Role of AI in Food Production and Preservation

Khuram Shehzad[1], Umair Ali[2], Akhtar Munir[3*]

[1]Ravensbourne University, London

[2]Islamia university of Bahawalpur, Pakistan

[3]University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan

[1]khuramshehzad6166@gmail.com, [2]umair.ali@iub.edu.pk, [3]akhtar.munir@uaf.edu.pk

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Corresponding Author

Akhtar Munir
akhtar.munir@uaf.edu.pk

ABSTRACT

Through the revolution of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the food production and preservation, efficiency, sustainability and food security are enhanced. In the real world, AI powered precision agriculture and autonomous crop monitoring, and robotics for best utilization of resources and production yields. The food processing also is made AI driven so that the quality is controlled, less waste is generated, and supply chain logistics is improved. From preservation, AI offers chilled chain management, spoilage detection and smart packaging improving shelf life and fighting food waste. While AI comes with many benefits, it faces challenges like high implementation costs, data privacy concerns, and ethical concerns that prevent their adoption. Yet, there is a promising future of AI in food industries, with autonomous farming, predictive analytics, and personalization of nutrition brought into play to facilitate a more efficient and sustainable food system. As AI continues to fill the role of reversing food security, decreasing environmental impact, and increasing global food quality, it is crucial for application in agriculture and food preservation in the future.

INTRODUCTION

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) have started to emerge as a revolutionary force in many industries, it is not behind in bringing revolution in food production and preservation. As a result of an overwhelmingly increasing demand for food driven by an inevitable expansion of the global

population to almost 10 billion by 2050, the requirement for resources has skyrocketed; a demand that needs to be addressed and fulfilled. Nevertheless, issues like the climate change, insufficient arable land, wasteful of food, and inefficient supply chain warrant for inventive solutions [1]. The possibilities of AI present a strong response to these challenges by optimizing food production processes, decreasing waste, and improving the methods of preserving and making food safer. AI blends machine learning, computer vision, robotics and Internet of things (IoT) that together add up to a more efficient operation for the food industry [2]. AI is used in food production as it aids in precision agriculture, automated crop monitoring, disease detection and intelligent supply chain management. Also, AI driven robots and automated machinery do get involved in food processing which improve productivity and minimise human involvement. These have the effect of securing quality and safety standards while improving food yield [3].

From a preservation perspective, AI serves as a mechanism to monitor food quality, predict when the food will spoil and optimize storage conditions. Changes in temperature, humidity and contamination are picked up by AI powered sensors to ensure that food remains fresh much longer. Solutions like smart packaging that are embedded with AI can let you receive real time info on how fresh your food is and can get rid of wasting things you do not need [4]. On the other hand, AI driven predictive analytics also help predict the shelf life of such products, this is vital information for manufacturers and retailers to come up with a plan of action to curb food losses. This is good because there are many benefits to adopting AI to food production and preservation. It improves the efficiency, rids of resource wastage, and guarantees food safety. In addition, AI based solutions help in making food production sustainable by maximizing resource use and minimizing its environmental impact [5].

But the incorporation of AI into the food business is not without its problems, including high implementation costs, a requirement for technical knowhow, and apprehension regarding data confidentiality and protection. Nevertheless, AI has already transformed the food sector, and is doing so more robustly, efficiently and sustainably [6]. With the continued advance of technology, it is expected that AI driven solutions will get even more prevalent and widespread in terms of resolving key problems of food security and global hunger. The influence of AI in food production is not only what is happening now, but also helping create a crop where food systems are more adept, are more responsive and are able to satisfy the requirements of a fast rising demographic.

AI IN FOOD PRODUCTION

This helps in eating healthier, reducing waste, & producing food more efficiently while minimizing waste! Climate change, pest infestation, uncertainty of weather conditions are among the challenges faced by traditional farming and food production methods also with the growing demand for food resulting from growth rate of population. With AI driven solutions one can drive smart and automated food production with a better yield, better quality and a lesser wastage [7]. Precision agriculture uses AI powered tools to monitor and take care of farming operations with high precision. Satellite imagery, drones and IoT sensors feeding data in real time about soil health, moisture levels, fertilizer levels and the growth patterns of crops will be used to inform AI driven systems [8]. The farmers use this information to make data driven decisions on when to irrigate, fertilize and treat for pests, which result in greater crop yields and less environmental impact. The AI algorithms also help analyze weather patterns and predictive analytics for predicting the situation & farmers can prepare for adverse situations & take drastic measures against it [9].

AI based Computer Vision and Machine Learning Models can help monitor crops and detect their diseases, pest infestations and nutrient deficiencies in early stages. Drones and robotic systems are fitted with advanced image recognition technology that scans fields for abnormalities in plant health. These allow real time alerts including recommendations of appropriate treatments to reduce the indiscriminate and excessive employment of pesticides and improve crop resilience. Producers want to prevent large scale losses in the field; these lead to higher quality produce and farmer profitability [10].

Food processing industries are adopting AI powered robotics to increase the efficiency and productivity in food industries. AI powered automated machines including sorting, grading, peeling and food packaging are performed by various machines with great precision. AI robots are able to tell between ripe and unripe fruits, defective products, with the assurance of uniform quality [11]. These robotic systems also enable maintaining hygiene and food safety by reducing the human contact with food item and hence reducing the risk of contamination. Using the automation technology, AI can reduce the labour cost enhancing the output and keeping quality of food consistent [12].

Efficient food production utilizes an adequately optimized supply chain that is also dependent upon it. Supply chain management is an important field where AI has a huge role to play in predicting demand, optimizing inventory, reducing food wastage and many more. Consumer demand pattern are

analyzed by the AI driven system and production schedules are adjusted accordingly [13]. In the transportation area, machine learning algorithms are also employed in the route optimization for transportation, agreeing for timelier delivery of perishable food items on the one hand, and decreasing fuel consumption and logistics costs on the other hand.
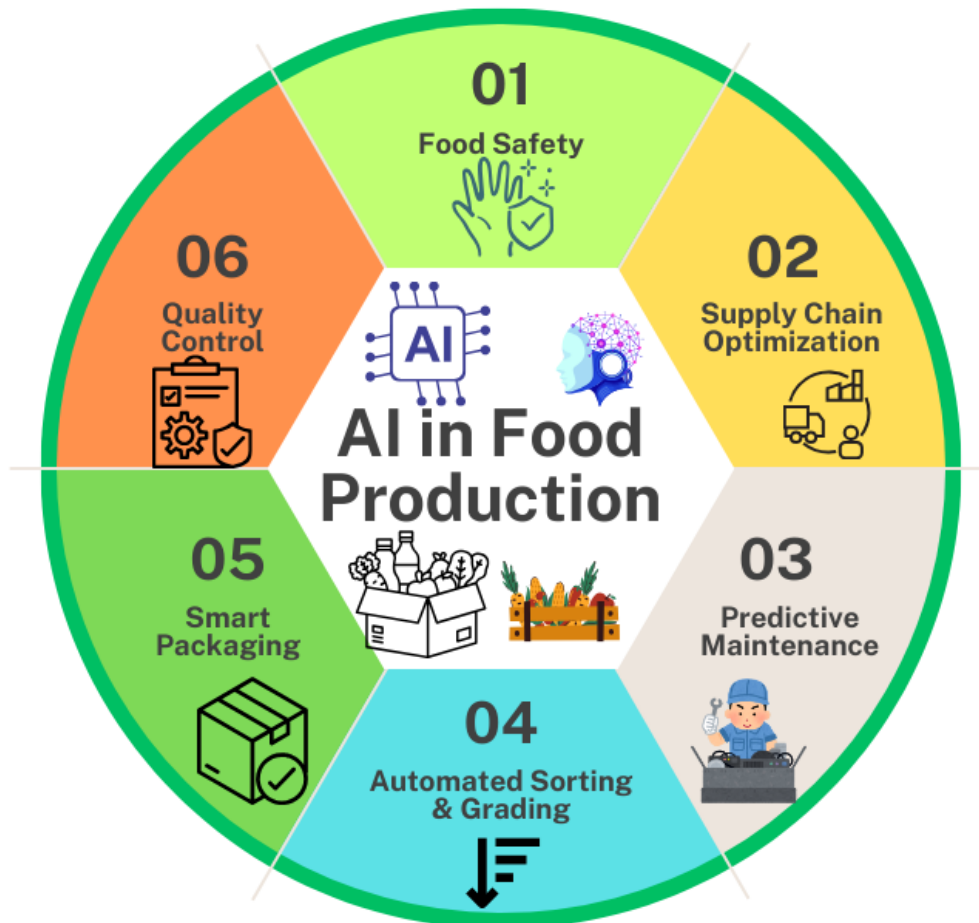

Figure: 1 showing role of AI n food production

Supply chains feature real time visibility into food moving through them using AI powered tracking systems, which prevent delays and allow for performances of food safety compliance [14]. AI is also making a significant mark in the food production space by introducing precision agriculture, automated disease detection, and robotics and smart supply chain management. The introduction of these innovations helps in efficiency, lesser wastage and better food quality. As we move forward with AI technology as a whole, its integration into food production processes will only be more effective in helping make agriculture and food processing more sustainable in terms of further dealing with the challenges it faces [15].

AI IN FOOD PRESERVATION

Food preservation is an important element in the food industry that guarantees the freshness, safety, and ability to consume food for a period. Artificial Intelligence has been discovered to be a potent tool that can improve the food preservation processes because of global concerns such as wastage, contamination, and supply chain inefficiencies [16]. They monitor food quality, suggest spoilage and ideal storage conditions and can provide solutions for packaging. The benefits of these innovations are that the shelf life of food can be extended and waste can be reduced, and food safety can be improved [17].

Figure: 2 showing AI role in food preservation

One of the big issues in food preservation is detecting spoilage before it takes a toll on a mass quantity of food products. Computer vision systems and AI powered sensors are used to determine food quality by monitoring parameters like odor, color, texture and microbial activity. This data is processed by

machine learning algorithms and can detect early signs of spoilage that can be acted upon by food manufacturers and retailers before the food is unacceptable to eat. AI based spoilage detection helps also minimize food waste by detecting that items can still be eaten and therefore are not put into garbage [18].

Food preservation is being transformed by AI powered smart packaging solutions that give real time information regarding the freshness and quality of food. Sensors for temperature, humidity and gas composition within the package are integrated in intelligent packaging systems. If the food is exposed to unkind conditions, for example, extreme heat or contamination risks, these sensors transmit an alert. Moreover, AI driven packaging can change its properties depending upon the environment, like it may release preservatives on spoilage. Therefore, this technology is used to improve food safety and minimize dependence on artificial preservatives [18].

Cold chain management is very important for keeping perishable food items like dairy, meat, seafood, as well as frozen products. AI assisted monitoring allows maintain optimal temperature and humidity levels all over the supply chain. Temperature fluctuations are tracked in real time with the help of embedded sensors in IoT and predicted potential disruptions by the help of AI that enables immediate corrective actions [19]. Additionally, AI driven preventive maintenance also helps prevent equipment failure in refrigeration unit to ensure food remains stored in ideal conditions. It hampers spoilage, cuts down on operational costs and enhances overall food safety compliance.

Traditional methods of finding shelf live food uses estimated expiration date instead of precise expiry date. Predictive analytics that is driven by AI, uses the real time data, environmental conditions and historical patterns to predict the actual shelf life of the food product. Machine learning models use factors like microbial growth rates, temperature exposure and chemical composition to predict expiration more exactly [20]. They can also use this technology to optimize their stock rotation, minimize the food waste, and provide fresher products to consumers. AI transforms food preservation with smart monitoring, predictive analytics and advanced packaging. AI driven innovations have a positive impact on food safety, extend the shelf life of food and reduce waste, all of which will help for a more sustainable food system. In the coming days, AI applications in food preservation are bound to advance more dynamically to keep the food fresh and safe all along from production to consumption [21].

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF AI IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

The food industry is revolutionized by Artificial Intelligence (AI) by increasing production effectiveness, rising food security, decreasing the amount of waste and increasing by optimizing the supply chain. Despite all its advantages, also, the use of AI in the production and preservation of food comes with some challenges. This knowledge will be crucial for allowing the successful adoption of AI driven technologies in the food sector [22]. One of the largest benefits it can offer is the increased efficiency at numerous stages of food production and preservation. Ai automation, machine learning and predictive analytics enhance decision making and improve operations. Fertilizers and pesticides in precision agriculture utilizes AI powered systems for the farmers to optimize the usage of resources including water, fertilizers and pesticides. As a result, it increases crop yields and decreases environmental impact. AI driven automated food processing and sorting systems ensure consistency, speed and minimize human factors of error to overall productivity [23].

Food Waste Minimization: AI based spoilage detection systems allows food manufacturers, retailers and consumers to identify the products which are still good for consumption rather than wasting the ones which are otherwise perfectly safe. Through better inventory management, predictive analytics have proven useful in reducing overproduction and allowing for the most optimal rotation of stock to avoid the spoilage of food. AI enables logistics to be upgraded, along with the routes for delivery as well as storage in which perishable food is delivered before it deteriorates [24].

AI-Integrated Sensors and Computer Vision: The use of AI and computer vision technology protects foods from contamination, pathogens, and any such defects. This ensures that what gets to the consumers are safe and quality high food. AI aided smart packaging solutions track food freshness in real time and inform the consumer or business when a product is approaching bring about [25].

The clear advantages of AI have been overlooked by the food industry, and considering the challenges in the AI adoption and implementation below. The major challenges of these solutions include high implementation costs and technological limitations; privacy concerns and resistance to change; and resistance to change. The realization of AI technologies requires a significant investment of infrastructure, hardware and software [26]. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) may not afford the cost of AI driven technologies making it inaccessible to them to provide advanced aid in food production and preservation. Additional costs associated with operation entail training employees to work with the AI systems. Data must be in abundance for AI to take effective decisions, but data

security and privacy constraints are a large hurdle. When using AI driven supply chain and customer preference analytics, food businesses have to make sure to comply with regulations such as data protection regulations [27].

As AI Models need to consume large datasets to operate at peak efficiency; inaccurate or incompletely data can lead to wrong predictions or faulty automation. There are issues related to the reliability of AI in food preservation, especially under extreme conditions and in developing areas which do not have robust infrastructure. Adopting AI involves changing business and working like how AI works is something that some businesses and workers may be resistant to change and adapt [28]. Concerns that automation driven by AI would replace human jobs is causing worry about the repercussions on the agriculture sector, food processing and logistics workforce. The food industry is changing, by making the process more efficient, decrease waste and safe guard food. The merits of AI driven food production and preservation are unquestionable, but there are challenges in terms of huge cost, data security risks and workforce to adapt to AI. To pave the way moving forward, collaboration of governments, food businesses, and technology providers will be vital to make AI solutions accessible as well as reliable, affordable, and sustainable for the whole of the food industry [29].

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF AI IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND PRESERVATION

With the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the food industry is seeing its production efficiency being improved, the food waste is reduced and the food safety is enhanced. AI has already come far in agriculture and food processing, and here there is even more room for improvement in the future. As technology continues to progress, AI will likely be an important player in addressing global food security issues as well as lowering environmental impact and making supply chain operations more efficient [30]. Changes in automation, data analytics and sustainability initiatives will lead to the future of AI in food production and preservation. The star of many future developments in AI driven food production will be fully autonomous farming. Incorporating AI, robotics and the integral of things (IoT), farms of the future could almost function on a zero human interaction type of paradigm [31].

AI Driven Drones and Robots: In this use case, highly capable drones fitted with AI Captured Cameras (capped with AI powered sensors) will be able to go through entire farmlands, identifying crop diseases, keeping a constant track of soil health and assist in application of fertilizers or pesticides with pinpoint accuracy [32].

AI in the successful farming: AI driven tractors and robotic harvesters will manage to optimize the planting, irrigation and harvesting decreasing the labor cost and increase of productivity [33]. Machine learning algorithms will also continuously self-learn by getting better by analyzing real time data from farms, help take better decisions and get more efficient [34].

Advanced Predictive Analytics for Food Security

In the increased global food demand, AI will be used to predict crop yields, weather patterns and probable supply chain disruption to ensure food security. AI will analyze patterns of climate change and suggest how to adapt in the context of climate change in order to enhance food security in adverse weather [35]. AI algorithms would work in real time to predict demand for different types of food products, giving farmers and producers the ability to utilize these decisions using data in making decisions as to how to produce and when to harvest [36]. Government and organization will increasingly build policies using AI to solve food shortage, allocate resource and reduce global hunger. AI in the food processing industry will see sustainability, efficiency, and decrease in food waste taking center stage [37].
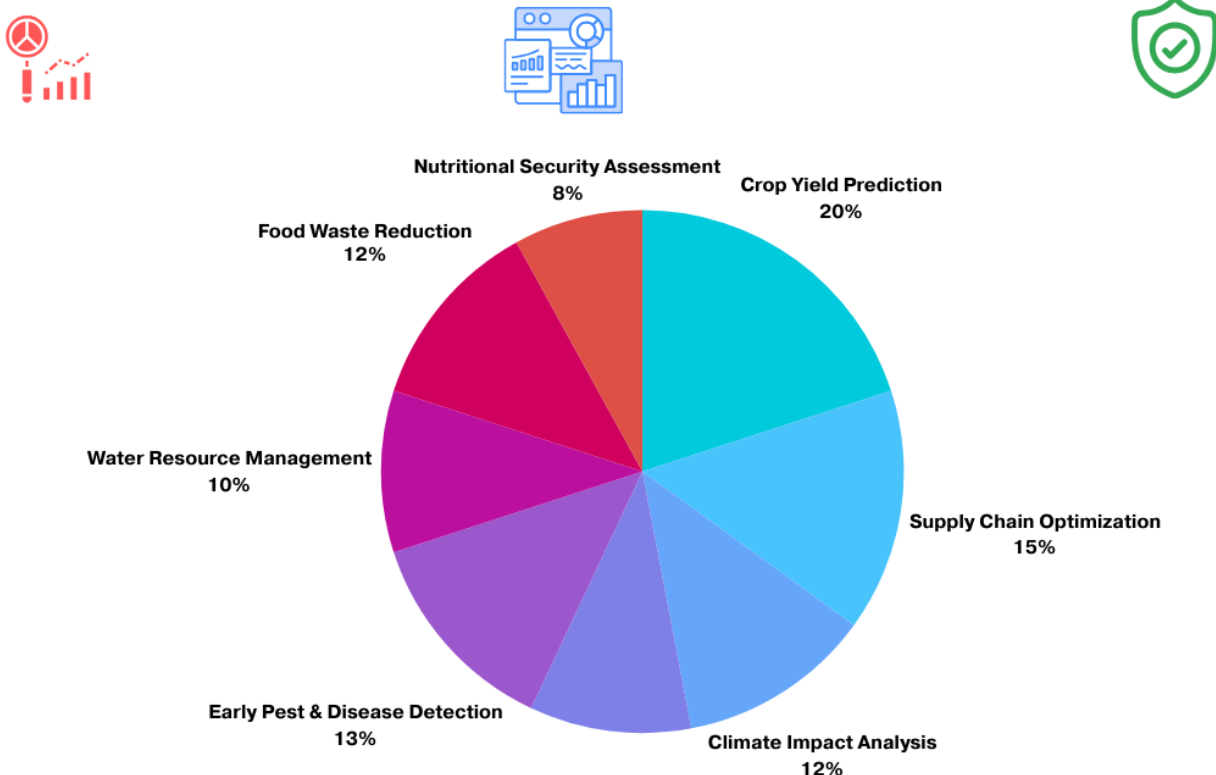

Figure: 3 showing advanced predictive analysis in food security

AI-enabled Sorting Systems: AI will make sure all parts of the food product are utilized efficiently and that waste materials are turned into valuable by products. Food companies will use AI to develop better and healthier, as well as more sustainable, food products based on consumer preferences and the nutritional needs of the consumers [38]. AI driven food processing plants will optimize energy consumption through monitoring systems powered by AI, and will thereby help save energy and the environment, giving way for cost savings in the process. Food preservation is about to be revolutionized by AI, as storage and packaging will be smarter, more efficient and will stand to be relevant for more years to come [39].

AI Enhanced Cold Storage: The refrigeration units will be supervised by artificial intelligence which will be updating temperature and humidity according to the real time input, hence, providing the best of the temperature and humidity levels for perishable food. Future AI driven smart packaging will include Nan sensors that will be able to detect bacteria, gases, as well as spoilage indicators to convey the real time freshness updates to the consumers [40]. The combination of AI and block chain the use cases to solve the problem of 'Traceability': Using blockchain and AI, the traceability in the food supply chain will be enhanced so as to prevent any contamination and to ensure that the food is authentic [41].

AI-Driven Personalized Nutrition and Food Innovation: While AI will enable more efficient food production, it will also radically change the way we eat through personalized nutrition and AI developed food innovations. AI based app which will analyze the individual's health data, genetic makeup, dietary preferences and create a personalized nutrition plan that is best for one's health [42]. AI is destined to have a role in the creation of lab grown meat, plant protein alternatives, and other sustainable food that will help food dependence on traditional agriculture. Forecasting food consumption trends with AI powered food recommendation systems: Consumers will use AI driven platform which will take into account the consumer medical history and lifestyle and provide recommendations of healthy food choices [43].

CHALLENGES AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR AI IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

However, AI provides promising solutions, which need to overcome several challenges before adoption.

The Use of AI in Food Tracking and Supply Chain: Some concerns are related to data privacy and cybersecurity threats [43].
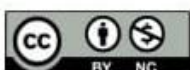
Ethical AI Demands: One of the main considerations will be ethical AI Decision-Making, making sure that AI driven decisions in food production are ethical and notoldeating large corporations at the expense of small scale farmers [44].

Besides, high AI technology costs limit affordability for small farmers and food producers and therefore necessitate affordability and accessibility. There are so many possibilities, regarding what AI will contribute towards the production and preservation of food in the future. AI will advance in the food industry through autonomous farming and AI powered food processing, smart food preservation techniques and personalized nutrition [45]. But challenges like ethically, data security, and affordability need to be overcome for the benefits of AI in achieving food security, reducing waste and supporting sustainability to be truly realized. With the progression of AI technology, its capacity to transform the world's food system will grow and become more powerful by creating a more intelligent, effective and sustainable next. It is very essential to preserve food from spoilage as population is increase day by day [46-49] and we need to avoid food to be waste while we can do it by using technology as we discussed in this paper

CONCLUSION

The advancements made possible by AI have become a great ally of food production and preservation, leading the industry to efficiency, sustainability and the introduction of innovation. AI driven technologies such as precision agriculture, automated food processing, intelligent storage and smart packaging have clean agricultural and processed food production, reduced food waste and optimized the utilization of resources. Such a significance of AI is naturally needed as the population grows globally, and the demand for affordable and sustainable food production and preservation methods increases, all in order to have the guarantee of food security and safeness.

In the field of food production, one of the most important contributions made by AI is the practice of precision agriculture. With the help of AI, equipped with AI sensors, drones and predictive analytics, farmers can monitor soil health, identify plant diseases early, and make exact decisions about irrigation and fertilization. By making agriculture more sustainable, this improves crop yields and prevents water and chemical overuse. Being automated food processing and AI driven robot have boosted productivity and processed the food most efficiently with minimum wastage. The detection of defects and contamination, of spoilage in food products is also done by AI powered quality control systems, therefore minimizing the chances of unsafe food getting in touch with the public.

Advanced monitoring and predictive analytics are the AI inventions bringing forth the use of AI in keeping the perishable food items intact for longer and further. AI is also employed by smart refrigeration and cold chain management systems to maintain appropriate storage conditions in order to keep food fresh throughout the supply chain. Smart packaging solutions enabled with AI can identify spoiled food, track gas levels and inform regarding the real time food quality, thus preventing unnecessary food waste.

By using predictive analytics, retailers and consumers can make facilitating decisions when it comes to shelf life estimation to avoid disposal of previously edible food items sooner than they should be disposed of. However, such progress is not yet accompanied by the full integration of AI into the food industry. Adoption is limited due to high implementation costs, requirement of skilled AI professionals and apprehensions related to data privacy and cybersecurity. Understanding the affordability and accessibility of the solutions can help small scale farmers and food producers to access them where both the affordability and accessibility is promoted through support and policies. Along with technological considerations, these ethical considerations are also needed that are like displacement of human workers with AI that can process food.

In the future, the future of AI in food production and preservation is bright. Additionally, the advancements in AI, machine learning and automation are anticipated to bring about more efficiency, sustainability, and food safety. The future of the industry will by shaped by AI driven innovations like lab grown food, personalized nutrition, block chain powered food traceability, etc. With responsible AI adoption, the food industry can use AI to address existing challenges in the creation of a smarter, more resilient, and sustainable global food system. AI will be there to improve production and preservation, and to address the issues of food security, and fewer environmental impacts and only to ensure that there is availability of quality nutritious food for everyone.

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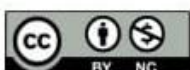
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