# Methodology development to create methods for acquisition and integration of historical, UAV sensors and IoT data for agriculture

- - **TED4LAT**

- Historical data many decades of accumulated experience and data
- Variable data acquisition and storage methods
- The arrival of new technologies is getting faster and faster
- Huge competition, growing range of available solutions
- Lack of resources (intellectual, technical, material).
- The influence of weather conditions and other environmental factors



Basic problem: integration of data in a unified environment, analysis and final product for the user

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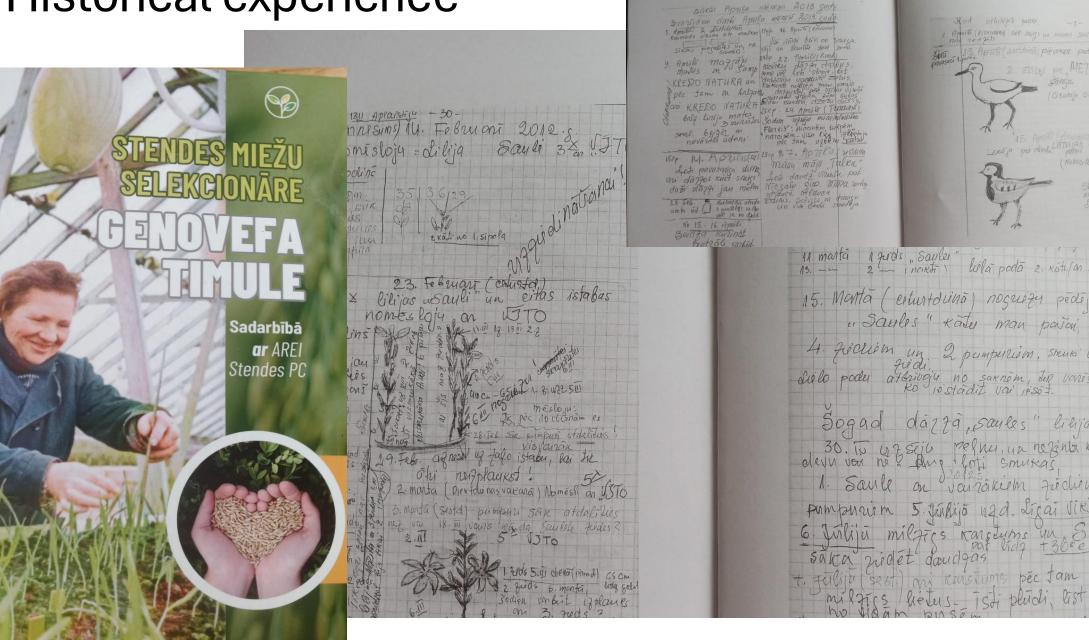
## Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences cooperation with Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics

Education institution and an important bioeconomy industry research and leading field plant breeding institute with more than 100 years of history cooperation with high school.

## History and operation

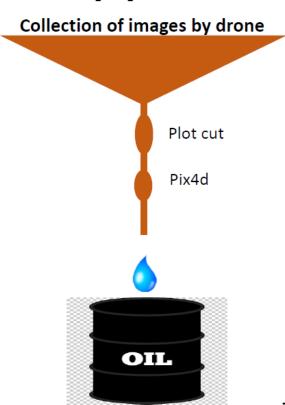
- More than 100 years of experience
- AREI scientists and specialists works:
  - o In the bioeconomy sector
  - o In the department of grain technology and agrochemistry
  - o In field plant selection, agroecology and pre-election laboratory
- Priekuļi and Stende Research Centers, Technology Transfer Center and Agricultural Market Promotion Center
- AREI's activities are spread throughout Latvia, 4 main locations, as well as participation in international projects (experience in Lithuania, Estonia, Sweden, Norway)
- Much is being done in the field of knowledge transfer and learning new technologies, which is associated with various challenges
- Cooperation with Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences what does it means: An
  experienced agricultural institute can pass on legacy knowledge, access new research, and
  develop future specialists, while gaining prestige, innovation, and practical experience. The
  long-term impact outweighs the short-term imbalance.

## Historical experience



## Current experience

## Data pipeline from HTP with UAV



- Collection of «big data»
- Time consuming adjustments of images
- Large computer capacity needed
- Outcoming data difficult to integrate with other results

The view of Norwegian colleagues



## International NOBAL Wheat Project

- A three-year project that gave us stability and confidence in what we do
  - Higher work efficiency
  - Improved competences
  - Better productivity
  - Innovative solutions
  - Cooperation experience
  - Market knowledge
  - Strategic thinking
  - New data collection methods
  - Improved data processing
- International cooperation
- Experienced consultants
- Networking opportunities



Phenomobile vs UAV



# Data series (3 years x 10 missions) using UAV



## Orthophoto map

- Gets data when and where it is needed, with the necessary accuracy and resolution
- Compatibility with other resources in the GIS environment
- Required GSD\* at least 1cm
- Shift of images between missions no more than 3cm

#### \*GSD (Ground Sampling Distance) it

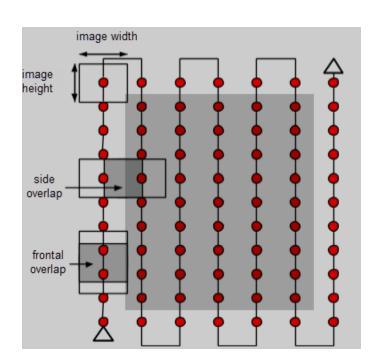
is also known as "ground surface resolution". This term is used in photogrammetry and remote sensing technologies to describe the spatial resolution of an image on the earth's surface. Basically, it indicates the distance on the ground represented by each pixel in the image.





## RGB (color photo) and Multispectral camera

- RGB (Red, Green, Blue)
- RE, NIR (Red Limit, Near Infrared)
- Photos are taken while flying, in consecutive series



Correct protocols needed to collect data

The gray area is the research area.

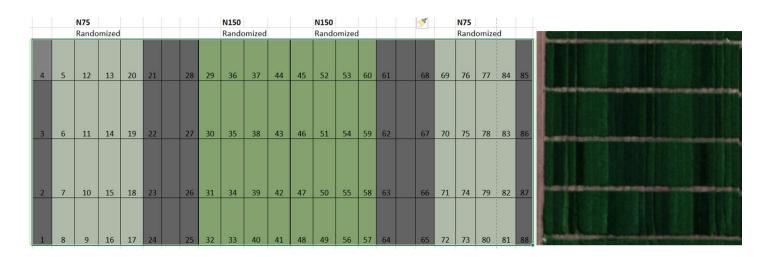
Image coverage not less than 70% and not more than 85%.

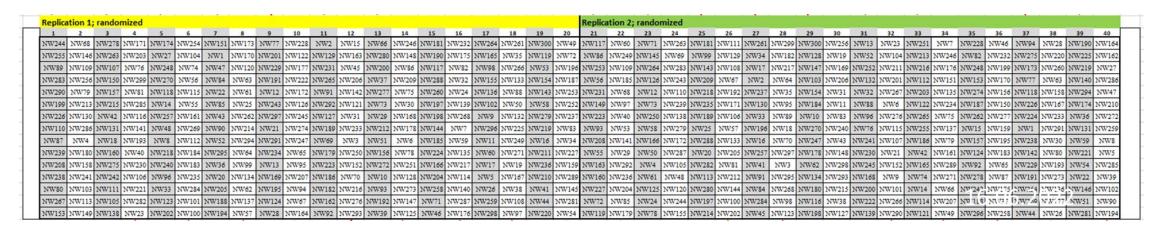
If you want to get a 2D orthophoto, then point the camera vertically down.

If a 3D object or surface model is required, the camera is turned at an angle of approximately 15 degrees from the vertical.

## Current field planning «Excel type GIS »

- NUE trial design for 16 genotypes at 2 N levels
- Split field design the field is divided into four main blocks, and the application of both N fertilization levels is randomly distributed among these four blocks.
- Crop trial design, 300 spring wheat genotypes
- Design of random blocks





# Proximal phenotyping (growth stages)

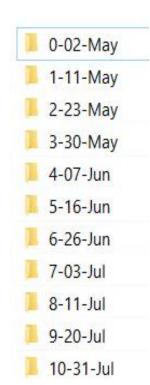
- GS21 Beginning of jam formation:
  - Cereals begin to form side shoots, which will be an additional source of grain.
- GS65 Full flowering:
  - The plant is in full bloom and all the flowers have opened.
- GS73 Beginning of milk ripening:
  - The grains begin to fill with a milky liquid, but are not yet fully ripe.





## **UAV** missions



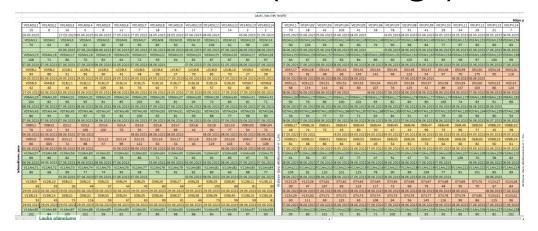






## The experiment (Stargate project)

### Another excel (the design)



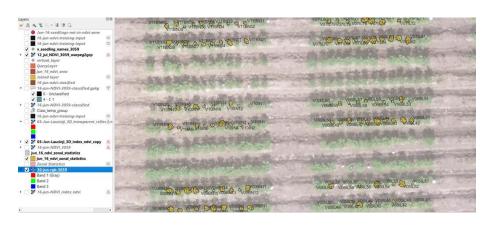
### Real field view



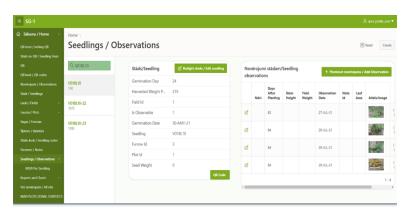
### Data collection



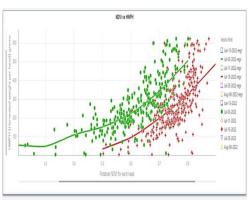
Processing (the GIS project)



Database

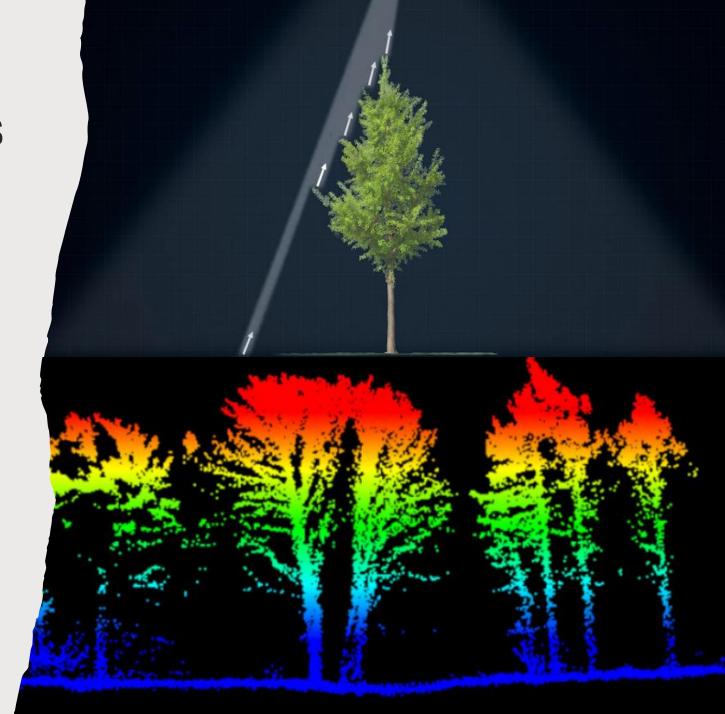


Results



## LiDAR capabilities

- Several levels of light beam reflection
- Classification
- Resources for research
  - https://levelfivesupplies.co
     m/100-real-world applications-of-lidar technology/



### Technical resources

- •We have
  - ■DJI Matrice 300
  - Sentera Multispectral
  - ■Pix4D Mapper
  - QGIS
- Purchased, but needs to be learned
  - DJI Zenmuse L2 LiDAR\*
- •New learning challenges
  - •AI (Artificial Intelligence)
  - GIS (Geographic Information Systems)







**LiDAR**(Light Detection and Ranging) is a technology that uses laser beams to measure distances and create three-dimensional (3D) images and models of the surrounding environment.

## Problem

- Economic productivity and competitiveness are essential for improving national well-being. The advantages are in high value-added sectors. The untapped potential of technology is still an underutilized growth opportunity.
- We live in an era where technology and society are evolving faster than most companies can adapt. Survival will not depend on strength or intelligence, but on the ability to adapt.
- Technology is evolving exponentially, while society's ability to use it is lagging behind. There is a growing digital divide between technological transformation and the ability of companies to apply it in production and management to drive efficiency and innovation.

• January 2019 DOI: <u>10.22364/pctni.06</u> In book: Produktivitātes celšana: tendences un nākotnes izaicinājumi = Raising Productivity: Trends and Future Challenges. Juris Binde

## Research question and focus

- How can a scalable and flexible system be designed to integrate diverse data sources (multispectral, LiDAR, IoT sensors) with actual manual field observations, meteorological information, harvest data and historical data for precision agriculture?
- Focus: System architecture and modularity.

#### Problem statement:

Integrating multispectral, LiDAR, sensor, and historical data into a unified geospatial model for precision agriculture presents key challenges. The gap between technical experts and agricultural professionals highlights the need for a unified approach, shared understanding, and clear methodology for data acquisition and transformation in an ever-evolving technological landscape.

#### Aim of this work:

- UAV mapping and optimization in precisin agriculture;
- Development of comprehensive methodology for designing and rapidly adjusting data acquisition, processing, and maintenance systems for data science applications in precision agriculture.

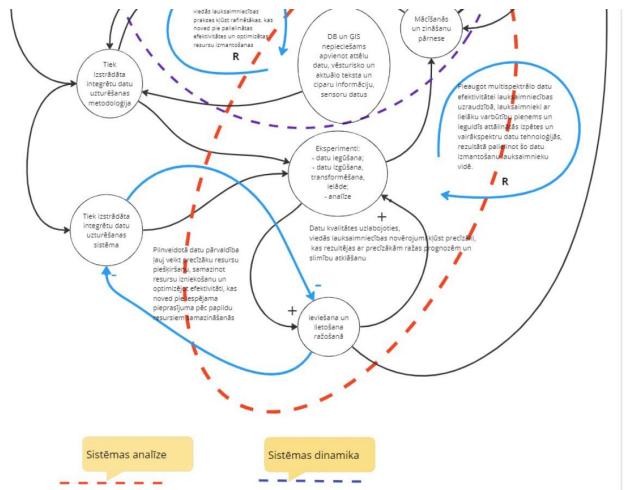
# All stakeholders must come to a common understanding



A transparent, universally understandable concept must be validated and verified

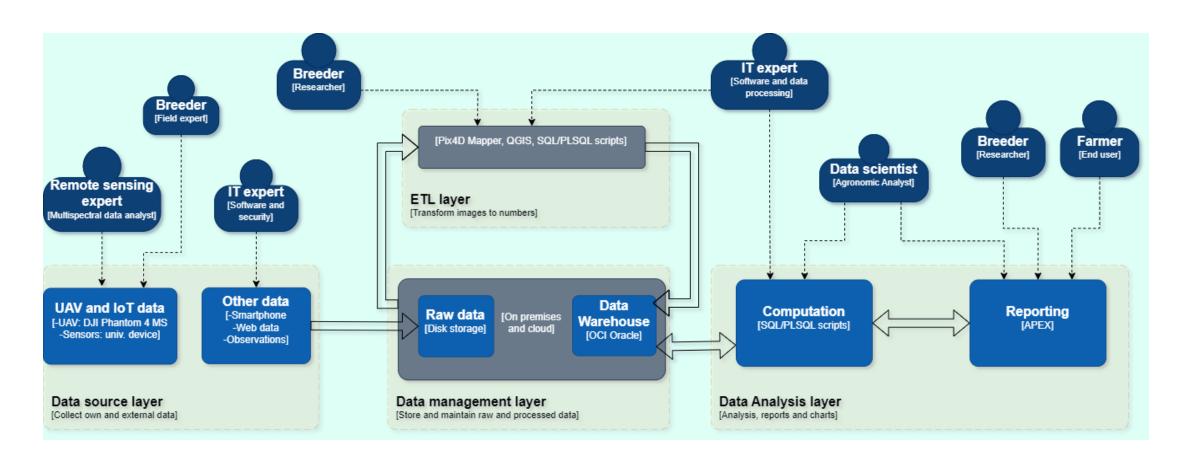
## How to perform these tasks?

- •Requirements model, the creation of which has several (as many as necessary) iterations
- Financing and implementation



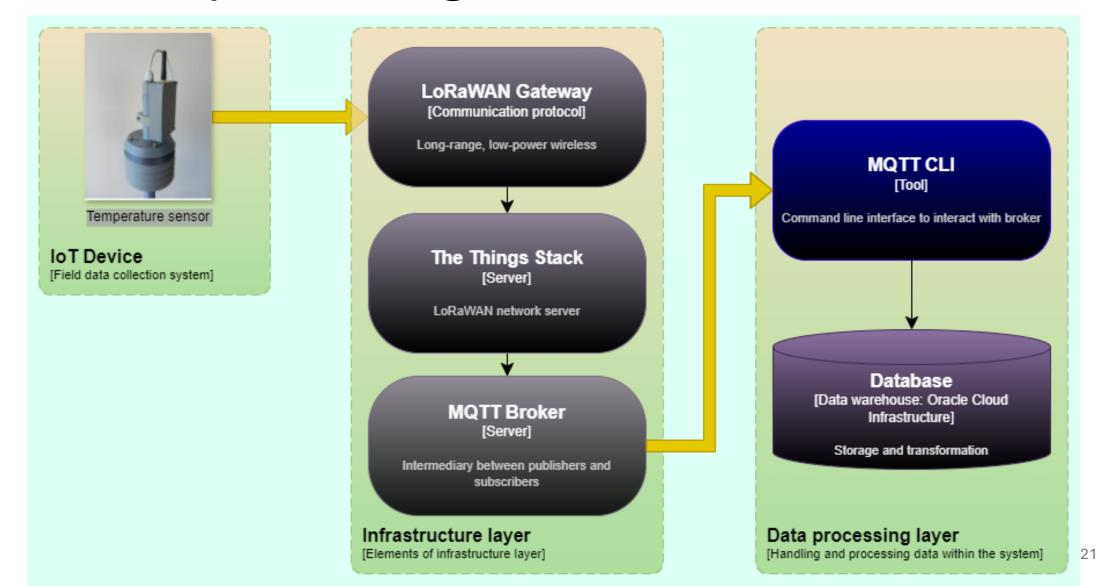
Thanks to Egils Ginters 19

# Architecture for multispectral data acquisition, integration and analysis



Thanks to Sandro Bimonte

## IoT data processing architecture



# Database: OCI as platform and flexible Data model

Generativity.

It is a technology's capability of producing new outputs without input from the originator.

Scalability.

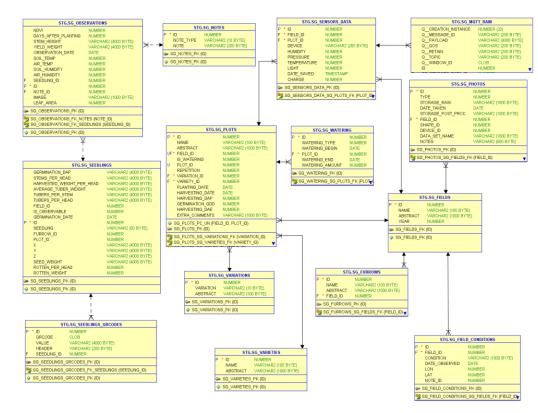
Ability to handle growing volumes of data and increasing complexity of processes as precision agriculture advances.

Accesibility.

Easy access for different users, with varying levels of expertise.

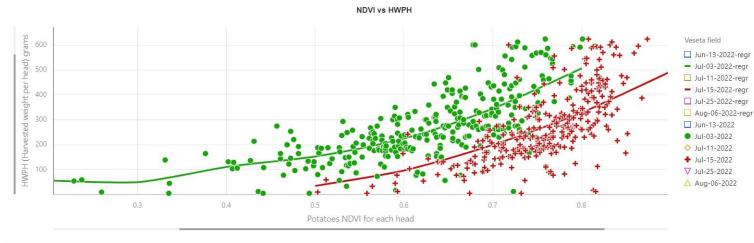
Interoperability.

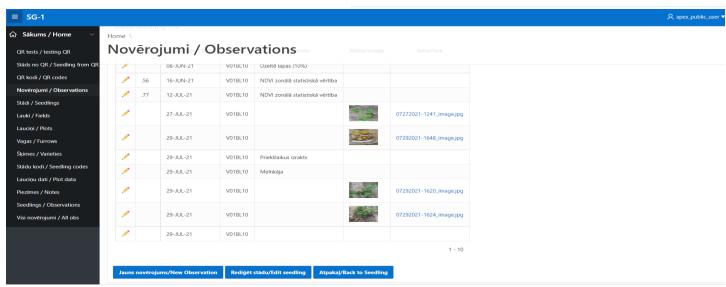
Compatible with various tools, databases, and platforms, allowing users to integrate other technologies or data sources easily.



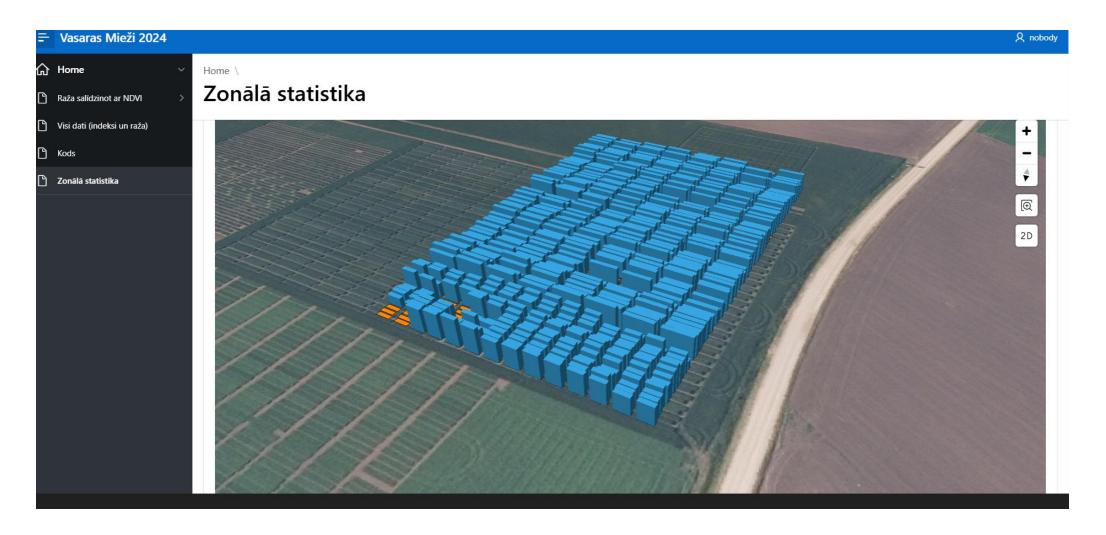
Sun, R., Gregor, S., Fielt, E. (2021). Generativity and the paradox of stability and flexibility in a platform architecture: A case of the oracle cloud platform, Information & Management 58(8), 103548. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378720621001221

## User interface, charts, reports





## What is it, or a container terminal?



Integrated data, available in the database, geospatialy correct positions, offered to the user as an easy-to-use product in a GIS environment. Blue containers show harvested

# Novelty

• Flexibility and adaptability, user-oriented design: Unlike existing solutions, which often provide rigid frameworks for specific problems, this methodology offers a scalable and modular approach, allowing users to rapidly adjust systems to evolving data sources, tools, and technologies in agriculture.

#### Key novel aspects include:

- Customizable and Dynamic System Design: The methodology emphasizes the ability to quickly integrate new tools, such as UAV-based multispectral imaging, LiDAR, IoT sensors, and historical data. This flexibility is crucial for addressing the constantly changing technological landscape in precision agriculture.
- Modular and Service-Oriented Architecture: It introduces a modular structure that can be adapted to different agricultural tasks with minimal disruption, enhancing the ease of customization for various use cases and tools.
- Focus on Real-Time Data Integration: By providing a framework for seamless integration of diverse, multimodal data (e.g., geospatial, sensor, historical data), the methodology oriented to support real-time decision-making and data processing.
- Cross-Disciplinary Knowledge Transfer: The research addresses the gap between IT specialists and agricultural professionals, offering methods to enhance collaboration, reduce friction, and promote knowledge sharing across domains.
- Rapid Customization for Emerging Technologies: Unlike other systems that may become outdated as new tools are introduced, this methodology allows users to modify and expand the system as new technologies and data sources emerge.
- **Al-ready**: Consolidated data is now accessible through a unified interface, optimized for downstream use with language models (LMs) and deep learning (DL) tools.
- Agile and DevOPS: Methodologies not only for system development but as well for data collection and processing methods.

## Development methodology

- Software and systems development
- Roadmap for smart agriculture development
- What innovations could be applied

Decade	Methodology / Trend	<b>Key Innovations</b>
1970s-1980s	Waterfall	Sequential Phases
1990s	Spiral, Iterative	Risk-driven Development, Incremental Delivery
2000s	Agile	Scrum, XP, User Feedback Loops
2010s	DevOps	CI/CD, Infrastructure as Code (IaC), Docker, Kubernetes
2020s	Cloud-Native, SRE	Microservices, GitOps, Observability
2020s-2025	Platform Engineering	Internal Developer Platforms, Developer Experience (DevEx)
2025+	AI-Driven Development, Autonomous Systems	Al Coding, AlOps, Self-Healing Systems
Era	Methodology / Focus	Key Characteristics
Pre-2000s	Methodology / Focus  Traditional Methods	Key Characteristics  Manual data collection, intuition-based decisions
		Manual data collection,
Pre-2000s	Traditional Methods	Manual data collection, intuition-based decisions Introduction of GPS,
Pre-2000s 2000s	Traditional Methods  Basic Digitization	Manual data collection, intuition-based decisions Introduction of GPS, spreadsheets, simple sensors IoT sensors, satellite imagery,

# Future innovations in Smart Agriculture development methodologies

- AI-Powered Soil & Crop Health Diagnostics
  - Multi-modal Sensing with Predictive Analytics
  - Combining drone imagery, soil sensors, and satellite data analyzed by AI for early disease, nutrient deficiency, or pest detection.

Area	Potential Innovation	Description / Application in Smar Ag
Al-Driven Adaptive Planning	Real-time AI Optimization of Crop Plans	Systems that dynamically adjust planting, watering, and fertilization schedules based on live sensor and weather data.
Digital Twins of Farms	Full-Farm Simulation Environments	Virtual replicas of entire farms to test interventions, crop rotations, o machinery changes without risking real assets.
Swarm Robotics Coordination	Autonomous Drone and Robot Swarms	Coordinated fleets of drones/robot that collaboratively manage large fields, perform planting, pest control, and harvesting.
Blockchain for Traceability & Incentives	Decentralized Crop Provenance & Carbon Credits	Transparent supply chains and incentivization of sustainable practices using blockchain tokens or smart contracts.
Al-Powered Soil & Crop Health Diagnostics	Multi-modal Sensing with Predictive Analytics	Combining drone i magery, so il sensors, and satellite data analyzed by Al for early disease, nutrient deficiency, or pest detection.
Edge Al with Low Power Sensors	On-Device Alfor Real-Time Decision Making	Sensor devices that process data locally to reduce latency and reliance on cloud, enabling instant interventions.
MLOps for Ag Models	Continuous Training and Dep loyment of Crop Prediction Models	Robust pipelines to up date Al models as new data arrives, ensuring accuracy and adaptability
Human-Al Co- Governance Frameworks	Farmers and AI Systems Collaborate on Decisions	Meth odologies that formalize trust, over sight, and feed back between human farmers and AI recommend ations.
Augmented Reality (AR) for Field Management	AR Interfaces for Real-Time Field Data Visu alization	Allowing farmers to visualize soil moisture, pest presence, or growth metrics overlayed on actual crops through AR glasses or mobile apps.
Sustainability- Focused Dev Methodologies	Incorpor ating Environmental Impact Metrics into Dev Cycles	Frameworks that mandate measuring water use, emissions, and biodiversity impact during software/technology development.

## Conclusions

#### Respect Legacy, enable Iransition

Rather than disrupting long-standing practices, focus on *empowering them* through structured transformation. Avoid struggling against entrenched ways of working. Instead, develop and apply a **robust data and knowledge migration methodology**, supported by intuitive tools that make the transition natural, not forced. This approach fosters adoption, preserves valuable expertise, and ensures continuity.

#### Build an Interdisciplinary Core Team

The complexity of modern data systems demands diverse perspectives. Forming an **interdisciplinary team** - blending domain experts, technologists, data scientists, and operations specialists - ensures that solutions are both technically good and practically relevant.

#### Innovate at the intersections

The future of data collection and processing is interdisciplinary innovation. True scalability and intelligence emerge when we integrate sensors, robotics, environmental science, AI, and productivity tools into unified, adaptive systems. These hybrid solutions enable dynamic monitoring, real-time analysis, and informed decision-making, even in complex environments.

```
-- Holds value read from source table
            VARCHAR2 (200);
                                   -- Dynamic SQL query
            VARCHAR2 (200);
                                   -- Dynamic SQL query for weight
                                   -- Seed weight
            NUMBER;
            NUMBER:
                                   -- Placeholder for row ID
DIgn
            NUMBER:
                                    -- Not used in current logic
nF
            NUMBER := 0:
                                   -- Furrow counter
                                    -- Column counter within row
nSeedling
           NUMBER:
                                   -- Seedling flag
vSeedling
            VARCHAR2 (20);
                                   -- Transformed seedling name
nWeight
            NUMBER;
                                    -- Extracted seed weight
dSDate
                                    -- Germination date
vInsSQL
            VARCHAR2 (500);
                                    -- SQL insert statement
-- Loop through each relevant row in the source table
FOR i IN (
    SELECT id
    FROM LAUKA PLANOJUMS 12052023
    WHERE id < 53 AND id >
    ORDER BY id
    nCn := 1: -- Reset column index for each row
    -- Loop through all columns except excluded ones
    FOR C IN (
        SELECT column name AS cn
        FROM user tab columns
        WHERE table name = 'LAUKA PLANOJUMS 12052023'
        AND column name NOT IN ('ID', 'COLUMN 61', 'COLUMN 62', 'COLUMN 63', 'COLUM
        -- Dynamically get column value for current row
        qry := 'SELECT ' || c.cn || ' FROM LAUKA PLANOJUMS 12052023 WHERE id = :1'
        EXECUTE IMMEDIATE gry INTO r USING i.id;
            -- Check if value is a short string and not a number or date
            IF LENGTH(r) < 10 AND is date(r) = 0 AND is number(r) = 0 THEN
```



## Current challenges

- Submit publication
- LiDAR data processing workflows (methodology for AREI)
- Literature review

Standard operating procedures for UAV phenotyping. url: https://excellenceinbreeding. org/sites/default/files/manual/EiB\_M4\_%20SOP-UAV-Phenotyping-12-10-20.pdf.

Biomass Prediction with 3D Point Clouds from LiDAR, url: https:// openaccess.thecvf.com/content/WACV2022/papers/Pan Biomass Prediction With 3D Point Clouds From LiDAR WACV 2022 paper. Pdf.

Soumya Debnath, Manik Paul, and Tanmoy Debnath. "Applications of LiDAR in Agriculture and Future Research Directions". In: J Imaging 9.3 (Feb. 2023), p. 57. doi: 10 . 3390 / jimaging9030057. url: https: //doi.org/10.3390/jimaging9030057



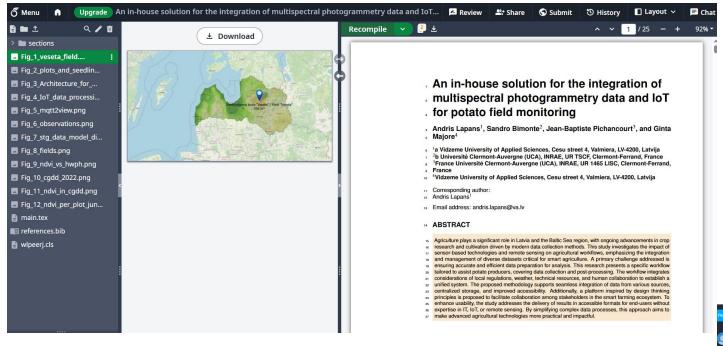


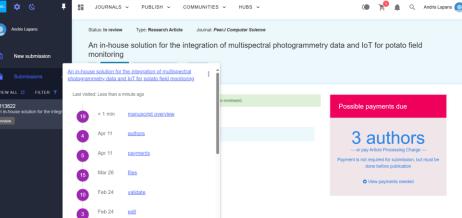


#### Acknowledgement:

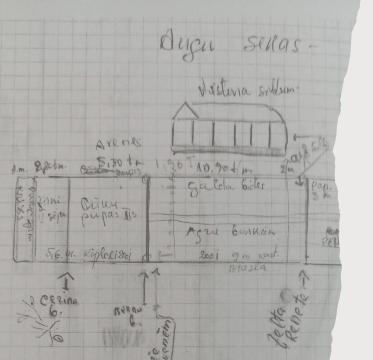
This research has been funded by the European Union. Project "Twinning in Environmental Data and Dynamical Systems Modelling for Latvia". TED4LAT, No. 101079206. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## Publication in process





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## Questions?

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Skrabute, I., Bebre, G. (2013). Development of potato varieties in latvia, Proceedings of the Latvian Academy of Evolution Sciences. Section B. Natural, Exact, and Applied Sciences. 67(3), 296–301. https://doi.org/10.2016/journal.

2013-0052

Jansone Z. Rendenieks Z, Lapāns A, Tamm I, Ingver A, Gorash A, Aleliūnas A, Brazauskas G, Shafiee S, Mróz T, et al. Phenotypic Variation and Relationships between Grain Yield, Protein Content and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle-Derived Normalized Difference Vegetation Index in Spring Wheat in Nordic–Baltic Environments. Agronomy. 2024; 14(1):51. https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy14010051

Breeder's notes: Genovefa Timule