

Importance of Management Information System (MIS) in Increasing Production in the Arid Region of Western Rajasthan

D. Kumar, R. S. Mehta, Saren K. and S. C. Meena

A Management Information System (MIS) is used for decision-making, planning, monitoring, and control in organizations. It integrates people, processes, and technology to support management functions. In the harsh, hyper-arid ecosystems of **Western Rajasthan**—encompassing districts like **Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner, and Jodhpur**—traditional agricultural practices constantly battle extreme water scarcity, volatile temperatures, and poor soil quality. A **Management Information System (MIS)** acts as the digital backbone for modern smart agriculture (or Agriculture Management Information Systems - AMIS). By converting raw ecological and operational data into actionable insights, an MIS directly drives **production efficiency, resource optimization, and yield security** in the Thar Desert.



Fig. 1: Irrigation canal in the arid region

Core Pillars of MIS in Accelerating Production

1. Precision Water and Micro-Irrigation Management

- **Automated Allocation:** Integrates data from soil moisture sensors and weather forecasts to control automated drip and sprinkler networks, minimizing evapotranspiration losses.
- **Canal and Indira Gandhi Canal Project (IGNP) Tracking:** Monitors water flow, scheduling, and distribution tail-end availability to ensure farmers receive timely irrigation rounds during critical crop reproductive phases.
- **Resource Optimization:** Eliminates over-irrigation, preventing the localized soil salinity common to the region.

2. Agro-meteorological Forecasting & Risk Mitigation

- **Hyper-local Weather Insights:** Provides real-time alerts on heatwaves, sandstorms, frost, and erratic monsoon patterns via SMS and digital platforms (e.g., Kisan Suvidha).
- **Dynamic Sowing Windows:** Uses historical predictive data to compute the safest, high-yield planting dates for climate-resilient arid crops like pearl millet (bajra), cluster bean (guar), moth bean, and cumin.

3. Soil Health and Nutrient Customization

- **Digital Soil Health Mapping:** Stores and processes macro- and micro-nutrient profiles across vast desert tracts.
- **Variable-Rate Application:** Generates automated fertilizer and gypsum application charts, rectifying

D. Kumar¹, R. S. Mehta¹, Saren K.¹ and S. C. Meena¹

¹Scientists, ICAR–Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan



alkaline soils and ensuring optimal use of limited inputs.

4. Pest, Disease, and Weed Surveillance

- **Early Warning Networks:** Collects geographic data on pest movements—vital for managing historical threats like locust infestations in Western Rajasthan.
- **Targeted Interventions:** Cross-references field photography with centralized pest databases to recommend precise, localized chemical or biological control actions before epidemics damage yields.

5. Agri-Supply Chain and Market Arbitrage

- **Real-time Price Discovery:** Connects farmers to e-NAM platforms, allowing them to exploit spatial price differences and sell when margins are highest.
- **Cold Chain & Post-Harvest Coordination:** Manages schedules for processing and storing perishable, high-value arid commodities like pomegranate and date palms, drastically reducing post-harvest waste.

System Architecture: The Data-to-Yield Pipeline

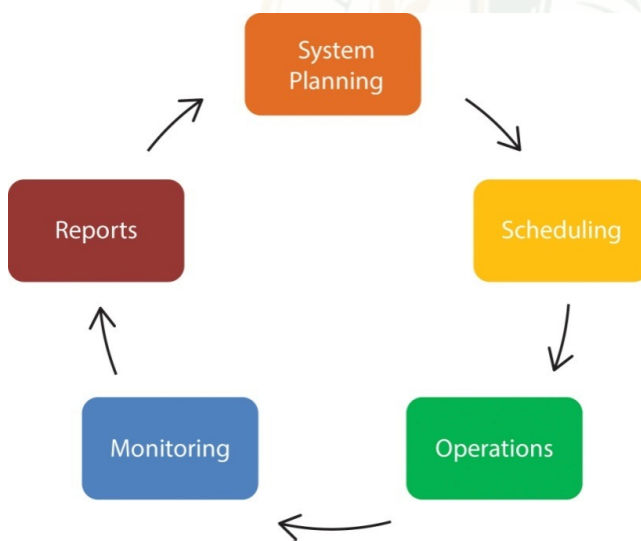


Fig. 2: Cycle of a management information system

Evolution of MIS (Since 1990)

1. Electronic Data Processing
2. Computer-Based Information Systems
3. Decision Support Systems
4. Artificial Intelligence

Uses across Management Levels

- Top Management
- Middle Management

- Lower Management

Design Steps

1. **Assess:** Identify information needs for planning and monitoring
2. **Decide:** Determine levels of information required
3. **Ensure:** Maintain system flexibility and adaptability

Guidelines for Effective MIS Design

- Involve users in the design process
- Evaluate costs
- Consider in-house vs. external software development
- Ensure relevance and selective information
- Pretest the system
- Train operators and users

Classification (Mason & Swanson, 1981)

1. Database Information System
2. Predictive System
3. Decision Support System
4. Decision Making System

Roles of MIS

- Plan effective resource allocation
- Choose between alternative actions
- Control daily operations