

UAV-Based Nitrogen Assessment in Wheat: A Systematic Review of Target Traits, Validation Rigor, Growth Stage Evidence, and Machine Learning Approach

Muhammad Waqar Nasir ^{1,*} , Muhammad Yousaf Nadeem ¹ , Mawra Ishaq ¹ , Rabia Manzoor ² , Muhammad Haseeb Javaid ³ , Muhammad Daniyal Junaid ⁴ , and Changwei Tan ¹

¹ Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Crop Genetics and Physiology/Jiangsu Co-Innovation Center for Modern Production Technology of Grain Crops, Agricultural College of Yangzhou University, Yangzhou 225009, China; 009048@yzu.edu.cn (M.W.N.); 008625@yzu.edu.cn (M.Y.N.); mawraishaq871@gmail.com (M.I.); cwtan@yzu.edu.cn (C.T.)

² Land Resources Research Institute, National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad; rabia_manzoor54@yahoo.com

³ Institute of Vegetable Sciences, College of Agriculture and Biotechnology, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310058, China; haseeb.javaidd@zju.edu.cn

⁴ Faculty of Life Sciences, Department of Biology, University of Okara, Pakistan; mdaniyaljunaid@gmail.com

* Correspondence: 009048@yzu.edu.cn; Tel.: (+8617605288125)

Supplementary Table S1. Database search string used for the systematic review of UAV-based nitrogen assessment in wheat

Database	Search string
Scopus	TITLE-ABS-KEY (("wheat" OR "winter wheat" OR "durum wheat" OR triticum OR "triticum aestivum") AND ("UAV" OR "UAS" OR drone* OR "unmanned aerial vehicle*" OR "unmanned aerial system*") AND (nitrogen OR "nitrogen status" OR "nitrogen deficiency" OR "nitrogen nutrition index" OR NNI OR "plant nitrogen concentration" OR PNC OR "plant nitrogen accumulation" OR PNA OR "plant nitrogen uptake" OR "nitrogen content" OR "leaf nitrogen" OR "canopy nitrogen") AND ("machine learning" OR "deep learning" OR "artificial intelligence" OR "random forest" OR xgboost OR "support vector machine" OR svm OR "neural network*" OR cnn OR "convolutional neural network*" OR "gradient boosting" OR "bayesian optimization" OR "feature selection" OR "data fusion" OR "multisource" OR "multi-source")) AND PUBYEAR > 2017 AND PUBYEAR < 2027 AND (LIMIT-TO(DOCTYPE, "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO(LANGUAGE, "English"))
Web of Science	TS= (("wheat" OR "winter wheat" OR "durum wheat" OR triticum OR "triticum aestivum") AND ("UAV" OR "UAS" OR drone* OR "unmanned aerial vehicle*" OR "unmanned aerial system*") AND (nitrogen OR "nitrogen status" OR "nitrogen deficiency" OR "nitrogen nutrition index" OR NNI OR "plant nitrogen concentration" OR PNC OR "plant nitrogen accumulation" OR PNA OR "plant nitrogen uptake" OR "nitrogen content" OR "leaf nitrogen" OR "canopy nitrogen") AND ("machine learning" OR "deep learning" OR "artificial intelligence" OR "random forest" OR xgboost OR "support vector machine" OR svm OR "neural network*" OR cnn OR "convolutional neural network*" OR "gradient boosting" OR "bayesian optimization" OR "feature selection" OR "data fusion" OR multisource OR "multi-source")) Filters: Article document type; English language

Note. The search strategy combined keywords related to wheat, UAV/UAS platforms, nitrogen status, and machine learning. Records from both databases were merged prior to duplicate removal and screening.

Supplementary Table S2. PRISMA 2020 checklist

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.	Title
ABSTRACT			
Abstract	2	See the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.	Abstract
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	Introduction
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses.	Introduction
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses.	Methods 2.2
Information sources	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched or consulted.	Methods 2.1; Supplementary Table S1
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	Supplementary Table S1
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Methods 2.3
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Methods 2.4
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect.	Methods 2.4–2.5; Supplementary File 3
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information.	Supplementary Note S1
Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Methods 2.7
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	Methods 2.8
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (e.g. tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)).	Methods 2.8; Supplementary Note S1
	13b	Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.	Methods 2.4–2.5; Supplementary Note S1
	13c	Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses.	Methods 2.8
	13d	Describe any methods used to synthesize results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s), method(s) to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used.	Methods 2.7
	13e	Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results (e.g. subgroup analysis, meta-regression).	Results 3.2–3.4; Discussion
	13f	Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesized results.	Methods 2.9
Reporting bias assessment	14	Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases).	Methods 2.6
Certainty assessment	15	Describe any methods used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for an outcome.	Methods 2.6
RESULTS			
Study selection	16a	Describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a flow diagram.	Methods 2.1–2.3; PRISMA figure
	16b	Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded.	Supplementary File 3
Study characteristics	17	Cite each included study and present its characteristics.	Results 3.1; Supplementary

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
			File 2
Risk of bias in studies	18	Present assessments of risk of bias for each included study.	
Results of individual studies	19	For all outcomes, present, for each study: (a) summary statistics for each group (where appropriate) and (b) an effect estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval), ideally using structured tables or plots.	Supplementary File 3
Results of syntheses	20a	For each synthesis, briefly summarise the characteristics and risk of bias among contributing studies.	Results 3.2–3.6
	20b	Present results of all statistical syntheses conducted. If meta-analysis was done, present for each the summary estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval) and measures of statistical heterogeneity. If comparing groups, describe the direction of the effect.	Results 3.2–3.5
	20c	Present results of all investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity among study results.	Results 3.2–3.5; Discussion
	20d	Present results of all sensitivity analyses conducted to assess the robustness of the synthesized results.	Supplementary File 3
Reporting biases	21	Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed.	Results 3.4
Certainty of evidence	22	Present assessments of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each outcome assessed.	Results 3.4
DISCUSSION			
Discussion	23a	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence.	Discussion section 4
	23b	Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.	Discussion section 4
	23c	Discuss any limitations of the review processes used.	Review limitation section 5
	23d	Discuss implications of the results for practice, policy, and future research.	Discussion section 4; Conclusion
OTHER INFORMATION			
Registration and protocol	24a	Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.	The review was not registered
	24b	Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed, or state that a protocol was not prepared.	Protocol was not prepared
	24c	Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol.	N/A
Support	25	Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, and the role of the funders or sponsors in the review.	Funding statement
Competing interests	26	Declare any competing interests of review authors.	Conflict of interest statement
Availability of data, code and other materials	27	Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review.	Data availability statement

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For systematic review, following 88 studies were included [1–88]

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