



UC San Diego
Electrical and Computer Engineering
JACOBS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

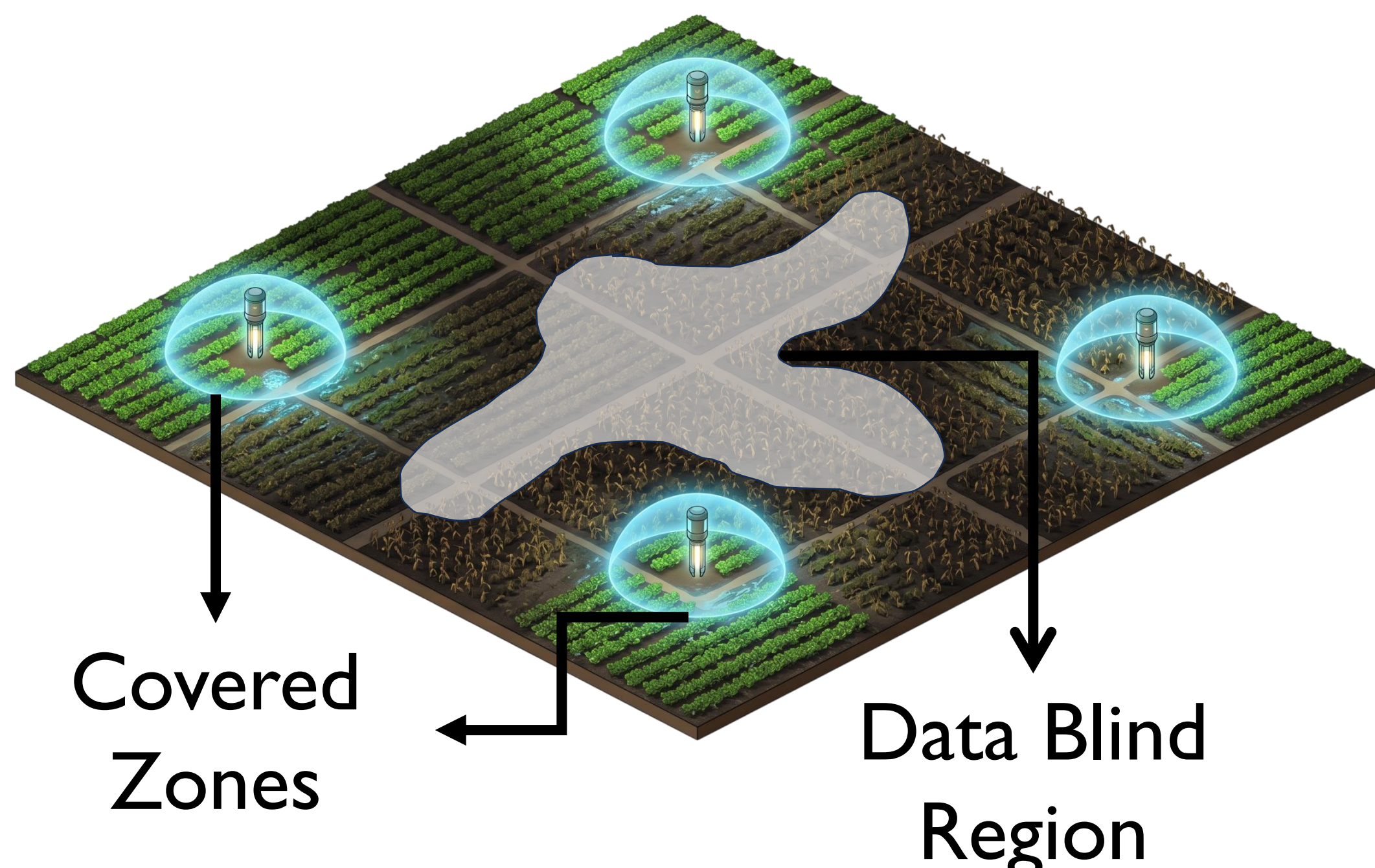
AgriSense



Battery-Free Soil Sensing for Next-Gen Connected Agriculture

Ishan Bansal, Nagarjun Bhat, Agrim Gupta, Harine Govindarajan, Dinesh Bharadia

AI is only as Smart as the Data



AI Decision Error: 35% water wasted because of missing data streams

Sparse data forces AI to guess & hallucinate

Bottleneck in Data Harvesting

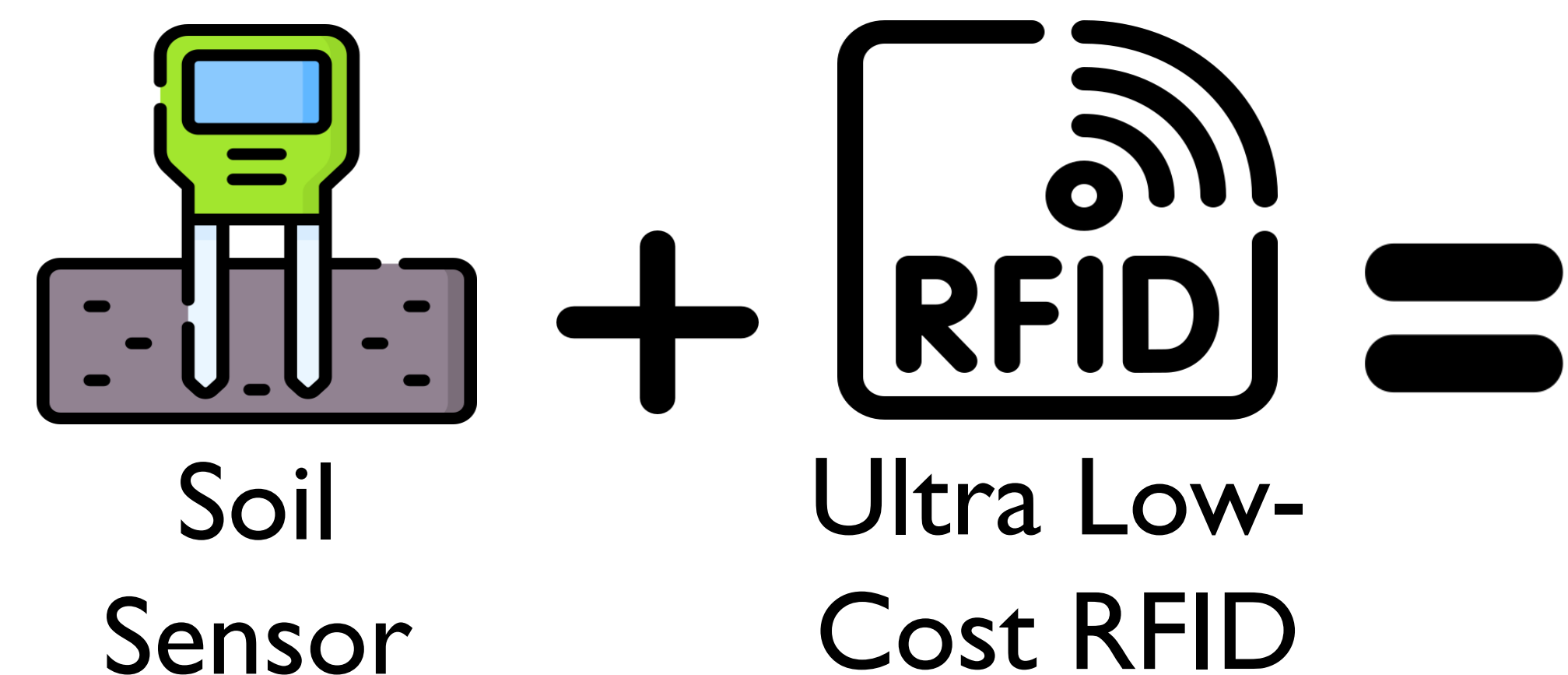


Prohibitive : Costly sensor nodes bankrupt large-scale field deployments

Battery : Replacing 1000s of buried batteries makes long-term maintenance impossible

Dense coverage is virtually unscalable today

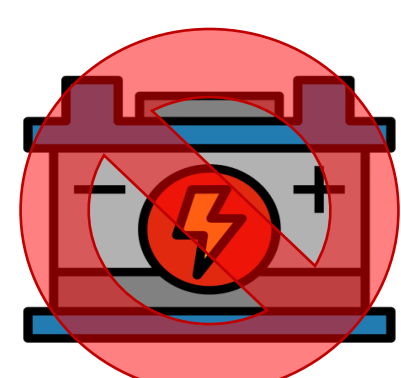
The Core Technical Solution



Ultra Low-Cost Battery-free Soil Sensor capable of Mobile Readout

Decoupling sensing from power using RFID

The \$1 Deploy & Forget Sensor



ZenseTag Battery-free Sensing Platform



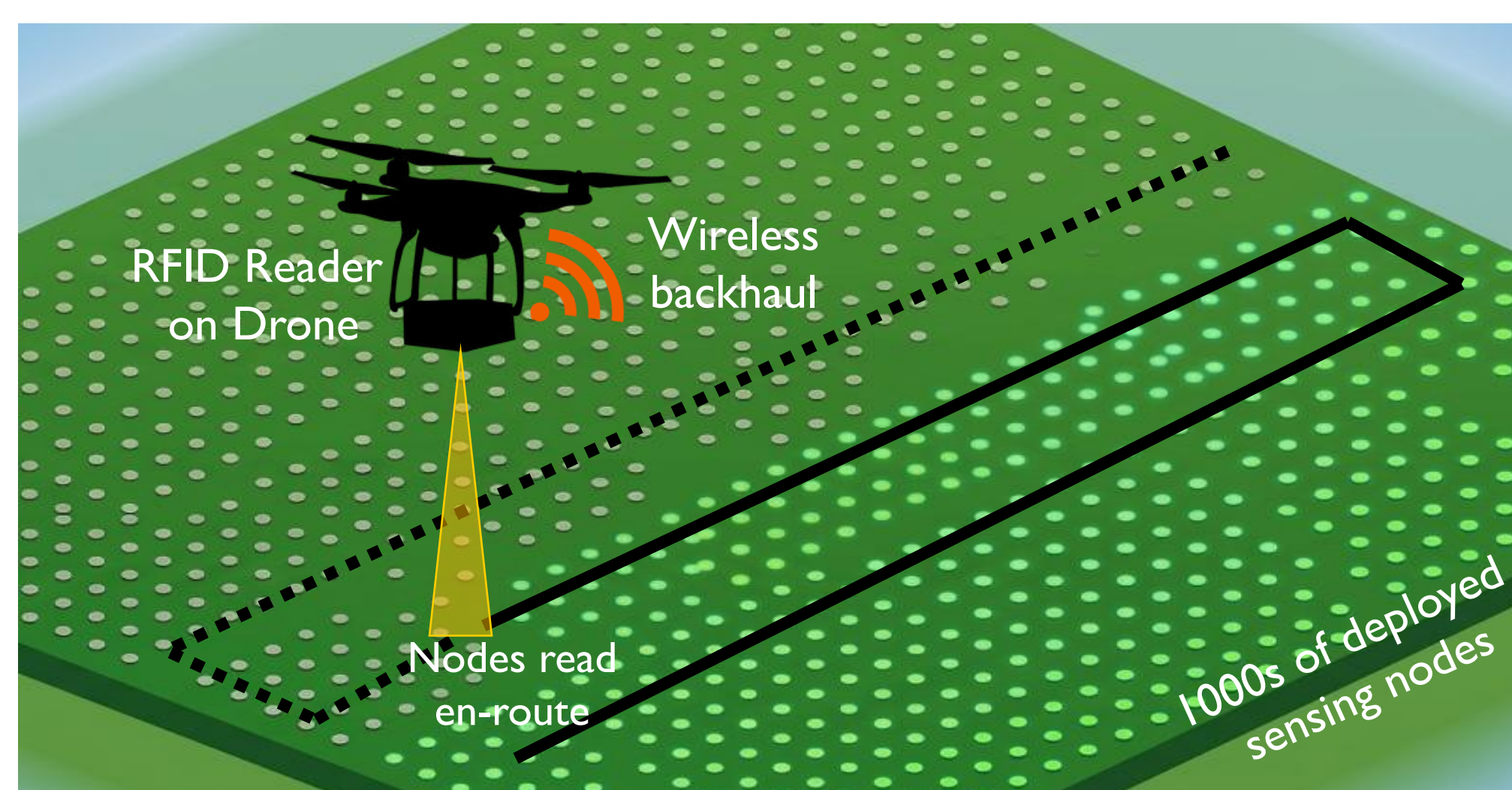
Best runner-up demo (ACM MobiCom'24)



Best paper award (IEEE RFID'25)

Low-cost passive tags replace active nodes

Data Harvesting at Field Scale

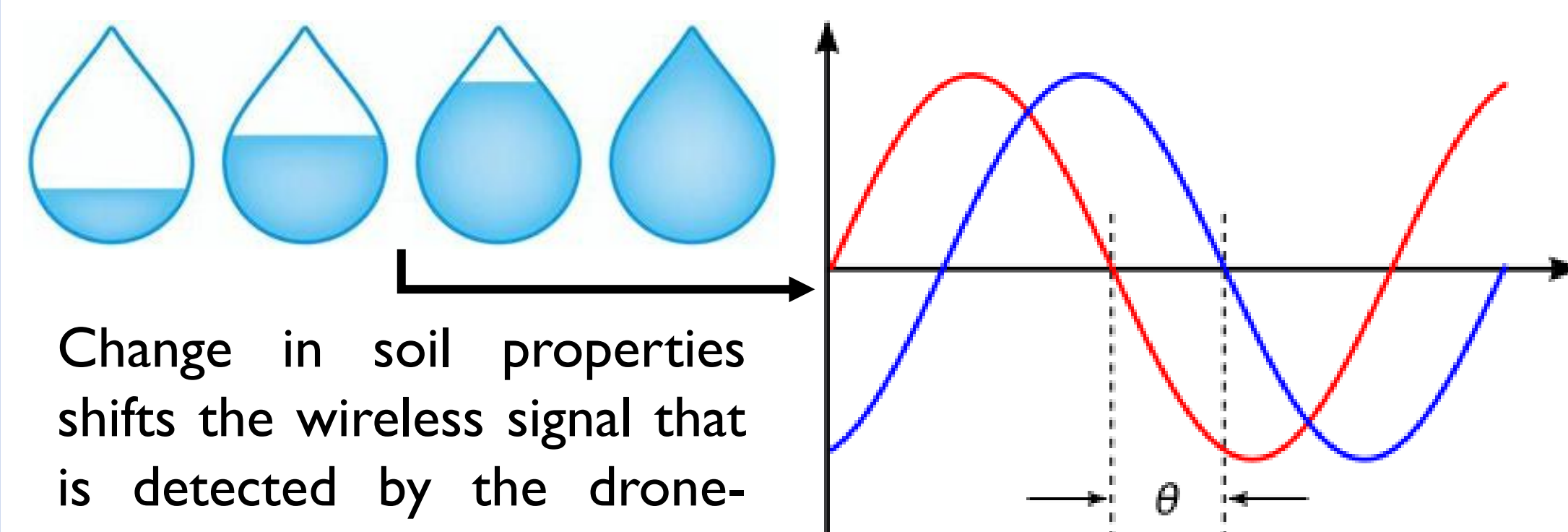
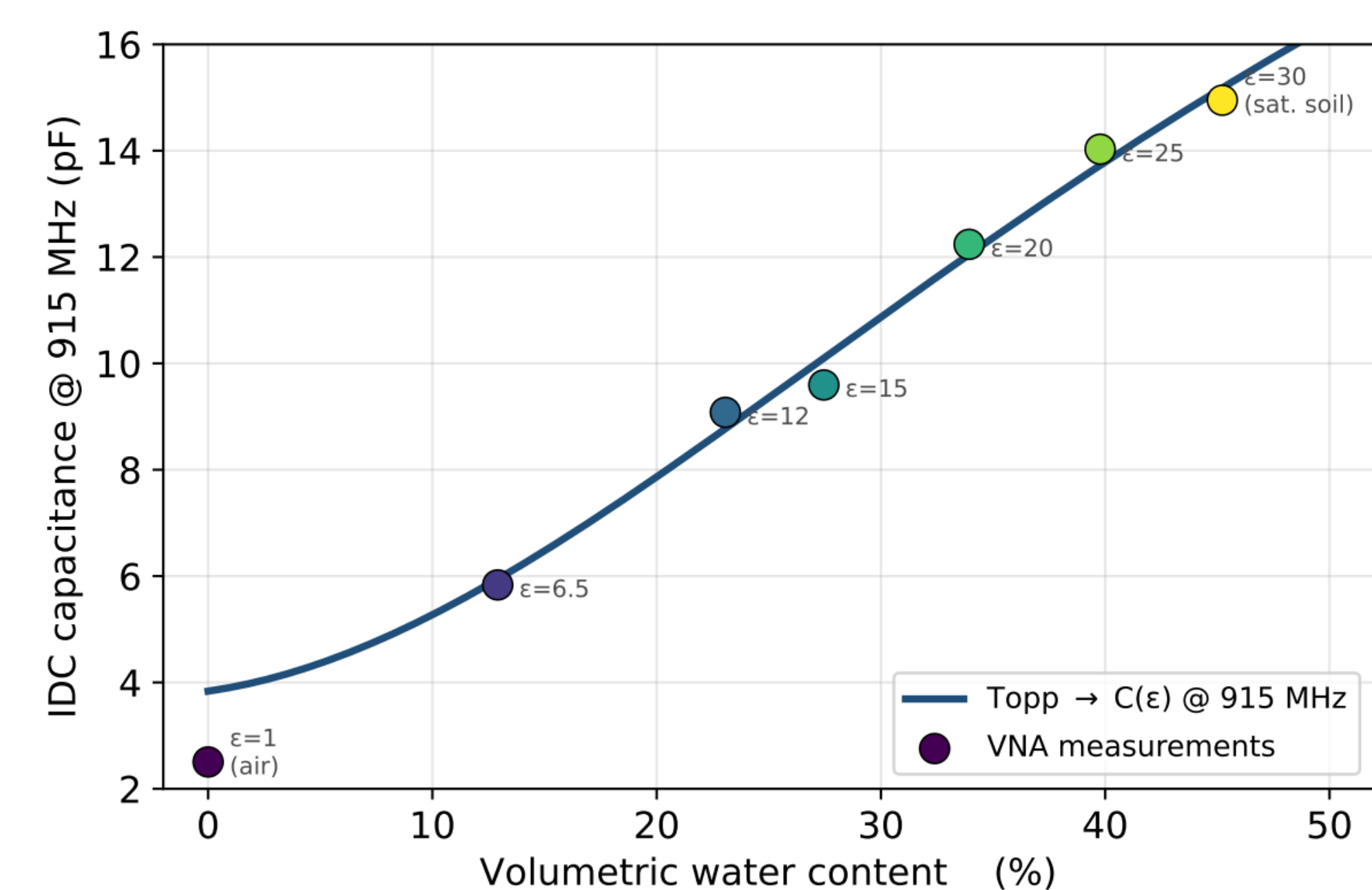


Field: 5ha (50,000m²) @ 250m x 200m
Sensor Grid: 2000 nodes @ 50 x 40
Drone Path: 10km @ 3m/s
Duration: 60min

Cost Category	Active Sensor Networks	Battery-free Networks	Our Approach
Nodes	\$200,000 (\$100/node)	\$2,000 (\$1/node)	\$2,000 (\$1/node)
Gateways / Equipment	\$10,000 (4-5 LoRa-WANs)	\$200,000 (200 fixed readers)	\$2,000 (drone + reader)
Long Term Maintenance	\$150,000 (batteries + labor)	~\$20,000 (readers + labor)	~\$1,000 (basic servicing)
Total Gross	~\$350,000	~\$225,000	~\$5,000

Scale to 1000s of nodes at 70x lower cost

Under the Hood

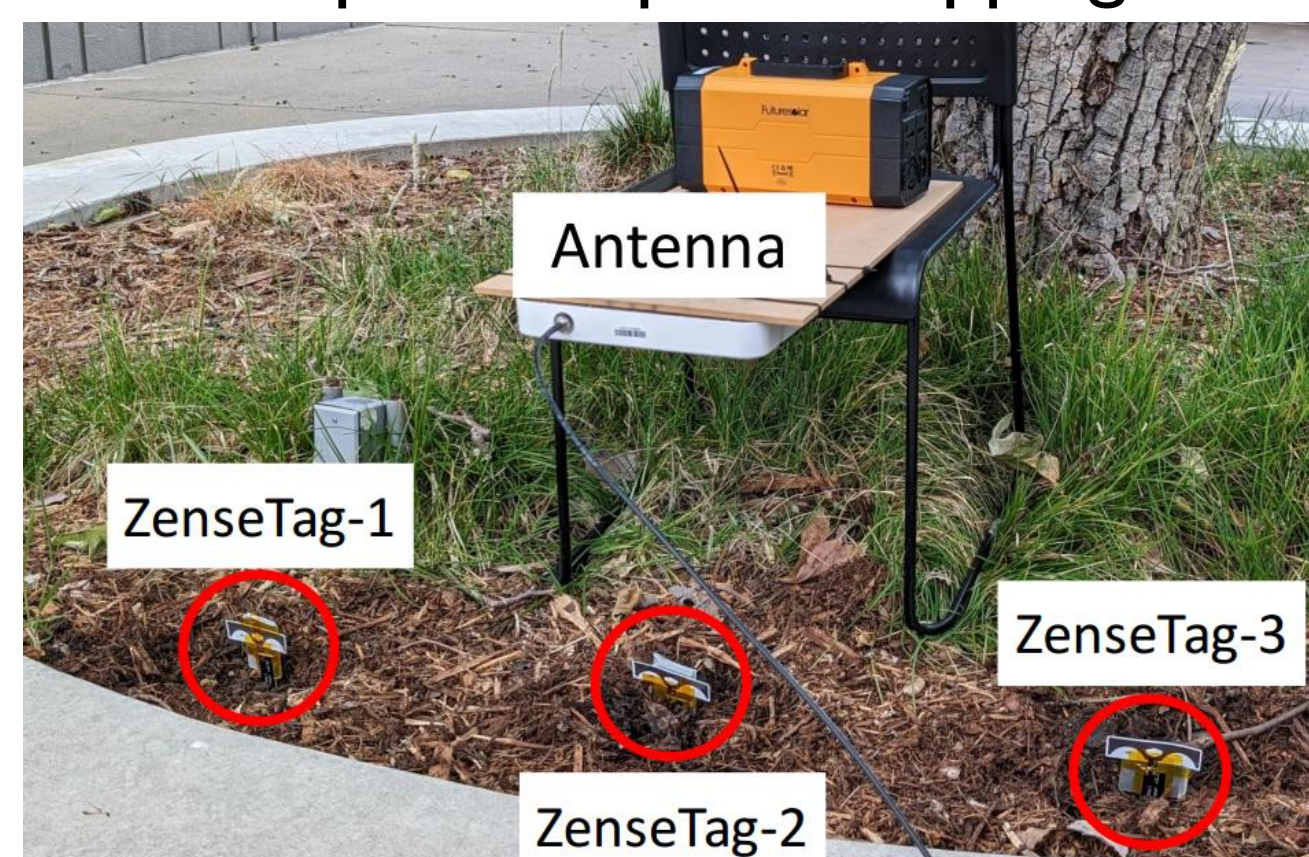


Soil changes directly alter wireless signals

From Lab to Landscape

Dense sensor deployment necessary for precise spatial mapping

AR-app showing real-time sensor data



Aerial readout of battery-free sensors

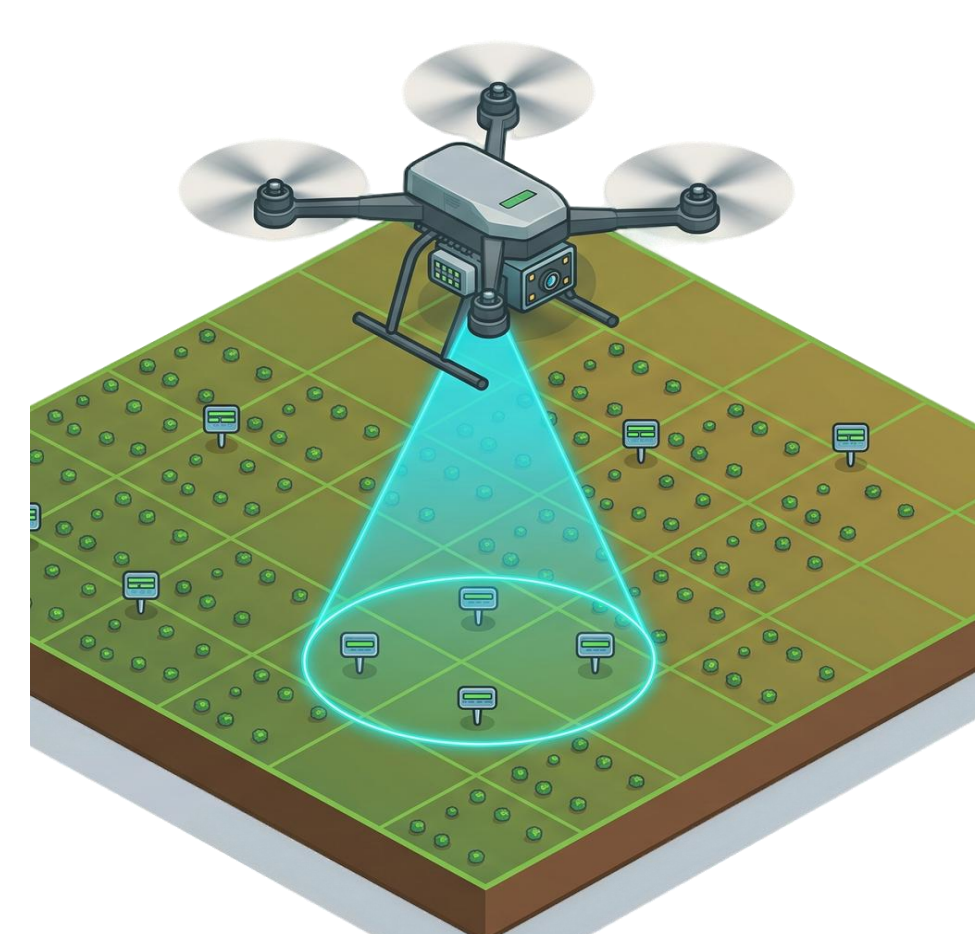


Best runner-up demo (SenSys'25)

We show robust passive sensing in the field

Closing the Loop: Sensor Language Foundation Models for Automated Farm Orchestration

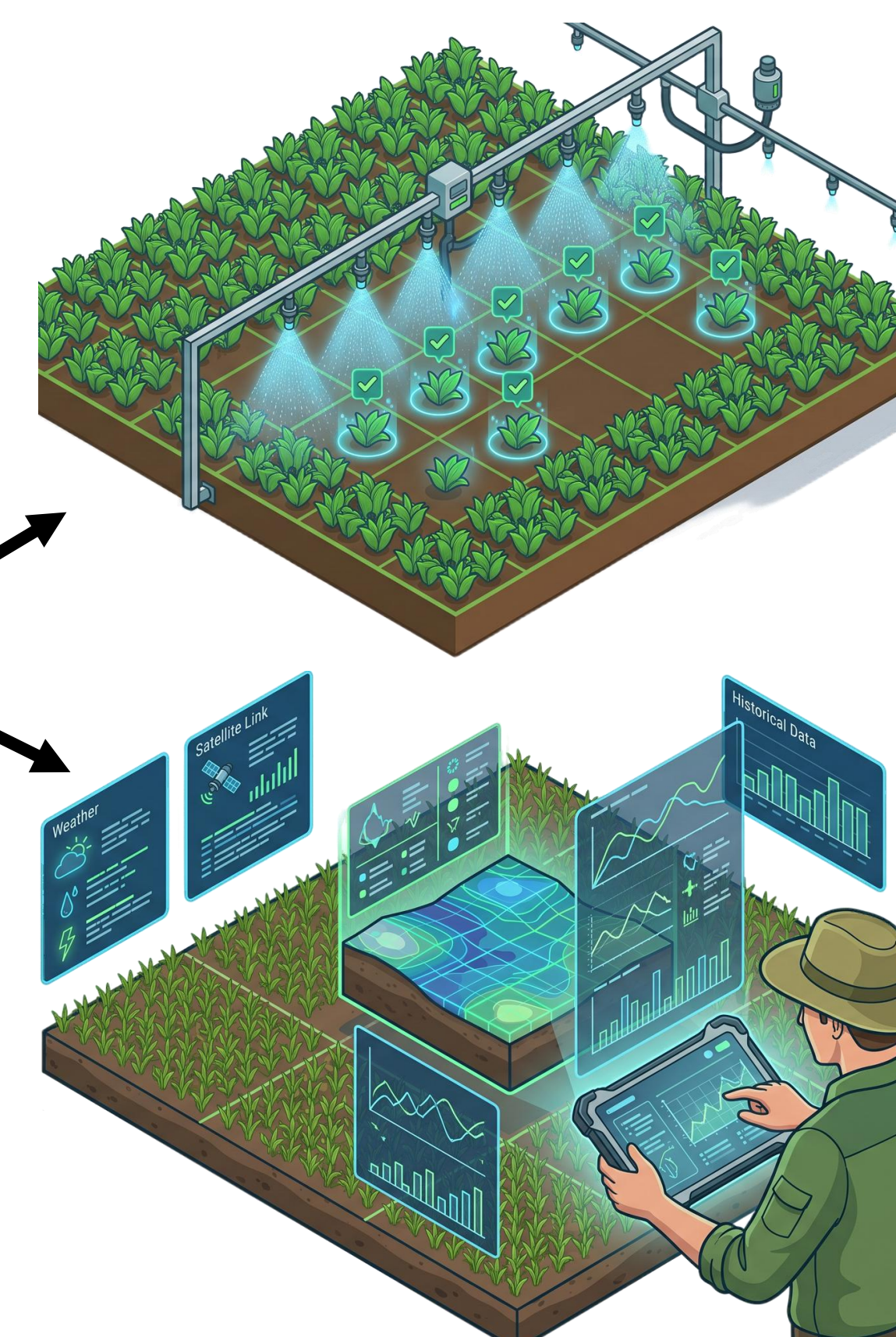
Stage 1: Data harvested from dense sensor deployments (On-demand soil maps)



Stage 2: Sensor LLMs & Spatial Foundation Models (Predictive root-zone dynamics and agronomy agent)



Stage 3: Automated closed-loop Precision Actuation (Delivers water and nutrition based on exact spatial needs)



Grower kept in the Loop through smart Augmented Reality applications

High-density battery-free sensing provides the ubiquitous data foundation for physical AI