmers (96.88 %) state that EI is easy to install.
- 100 % of the farmers and experts state that EI is very user friendly and easy to operate.
- 87.50 % of the farmers agree to the statement that, "It generates maximum output with minimum inputs"
- 100 % of the farmers and experts state that with the help of EI, it is possible to get help at each step of operation.
- It was found that most of the farmers (96.88 %) and experts (100 %) state that due to application of EI, it is very useful to decide the amount of water in case of common irrigation schemes.
- 93.75 % of the farmers and 100 % of the experts state that EI facilitates drip irrigation more effectively and there is no significant difference in responses of the respondents (standard deviation is 0.59 for farmers and 0.45 for experts).
- About 100 % of the farmers and all of the experts state that Irrigation problems can be minimized by using ES. After detail testing of functionalities and analyzing advantages and applications of EI, overall 94% of the respondent farmers and 89% experts agree that they would suggest the EI to other farmers for their benefit.

Conclusion

Post implementation analysis shows that the developed Expert System caused a significant decrease in sugarcane irrigation problems. Hence, the developed expert system can be used for effective irrigation scheduling. The developed expert system also found accurate, easy to use, efficient, satisfactory and useful.

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