TRENDS IN AGRICULTURE SCIENCE
ISSN:2583-7850

Popular Article
Domain: Agriculture Science
Vol 5 Issue 2, Feb 2026, 173-176

Use of AI and Robotics for Automated Insect Trapping and Identification

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DOI:10.5281/TrendsinAgriculture.18624348

Abstract

Every year, insect pests reduce agricultural yields significantly, endangering food security and farm profitability. Traditional pest monitoring techniques rely mainly on manual scouting and expert identification, which are time-consuming, labor-intensive, and frequently wrong. Recent breakthroughs in artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics have expanded the possibilities for automated insect capturing and identification. These technologies enable real-time pest monitoring, precise species identification, and timely pest control decisions. This article addresses the importance of AI and robotics in automated insect monitoring, including the essential technologies involved, the advantages to contemporary agriculture, implementation obstacles, and future possibilities. The use of sophisticated pest monitoring systems represents a significant step toward precision agriculture and sustainable crop protection.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, robotics, automated insect trapping, pest identification, smart farming, integrated pest management

Introduction

Insect pests continue to be one of the most important limitations on agricultural output across the world. Early detection and accurate identification of pest species are crucial for successful pest management. Traditional methods like pheromone traps, sticky cards, and visual scouting need expert personnel and repeated field trips. These tactics frequently result in delayed responses, economic losses, and excessive pesticide use.

Artificial intelligence and robots are revolutionizing pest monitoring systems as digital agriculture evolves rapidly. Automated insect traps using sensors, cameras, and clever

algorithms can correctly detect pests and communicate data in real time. Such devices enable farmers to make quick and precise pest management decisions.

AI-Based Insect Identification Technologies

Artificial Intelligence, particularly machine learning and deep learning, plays a central role in automated insect identification.

- **Cloud and Mobile Integration**

  Captured data may be transferred via cloud platforms or mobile applications, allowing farmers and extension workers to get pest alerts immediately.

- **Image Recognition and Computer Vision**

  AI-powered cameras record photos of caged insects. These photos are evaluated with convolutional neural networks (CNNs) trained on massive insect image datasets. The technique accurately identifies insect species based on size, shape, wing pattern, and color.

- **Pattern Recognition and Classification.**

  AI algorithms discern between hazardous pests and beneficial insects, resulting in less pesticide use. This is particularly beneficial in integrated pest control (IPM) systems.

Role of Robotics in Automated Insect Trapping

Robotics enhances the physical operation of pest monitoring systems.

- **Sensor Integration**

  Robotic traps use environmental sensors to monitor temperature, humidity, and light levels, allowing for more accurate insect outbreak predictions.

- **Smart Insect Traps.**

  Robotic insect traps are outfitted with automatic baiting systems, illumination, and picture capturing devices. Some traps employ solar power to work autonomously in the wild.

- **Mobile Robotic Platforms**

  Advanced systems use robots or drones to roam across fields, monitor pest populations, check crops, and collect bug data from numerous sites.

Benefits of AI and Robotics in Pest Monitoring

The adoption of AI- and robotics-based insect monitoring offers several advantages:

- Labor and time savings for farmers
- Real-time decision support for precision pest management
- Environmental protection by minimizing chemical inputs
- Early pest detection, preventing severe infestations
- Accurate identification of pest species without expert intervention
- Reduced pesticide use through targeted control measures

Applications in Modern Agriculture

AI-based insect monitoring systems are increasingly used in:

- Greenhouse vegetable production
- Orchard and plantation crops
- Field crops such as cotton, maize, and rice
- Integrated pest management programs
- Research and surveillance of invasive pest species

Challenges and Limitations

Despite their potential, several challenges limit widespread adoption:

- Technical skill requirements for system operation
- Connectivity issues in remote rural areas
- Maintenance and calibration needs
- Limited insect image datasets for training AI models
- High initial costs of smart traps and robotic systems

Future Prospects

The future of automated insect monitoring seems promising. Advances in deep learning, edge computing, and low-cost sensors will boost system accuracy and affordability. The integration of meteorological data, decision support systems, and autonomous spraying robots will allow for fully automated pest management. Government assistance and public-private partnerships can help to increase adoption among smallholder farmers.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence and robots are revolutionizing insect detection and identification, making pest monitoring faster, smarter, and more precise. Automated solutions reduce reliance on manual scouting, improve decision-making, and promote ecologically responsible pest management practices. Despite persistent cost and infrastructure challenges, technological advancements are expected to make these systems more accessible. The inclusion of AI-powered insect monitoring into modern agriculture is a significant step toward precision farming and environmentally responsible crop protection.

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