

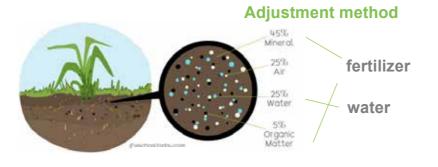


# 14 | 08 | 2022

#### **INSPIRATION**



We have plants in the dormitory and water them on time, the plants are getting worse and worse



It is related to the lack of nutrients and fertilizers in the soil. Different types of plants require different soil conditions and have different requirements for PH, humidity, hardness and fertilizer

# ISSUE

#### Pollution of Fertilizer



In permanent agricultural land, the soil will gradually become depleted of nutrients. Therefore, producers fertilize the soil, control pests, irrigate and other agricultural activities to improve soil efficiency. Fertilizing during these activities is always a priority.[1]For the next 30 years, more fertilizer will be used to obtain more products. Excessive use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture, resulting in a large number of environmental problems [2]

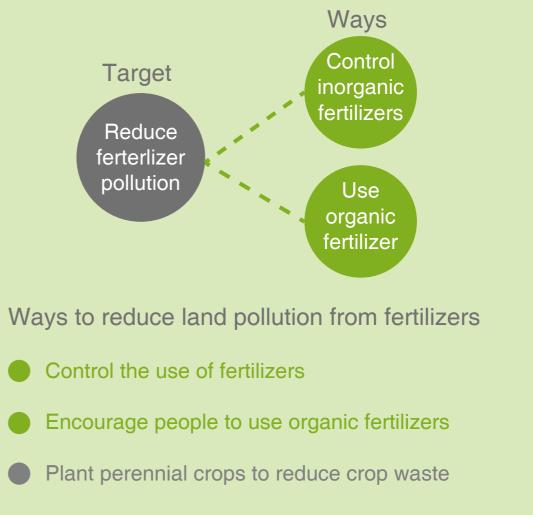
Chemical fertilizer used per hectare in Turkey (N P K) are determined as 100.4. These values are 665.5 in the Netherlands; 624.8 in Egypt; 373.2 in Japan; 301.5 in China; 287.5 in Britain; 205.4 in Germany; 180.1 in France; 160.8 in the USA; 126.4 in Italy; 121.4 in India; 115.4 in Greece and 106.9 in Indonesia kg

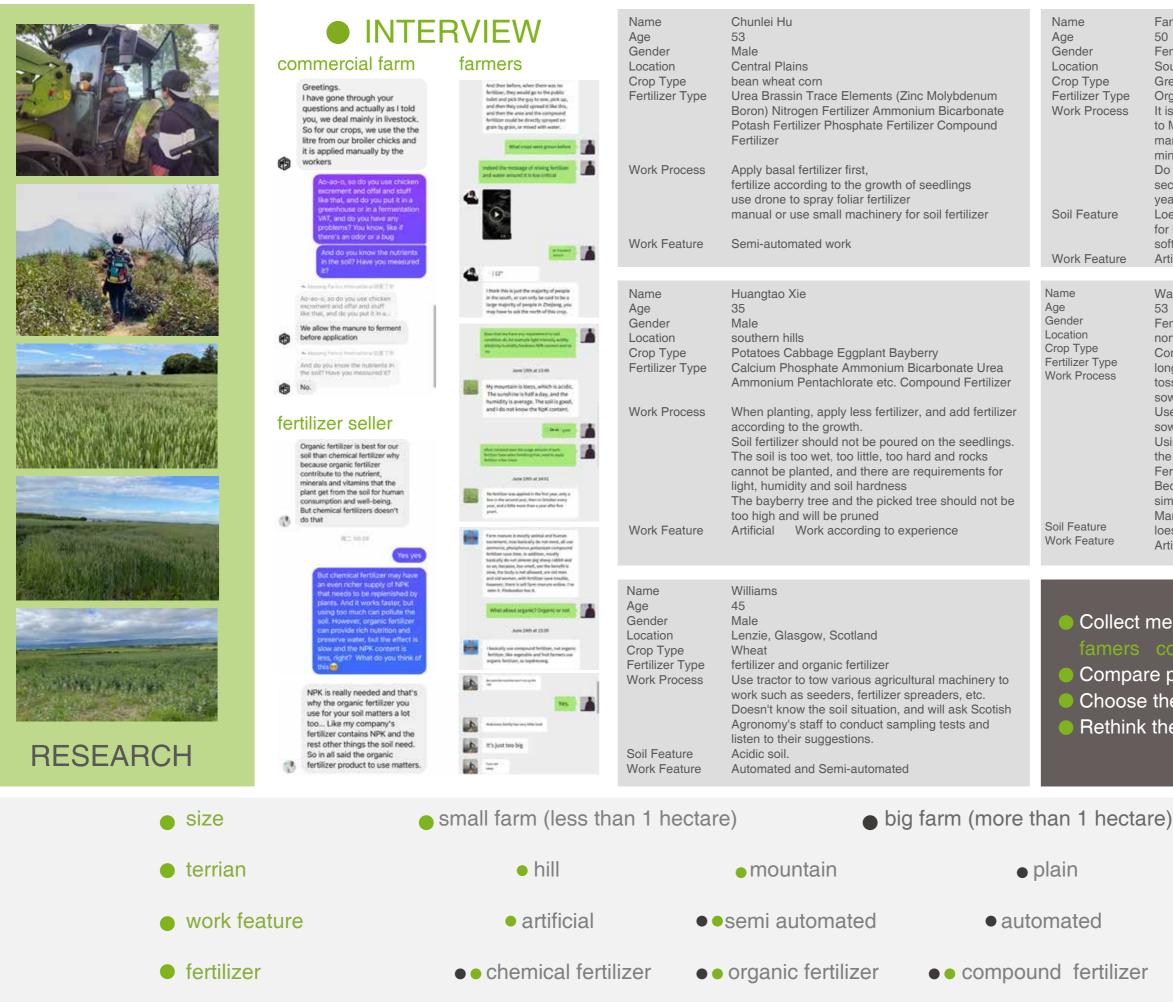
#### Effect

accumulation of nitrate soil compaction water eutrophication soil secondary salinization

heavy metal accumulation soil acidification greenhouse effect

Why





Fangyun Jia

50

Female

Southern Mountains with large temperature difference Green tea

Organic fertilizers

It is planted from November to December every year to March of the second year. The first 1-3 years are manually weeded with a hoe, and the fourth year is mined.

Do not fertilize the first year, start fertilizing in the second year, and then fertilize every October every year, and apply a little more every year

Loess soil, the soil is acidic, the light intensity is strong for half a day, the humidity is generally soft, the soil is soft, and the content of nutrients is unknown. Artificial Work according to experience

Wang

53

Female

northern mountains

Corn Sorghum Soybean Millet

long-acting compound fertilizer

tossing the soil to loosen it filling the soil

sowing the soil fertilizing

Use herbicides to weed before emergence and after sowing

Using the Planter put both the seeds and fertilizer in the planter's storage compartment and plant them Fertilizer can not be excessive, need to adjust

Because it is located in mountains and hills, using a simple semi-automatic seeder requires manual

Manually cut with a scythe when harvested.

loess soil is acidic

Artificial Relying on experience

#### Collect messages and data from

Compare problems

Choose the main issues about fertilizer

Rethink the solves and meaning of them

# Target

Control the amount of fertilizer applied according to the needs of the crops, Reduce the pollution of the land from overuse of fertilizers and, for farmers, reduce their spending.



When it is necessary to fertilize crops. Improve soil conditions by testing soil before planting crops. Fertilize crops at all stages of their growth.



Small farms in various terrains. for small farms and special areas such as mountains and hills, large equipment has high cost and is not suitable for terrain.





Large machines such as tractors are not allowed in such complex terrain



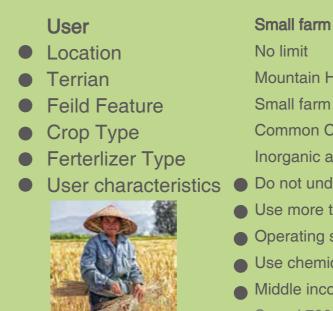
How

A product that can effectively test soil conditions and control the amount of chemical fertilizers

A Product with soil detection module for soil detection and analysis, and fertilization according to the needs of crops.

- It is difficult to remember the requirements of different crops
- over fertilization.

Many automated tools are too heavy or expensive for individual use



Who



# Issues

Why

The amount of fertilizer used depends on experience which lead to

FERTERLIZER

# TOOL

#### Small farm holder

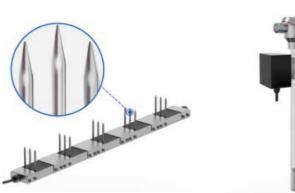
- Mountain Hills Plain Basin Plateau
- **Common Crops**
- Inorganic and organic fertilizers
- Do not understand soil conditions
- Use more traditional farming methods
- Operating small farmland
- Use chemical and organic fertilizers
- Middle income and below
  - Spend 7000 yuan(750 pounds)/year
  - for 10mu(6660m<sup>2</sup>) 350yuan/mu 2season

# PERSONA

# Current Technology

Sensor





suitable for detecting the content of NPK in the soil facilitating the systematic evaluation of the soil condition fast and accurate easy to use

Sampler





more accurate much data is meamanual troublesome takes longer costs more Robot



Tool











advanced and accurate fast and efficient multifunction scientific analysis

too large in size heavy in weight high in cost professional requirements not suitable for small farm

easy to use cheap

single function inefficient

# Concept Design

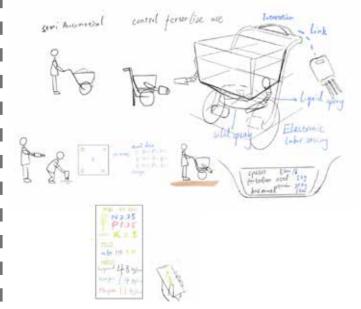
### Small Farm Users



- Not knowing the nutrient content of the soil
- Not sure how much fertilizer your crop needs
- Not knowing how much fertilizer to apply, often relying on experience
- Unable to control the amount of fertilizer
- Manual fertilization with organic fertilizers is inconvenient
- Want to know about soil nutrients
- Looking to reduce fertilizer use and costs

## Concept 2

Semi-automatic and precise fertilization, cart power assist helps users reduce the burden



## Fertilization method









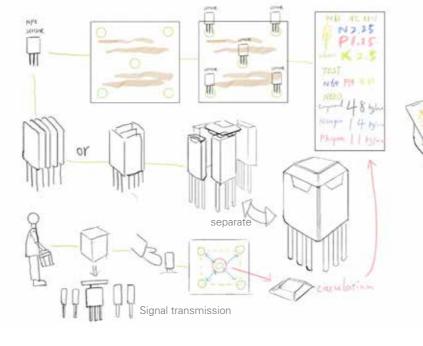
#### Advantage

- Help farmers more intuitively understand soil conditions and crop needs
- Calculate the amount of fertilizer needed
- Disadvantage
- Still need manpower (Or use the principle of motor and balance car to design automatic mode)
   Size limitation

# Concept 1

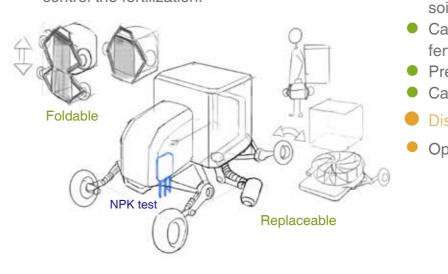
Tell farmers the needs of different crops and how much fertilizer to apply per square meter

Five-point detection method



# Concept 3

Use the robot to test the soil, tell the user the soil condition and the needs of different crops, calculate the amount of fertilization, and automatically control the fertilization.

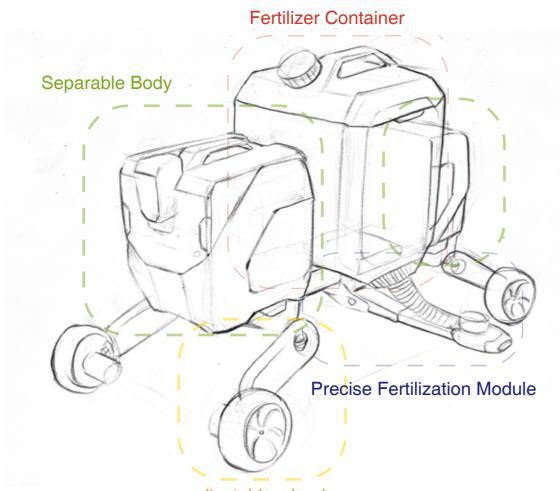


much	
	Advantage Help farmers more intuitively under- stand soil conditions and crop needs The amount of fertilizer needed can be calculated Simple operation and high reliability Disadvantage Inability to precisely control fertilization Detect range limitation for every sensor
soil cond	nge mers more intuitively understand ditions and crop needs urately calculate the amount of
fertilizer Precise	needed control of fertilization et the use of different fertilizers
<ul> <li>Operation</li> </ul>	on requires learning and understanding





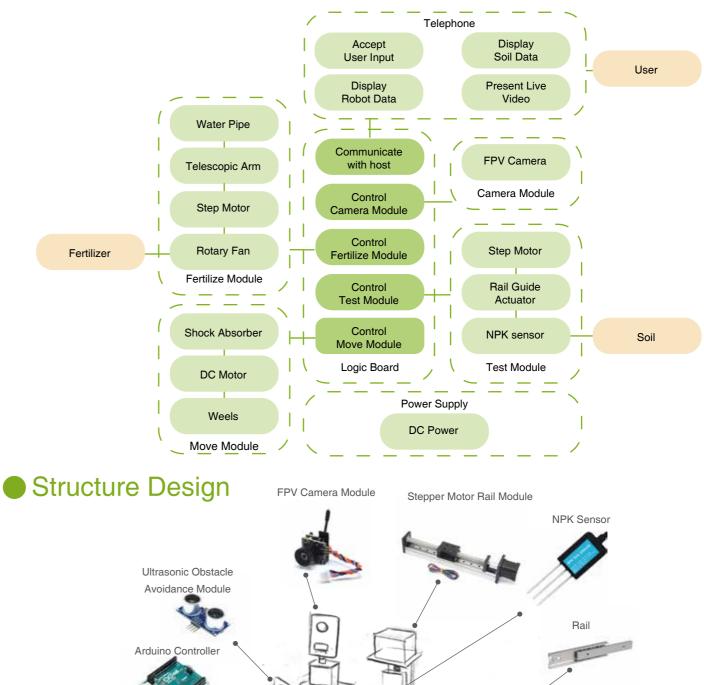
Design product architecture and structure design from the definition of product function.



adjustable wheels

To refine the concept, the size of the robot should be smaller than the row spacing of the crops, and the fertilization distance can be adjusted to carry 25kg of fertilizer, which is the weight that the user can carry. The functions of each module are designed as follows.

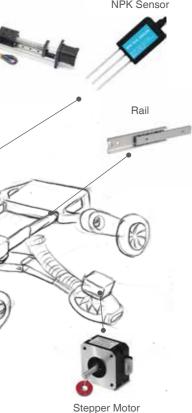
- The body can be stretched, and the soil detection mode and automatic fertilization mode can be switched. After stretching, the guide rails use the elastic force to fix the fertilizer box
- Fertilizer bins can be used to store solid, organic and liquid fertilizers
- The precise fertilization module can control the start, stop and flow of fertilizers, and adjust the fertilization spacing according to the row spacing of the crops. Most crops are planted at a spacing of 30-60cm. The total width of the robot is 30cm, and the fertilizing arms at both ends can be extended by 15cm.
- The adjustable wheel frame has a shock absorption function, and the height of the body can also be adjusted by rotating the knob at the connection, which is convenient for fertilizing the newly grown seedlings.



Batter

Shock Absorber





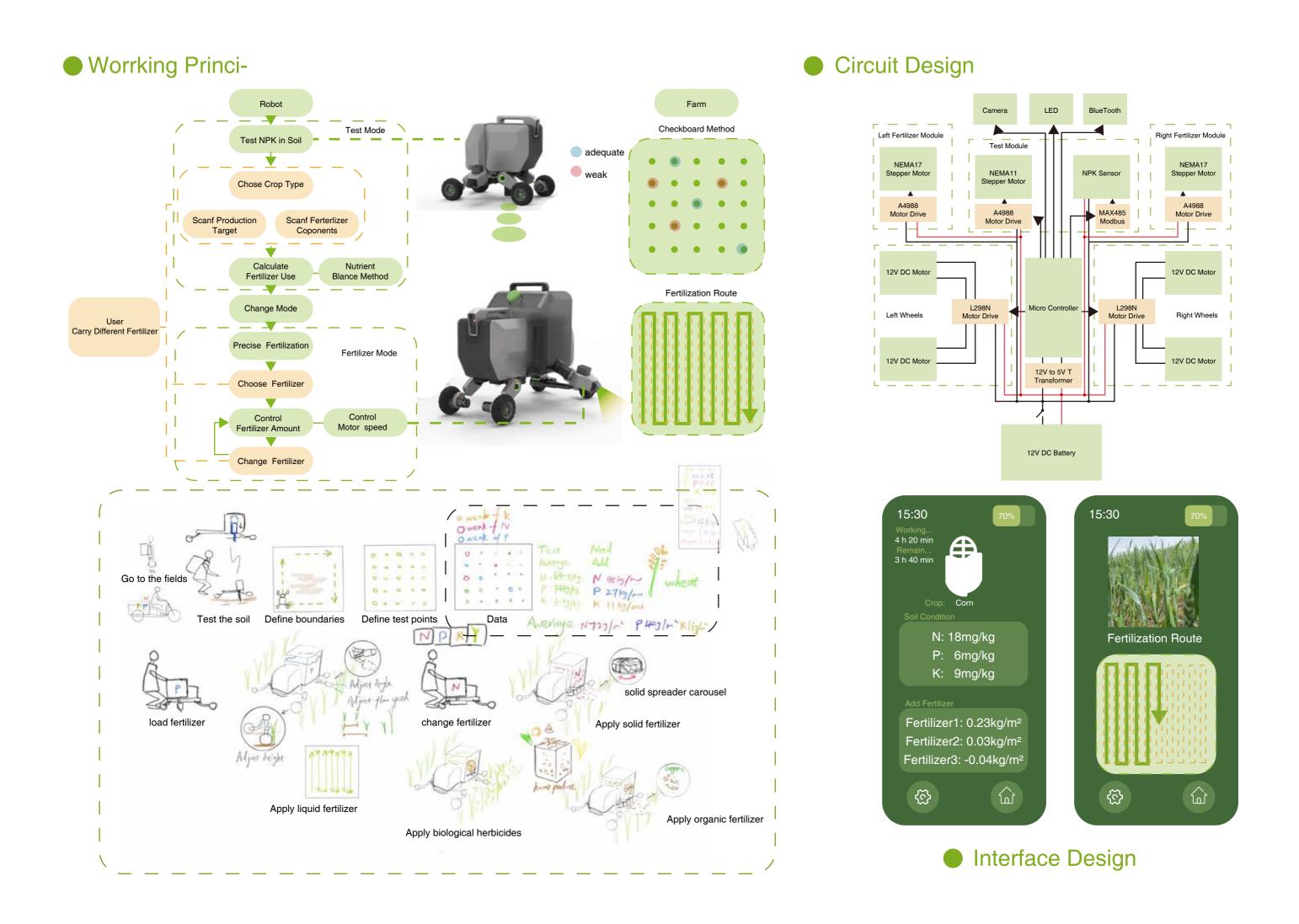


#### Soil Detection Module

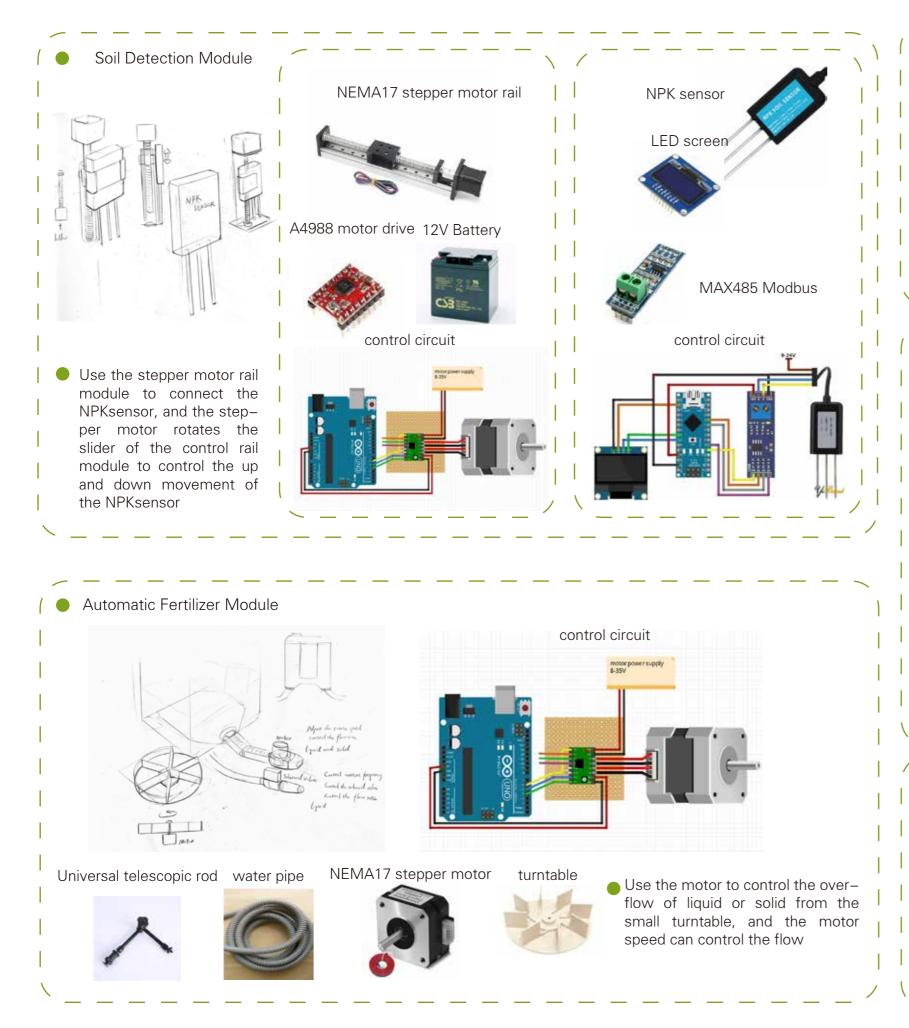
It is composed of NEMA17 stepper motor guide rail, soil NPK sensor and connector. The stepper motor can control the sensor to move up and down, so that the probe can be inserted into the soil for detection.

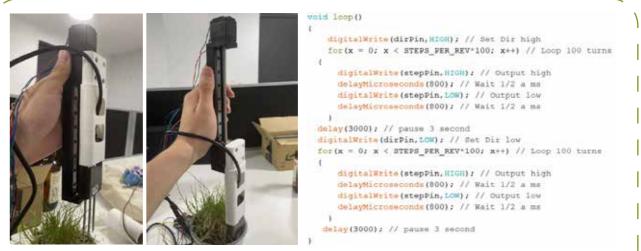
#### Automatic Fertilizer Module

It is composed of NEMA17 stepper motor, fan blade and 0-15cm telescopic rod. Controlling the speed of the stepper motor can control the rate of fertilization, and can apply solid granular



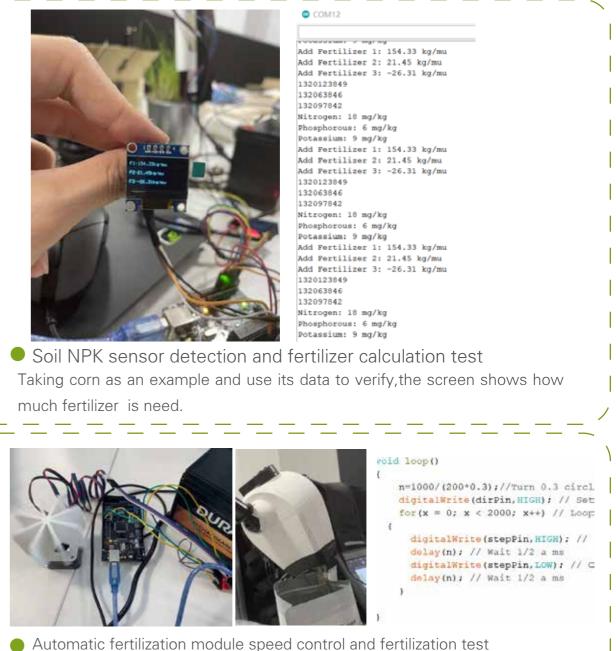
# **Function Test**







much fertilizer is need.



#### Stepper motor rail control Test





Change Mode



Fertilize

#### Result

After I made the model through 3D printing, I verified the function of the robot. After field verification, I found that the hardness of the ground does have a big impact on the measurement. For softer farmland, the robotic arm of the robot can transmit force into the soil for normal detection and calculation of fertilization. However, for the hard and uncultivated land in the park, it is difficult for the robot arm to insert into the soil, which brings difficulties to the detection.





**Read Data** 



# Conclusion

The purpose of this project is to help farmers and users of small farms understand the fertilization needs of different crops and automatically control fertilization to effectively control the pollution of chemical fertilizers to the land. The feasibility of its main functions has been proved by calculation and circuit experiments, but its complete circuit design and realization of complete functions still need to be further developed. It can help users reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and save costs, which brings obvious benefits to farmers.

# Reflection

TIn the selection of the plan for this project, I combined the actual situation and the trend of agricultural modernization, and chose agricultural robots as the direction to solve the problem. I considered the process of using the robot from beginning to end, and designed many structural and functional modules to meet the actual situation. Farmers work environment conditions, optimize the experience of farmers using robots. Users can adjust the robot's detection and fertilization work modes, adjust the height to cope with the height changes of crops, adjust the fertilization row spacing, and control the fertilization amount. In this process, my overall system design and functional realization of the robot benefited from my undergraduate study of robotics expertise, but this project allowed me to learn more and expand. There are also many imperfections in the verification stage of the project. For example, the design of the leg structure of the robot is unstable due to the flexibility of the shock absorber. Due to the urgency of time, the adaptability of the detection module to the ground hardness still lacks a lot of experiments. Experience testing can still do more. But overall, the conceptual design, functional design and implementation of this project are successful.

# **Future Work**

The feasibility of its main functions has been proved by calculation and circuit experiments, but its complete circuit design and realization of complete functions still need to be further developed.

In the future design and development, It can also endow the robot with other functions related to agricultural production, such as installing harmless weeding, insecticide modules, etc., to improve its utilization rate. For the price that farmers care about, the robot can be rented for farmers to use, reducing farmers' usage costs and maintenance costs.

# Conclusion

[1]Savci, S. (2012). Investigation of Effect of Chemical Fertilizers on Environment. APCBEE Procedia, 1. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apcbee.2012.03.047
[2]T.C. Çevre ve Orman Bakanlığı Türkiye Çevre Atlası ÇED Planlama Genel Müdürlüğü Çevre Envanteri Dairesi Başkanlığı, Ankara, 2004.
[3]Sarah K. Lowder, Jakob Skoet, Terri Raney, The Number, Size, and Distribution of Farms, Smallholder Farms, and Family Farms Worldwide, World Development, Volume 87,2016, Pages 16-29, ISSN 0305-750X,

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2015.10.041.
(https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X15002703)
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[7]The Future of Farming Robotic solutions for row cro bot.com/

[8]Control Stepper Motor with A4988 Driver Module & Arduino, Last Minute Engineers. https://lastminuteengineers.com/a4988-stepper-motor-driver-arduino-tutorial/[9]Agricultural Technology School, How to judge the amount of fertilizer applied during crop planting? Huinong Net, 2021,

https://www.cnhnb.com/xt/article-55681.html

# Appendix

# Fertilizer amount caculation

				nutrient uptake pe tilizer nutrient cor							tilizer nutrient conten ording to fertilizer info	-									
crop	harvest	The amount of form 100kg of			target yield		soil	content		Compound fertilizer	Nitrogen fertilizer (urea)	Phosphate fertilizer (Superphosphate)	F	ertilizer utiliz	ation	Demand			Usage (der	mand/utili:	zation)
		Nitrogen (N) Phosp Pento (P2O	xide	Potassium oxide (K2O)	kg/mu	N(	(mg/kg) P(r	ng/kg) K(mg	/kg)	N15% P15% K15% (based on potash fertilizer)	Contains N47%	Contains P61%	N(20-4	0%) P(10-25	% K(30-50%)	Ν	Ρ	к	N		к
rice	grain	2.25	1.1	2.7		500	64	14	60	(	5 13.9361702	L 10.73770492	30%	20%	40%	1.01	3.26	3.9	3.36667	16.3	9.75
winter wheat	grain	3	1.25	2.5		500	64	14	60	48.333333	33 27.2340425	5 20.98360656	30%	20%	40%	4.76	4.01	2.9	15.8667	20.05	7.25
spring wheat		3	1	2.5		500	64	14	60	48.3333333			30%	20%	40%	4.76			15.8667	13.8	7.25
barley	grain	2.7	0.9	2.2		500	64	14	60	23.333333	16.5957446	3 12.78688525	30%	20%	40%	3.26	2.26	1.4	10.8667	11.3	3.5
corn	grain	2.57	0.86	2.14		500	64	14	60	18.333333	16.0638297	9 12.37704918	30%	20%	40%	2.61	2.06	1.1	8.7	10.3	2.75
Valley	grain	2.5	1.25	1.75		500	64	14	60	-14.1666666	47.1808510	36.35245902	30%	20%	40%	2.26	4.01	-0.85	7.53333	20.05	-2.125
Sorghum	grain	2.6	1.3	1.3		500	64	14	60	-51.6666666	61.8085106	47.62295082	30%	20%	40%	2.76	4.26	-3.1	9.2	21.3	-7.75
sweet potato	fresh tubers	0.35	0.18	0.55		500	64	14	60	-114.166666	22.1808510	5 17.09016393	30%	20%	40%	-8.49	-1.34	-6.85	-28.3	-6.7	-17.125
potato	fresh tubers	0.5	0.2	1.06		500	64	14	60	-71.6666666	9.68085106	4 7.459016393	30%	20%	40%	-7.74	-1.24	-4.3	-25.8	-6.2	-10.75
soybean	Beans	7.2	1.8	4		500	64	14	60	173.33333	16.5957446	3 12.78688525	30%	20%	40%	25.76	6.76	10.4	85.8667	33.8	26
pea	Beans	3.09	0.86	2.86		500	64	14	60	78.333333	-3.08510638	-2.37704918	30%	20%	40%	5.21	2.06	4.7	17.3667	10.3	11.75
peanut	pods	6.8	1.3	3.8		500	64	14	60	156.666666	-4.68085106	4 -3.606557377	30%	20%	40%	23.76	4.26	9.4	79.2	21.3	23.5
cotton	seed cotton	5	1.8	4		500	64	14	60	173.333333	16.5957446	3 12.78688525	30%	20%	40%	14.76	6.76	10.4	49.2	33.8	26
rape	rapeseed	5.8	2.5	4.3		500	64	14	60	198.33333	45.8510638	35.32786885	30%	20%	40%	18.76	10.26	11.9	62.5333	51.3	29.75
Sesame	grain	8.23	2.07	4.41		500	64	14	60	207	.5 20.0531914	9 15.45081967	30%	20%	40%	30.91	8.11	12.45	103.033	40.55	31.125
cucumber	fruit	0.4	0.35	0.55		500	64	14	60	-114.166666	31.2234042	6 24.05737705	30%	20%	40%	-8.24	-0.49	-6.85	-27.467	-2.45	-17.125
eggplant	fruit	0.3	0.1	0.4		500	64	14	60	-126.666666	21.9148936	2 16.8852459	30%	20%	40%	-8.74	-1.74	-7.6	-29.133	-8.7	-19
tomato	fruit	0.45	0.5	0.5		500	64	14	60	-118.333333	40.5319148	31.2295082	30%	20%	40%	-7.99	0.26	-7.1	-26.633	1.3	-17.75
carrot	root	0.31	0.1	0.5	_	500	64	14	60	-118.333333	3 19.2553191	5 14.83606557	30%	20%	40%	-8.69	-1.74	-7.1	-28.967	-8.7	-17.75
radish	root	0.6	0.31	0.5	_	500	64	14	60	-118.33333		L 23.44262295	30%	20%	40%	-7.24		-7.1	-24.133	-3.45	
onion	onion	0.27	0.12	0.23		500	64	14	60	-140.833333	33 27.	5 21.18852459	30%	20%	40%	-8.89	-1.64	-8.45	-29.633	-8.2	-21.125
cabbage	leaf	0.41	0.05	0.38	_	500	64	14	60	-128.33333			30%	20%	40%	-8.19		-7.7		-9.95	
celery	Whole plant	0.27	0.12	0.23	_	500	64	14	60	-140.833333			30%	20%	40%	-8.89		-8.45		-8.2	
green onions	Whole plant	0.3	0.12	0.4		500	64	14	60	-126.666666	67 22.978723 <sup>4</sup>	17.70491803	30%	20%	40%	-8.74	-1.64	-7.6	-29.133	-8.2	-19
Tangerine	fruit	0.6	0.11	0.4		500	64	14	60	-126.666666			30%	20%	40%	-7.24			-24.133	-8.45	-19
apple	fruit	0.3	0.08	0.32		500	64	14	60	-133.33333			30%	20%	40%	-8.74			-29.133	-9.2	-20
pear	fruit	0.47	0.23	0.48	_	500	64	14	60	-12			30%	20%	40%	-7.89		-7.2		-5.45	-18
Grape	fruit	0.6	0.3	0.72	_	500	64	14	60	-10			30%	20%	40%	-7.24			-24.133	-3.7	-15
Peach	fruit	0.48	0.2	0.76		500	64	14	60	-96.6666666	17.6595744	7 13.60655738	30%	20%	40%	-7.84	-1.24	-5.8	-26.133	-6.2	-14.5
										Fertilizer	application amount (	(g/mu)									

# Spacing of different kinds of crops

	spacing	row spacing
Beetroot:	10-15cm	30cm
Broccoli:	45cm	60cm
Beans:	5-7.5 cm	60cm
Cabbage:	45-60 cm	60-90 cm
Carrots:	5cm	25cm
Cauliflower:	30-45cm	60cm
Celery:	15-25 cm	60 cm
Corn: spacing	g 10-15 cm	75-90 cm
Cucumbers:	30-45 cm	90 cm
Eggplant:	45-60 cm	75 cm
Garlic:	12.5-15cm	20cm
Kale:	25cm	45-60cm
Kohlrabi:	15 cm	30 cm
Leeks:	15 cm	30 cm
Lettuce:	10-20 cm	30-45 cm
Onions:	10 cm	25-30 cm
Peanuts:	15-20 cm	60-90 cm
Peppers:	25-45 cm	45 cm
Potatoes:	30 cm	90 cm
Spinach:	7.5-12.5 cm	20-25 cm
Swiss chard:	20-25 cm	45-60 cm
Tomatoes:	45-60 cm	60-90 cm
Zucchini:	30-37.5 cm	60-90 cm

## Cost of Product

ITEM	AMOUNT	UNIT PRICE/GBP	PRICE/GBP	UNIT W
Electronic Device				
Arduino Mega2560 Micro controller	1	15	15	
12V DC Motor	4	10	40	
L298N DC Motor Drive	2	4	8	
NEMA17 Stepper Motor	2	12	24	
Linear Actuator with NEMA11 Stepper Motor	1	40	40	
A4988 Stepper Motor Drive	3	2	6	
12V 30Ah Battery	1	50	50	
NPK Sensor	1	60	60	
MAX485/RS485 Modbus Module	1	1	1	
Camera	1	5	5	
Blutooth Module	1	5	5	
Wire	1	5	5	
12to5V Converter	1	7	7	
Button	1	2	2	
Structure(Purchase)				
Wheel	4	2.5	10	
Shock Absorber	4	3	12	
Rail	2	3	6	
Screw	-	-	3	
Structure(Manufacture)				
Chassis	2	10	20	
Plastic Shell	1	8	8	
Fertilizer Arm	2	3	6	
Fertilizer Container	3	5	15	
TOTAL COST			348	
TOTAL WEIGHT				

#### VEIGHT/kg WEIGHT/kg

0.036	0.036
0.3	1.2
0.03	0.06
0.13	0.26
0.38	0.38
0.004	0.008
5.7	5.7
0.2	0.2
0.006	0.018
0.06	0.06
0.004	0.004
0.05	0.05
0.03	0.03
0.005	0.005
0.05	0.2
0.015	0.06
0.15	0.3
-	0.03
0.3	0.6
0.3	0.3
0.15	0.3
0.5	0.5
	10.301