

# Logistics Network for Agricultural Products: A Comprehensive Literature Review and Future Directions

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## ABSTRACT

The logistics network for agricultural products is instrumental in maintaining stability and guaranteeing food security for each nation. The organization and operation of logistics networks are essential issues in today's global supply chains. Many existing challenges in agricultural logistics networks need to be explored to comprehensively assess this field. Recognizing the importance of logistics networks for agricultural products based on data sources, this study collected, synthesized, and evaluated 166 academic articles from 2000 to January 2025. The main aim of this research is to provide an overview of various issues examined in the literature. Additionally, the study identifies the sustainability goals for agricultural logistics networks (economic, social, and environmental objectives). Furthermore, the study systematizes theories related to logistics networks and agricultural products. The research employs both bibliometric analysis and a systematic literature review of theoretical foundations. By combining these two methods, the study analyzes the collected literature from the Scopus database, Google, and other reliable sources. The findings indicate that research on logistics networks for agricultural products is primarily concentrated among specific authors and in notable countries such as China, the USA, Iran, and India. The main models used in the literature, including Mixed-Integer Linear Programming, Mixed Integer Programming, and Mixed-Integer Nonlinear Programming, aim to optimize cost, profit, social objectives, and environmental impact. Most studies focus on a diverse range of agricultural products such as fruits, vegetables, and meat. However, the study still has certain limitations regarding the generalizability of the issues, access to data sources, and methodologies.

**Keywords:** *Logistics network, Agricultural product, Bibliometric analysis, Systematic literature review, logistics supply chain, Agriculture Supply Chain*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Many studies have introduced concepts related to Logistics Networks (LN). Accordingly, LN is defined as a system of interconnected and complementary elements within the supply chain (Albrecht & Steinrücke, 2018). Additionally, LN includes procurement locations, warehousing, transportation, and distribution centers for goods (Zhang *et al.*, 2020; Huang *et al.*, 2020). Moreover, Yang *et al.* (2019) argue that LN also encompasses information flows throughout the system from the source point to the final destination. To connect farmers with the agricultural export system, LN also includes container logistics centers (CLC) to serve this purpose (Lin *et al.*, 2017). LN is often associated with factors such as temperature and transportation time, making it highly complex (Albrecht & Steinrücke, 2018; Cruz *et al.*, 2019). Additionally, LN involves various risks related to seasonality, weather conditions, price fluctuations, and market demand volatility (Cruz *et al.*, 2019; de Keizer *et al.*, 2015; La Scalia *et al.*, 2016; Shirzadi *et al.*, 2021; Pakdel *et al.*, 2024; Orjuela-Castro *et al.*, 2022). Logistics networks are key to the development and optimization of supply chains (Azab *et al.*, 2023; Fleischmann *et al.*, 2000). This becomes even more significant for seasonal and perishable products (Ghahremani-Nahr *et al.*, 2022; Agahgolnezhad Gerdrodbari *et al.*, 2021; Abbasian *et al.*, 2023). Simultaneously, the optimization of local networks is crucial in guaranteeing food security and impacting the economic well-being of agricultural practitioners.

The concept of agricultural products has also been explored in many studies. Agricultural products are products derived from agricultural production activities, encompassing various aspects such as crop cultivation, livestock farming, and the fisheries sector (Ghahremani-Nahr *et al.*, 2022; Cruz *et al.*, 2019; Sajedi *et al.*, 2020; Wu, 2023; Allaoui *et al.*, 2018; Baghizadeh *et al.*, 2022). Agricultural products can be either raw materials or processed products (Saffari *et al.*, 2023). Regarding agricultural products, fresh products must be mentioned. These products are perishable and deteriorate quickly, high perishability, and frequent challenges in storage and transportation (Agahgolnezhad Gerdrodbari *et al.*, 2021;

Abbasian *et al.*, 2023; Talkhestani *et al.*, 2022; Mohammadi *et al.*, 2023; Yakavenka *et al.*, 2020; Wang *et al.*, 2021). Additionally, Mohammadi & Nikzad (2023) argue that supply chain management for perishable products requires specific planning to minimize losses and maintain product quality.

Some authors define the agricultural logistics network as a complex network that includes various activities throughout the entire system, from the cultivation and delivery of agricultural goods to activities related to agricultural goods from farms to consumers (Fleischmann *et al.*, 2000; He, 2020). An efficient logistics network positively impacts the success of food producers, influencing profitability, pricing, and consumer satisfaction (Bosona & Gebresenbet, 2011). The governance of logistics networks is paramount for facilitating a suitable degree of integration and collaboration among various stakeholders. Adequate governance mechanisms guarantee the timely provision of superior quality products in optimal quantities to consumers, all while proficiently overseeing logistics expenditures (Perdana *et al.*, 2023).

This study presents a summary of studies related to the field of logistics networks for agricultural products. Previous studies have mostly focused on logistics networks in industries such as pharmaceuticals and automobiles. For instance, Dong *et al.* (2020) and Chandra *et al.* (2019) explored multimodal distribution networks in the automotive sector, demonstrating that combining truck and sea transport can reduce costs by 9.1% to 25.9% and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 35.8% compared to traditional truck-only networks. These studies emphasize the trade-offs between economic and environmental benefits, offering valuable frameworks for designing sustainable logistics systems. Similarly, in the pharmaceutical sector, Abbasi *et al.* (2021) and Savadkoochi *et al.* (2018) developed models to minimize total costs and delivery times while managing perishable inventory and uncertain data. Their findings highlight the importance of flexible, data-driven optimization, achieving efficiency improvements of up to 34.3% in real-world applications. Despite valuable insights from other industries, existing models fail to address the unique challenges of agricultural product logistics, such as perishability, seasonality, and supply fluctuations. Agricultural supply chains, often fragmented with small-scale farmers, require tailored solutions focusing on rapid delivery, localized storage, and resilience. There is very little research specifically and comprehensively examining the logistics network for agricultural products. Consequently, the present investigation seeks to address this deficiency by undertaking an extensive and meticulous examination of logistics networks pertaining to agricultural commodities. Through this, it highlights that in this field, numerous studies have approached the topic from different perspectives, enriching the valuable resource pool for researchers. Both theoretical and empirical studies are examined through a combined approach, using a descriptive method that focuses on concepts, methods, tools, and research outputs. The study integrates bibliometric analysis and a systematic theoretical review. Some key aspects of the issue are discussed, such as

prominent authors, countries conducting significant research, and the citation count of each study, all of which are relevant to the research topic.

Based on the research objectives, the remainder of this study presents a review of the employed research methodology. Next, there is content related to the literature review on Logistics Networks for Agricultural Products. The subsequent segment elucidates the findings derived from the examination of the gathered scholarly literature. Subsequently, the study summarizes the key findings. Finally, the study presents the research limitations.

## 2. REVIEW METHODOLOGY

A review of previous research is an instrument that helps analyze and manage the prevailing concepts in a specific research field (Kamble *et al.*, 2020; Routroy & Behera, 2017). The objective of conducting a literature review is to collect and evaluate existing studies related to a field of interest to achieve verifiable or reproducible results (Paluri & Mishal, 2020). Subsequently, a thorough examination of the relevant studies will be carried out to better understand the research issue.

### 2.1 Bibliometric analysis

Bibliometric analysis constitutes a quantitative, objective, and empirical methodology employed for the examination of scholarly articles. It uses tools and software to analyze the characteristics of scientific publications such as publication sources, citation frequency, and keywords, with the aim of obtaining deeper insights into the development of a specific research field (Zhou *et al.*, 2021). The primary goal of this method is to assess the development of a research area by analyzing the characteristics of the literature. Bibliometric analysis also helps identify research trends, influential authors and publications, as well as knowledge gaps (Kamewor *et al.*, 2024). The LN for agricultural products is analyzed using a CSV file downloaded from the Scopus database, with the data collection conducted on January 28, 2025. This activity aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of related issues on a global scale, rather than focusing on a specific field or a few journals.

At the beginning phase, this research performed a keyword-based search for relevant sources, utilizing the methods outlined by Paluri & Mishal (2020), Kamble *et al.* (2020). In the first stage, the research began by searching with the keywords “logistics network” OR “logistics supply chain” OR “Agriculture Supply Chain” OR “Perishable product” OR “agricultural product” and retrieved 56,852 documents from the Scopus database (Figure 1). Then, in the second step, the study performed a search with the keywords “logistics network” OR “logistics supply chain” OR “Agriculture Supply Chain” OR “Perishable product” AND “agricultural product”, which yielded 146 documents from 1991 to January 2025. These documents comprised journals, conference proceedings, and literature reviews that had either been released or were under publication, all of which were written in English. Afterward, the publications that failed to satisfy the requirements (papers on supply chains in other industries such as pharmaceuticals, automobiles, etc.,

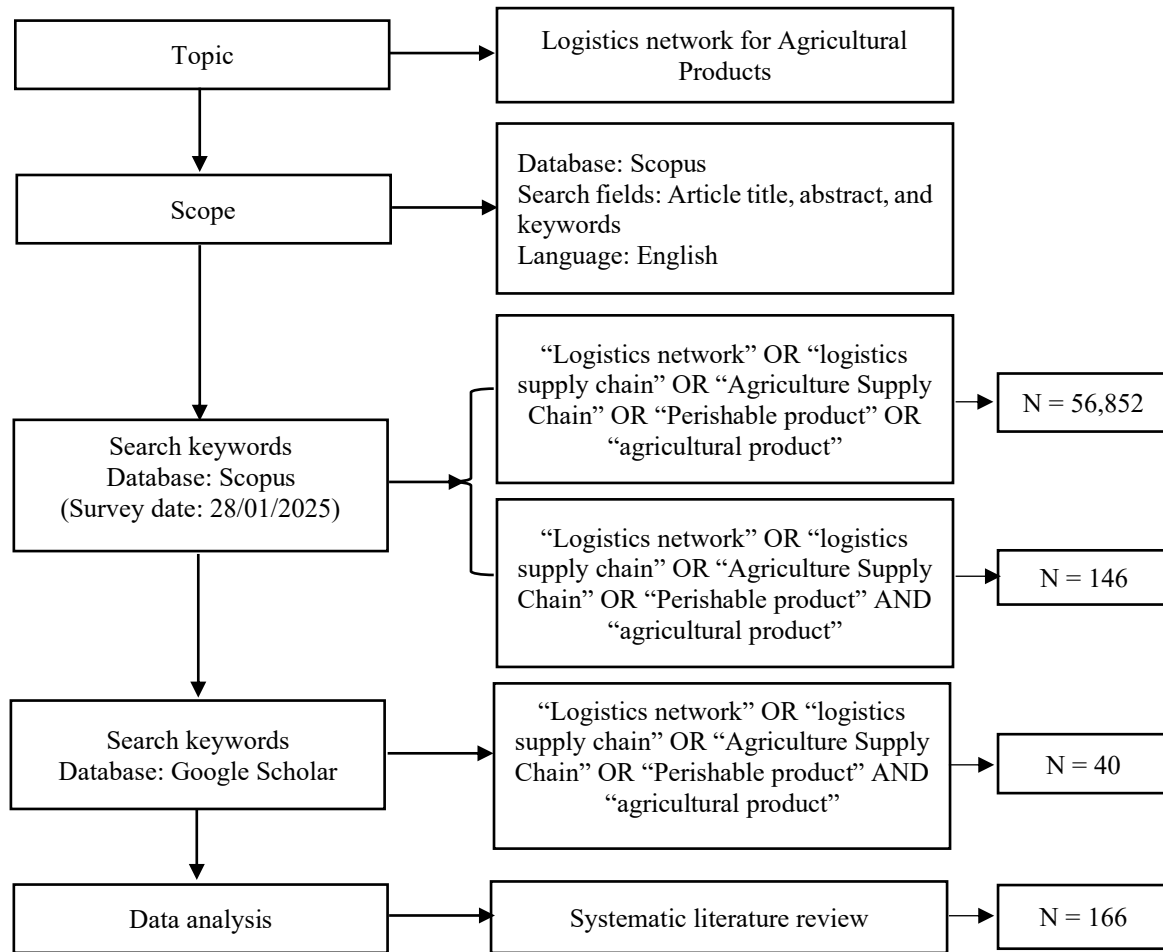


Figure 1. Research Implementation Process

and retracted papers) were excluded. After removing the non-relevant publications, 126 papers remained. Step 3 involved gathering additional relevant sources by searching for publications from Google Scholar. After conducting the search and filtering the relevant materials from Google Scholar, an additional 40 publications were selected. Therefore, after searching and filtering, a total of 166 relevant publications were included for analysis (Step 4).

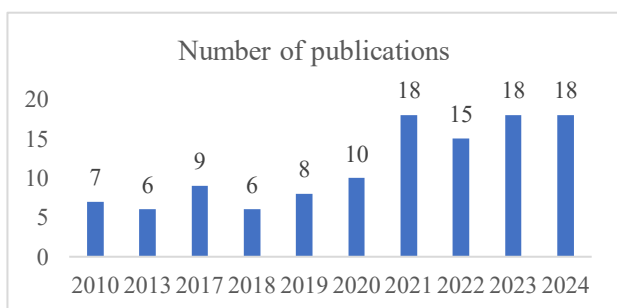


Figure 2. Number of articles published over the years on logistics networks for agricultural products

Figure 2 illustrates the annual frequency of significant scholarly publications disseminated from the year 2010 through 2024. Accordingly, the number of publications on the topic “logistics network for agricultural

products” significantly increased during the period from 2021 to 2024, rising from 7 publications in 2010 to 18 publications (in 2021, 2023, and 2024), with 15 publications in 2022.

Regarding the countries with published research, China stands out, with 80 publications, far surpassing other countries. Following China, the United States has 10 publications, India has 9, and Iran and Indonesia each have 7 publications. The remaining countries have fewer publications (3 to 4 publications). These results show that China is the country most interested in the field of logistics network for agricultural products (Table 1).

Table 1. The ten leading countries involved in the literature on logistics networks for agricultural products

No.	Country affiliations of authors	
	Country	Publication count
1	China	80
2	United States	10
3	India	9
4	Iran	7
5	Indonesia	7
6	Italy	4
7	Viet Nam	3
8	Thailand	3
9	Russian Federation	3
10	United Kingdom	2

**Table 2.** The titles of the most cited publications.

No.	Authors	Title	Source title	Cited by
1	Ahumada & Villalobos, (2011)	Operational model for planning the harvest and distribution of perishable agricultural products	International Journal of Production Economics	181
2	Ahumada <i>et al.</i> , (2012)	Tactical planning of the production and distribution of FAP under uncertainty	Agricultural Systems	128
3	de Keizer <i>et al.</i> , (2017)	Logistics network design for perishable products with heterogeneous quality decay	European Journal of Operational Research	125
4	Yazdani <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	A multi-criteria decision-making framework for agriculture supply chain risk management under circular economy	Management Decision	125
5	Routroy & Behera, (2017)	Agriculture supply chain: A systematic review of literature and implications for future research	Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies	122
6	La Scalia <i>et al.</i> , (2016)	Effect of Vibration on the Quality of Strawberry Fruits Caused by Simulated Transport	Journal of Food Process Engineering	68
7	Niu <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	The value of blockchain and agricultural supply chain parties' participation confronting random bacteria pollution	Journal of Cleaner Production	60
8	Song & He, (2019)	Contract coordination of new fresh produce three-layer supply chain	Industrial Management and Data Systems	55
9	Rajabi-Kafshgar <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	Utilizing hybrid metaheuristic approach to design an agricultural closed-loop supply chain network	Expert Systems with Applications	54
10	De Keizer <i>et al.</i> , (2015)	Hybrid optimization and simulation to design a logistics network for distributing perishable products	Computers and Industrial Engineering	52

To achieve an in-depth view of the research works, this study also considers the aspect of citation counts for each publication. Table 2 shows that among the 10 representative publications, “Ahumada & Villalobos (2011)” with the paper titled “Operational model for planning the harvest and distribution of perishable agricultural products”, published in the journal “*International Journal of Production Economics*”, is the most cited publication with 181 citations. Next is the study by “Ahumada *et al.* (2012)” titled “Tactical planning of the production and distribution of fresh agricultural products (FAP) under uncertainty”, published in the journal “*Agricultural Systems*”, with 128 citations. Following them are the studies by the author groups “de Keizer *et al.* (2017)” (titled “Logistics network design for perishable products with heterogeneous quality decay”, published in “*European Journal of Operational Research*”) and “Yazdani *et al.* (2021)” (titled “A multi-criteria decision-making framework for agriculture supply chain risk management under a circular economy context”, published in “*Management Decision*”), each with 125 citations. The publication by “Routroy & Behera (2017)” titled “Agriculture supply chain: A systematic review of literature and implications for future research”, published in the “*Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies*”, also has a high citation count with 122 citations. The remaining publications have citation counts ranging from 52 to 68. Overall, although these publications have been published in recent years, their citation counts are relatively high, signifying that scholarly inquiry within the domain of “logistics network for agricultural products” is gaining increasing attention.

### 2.2 Systematic literature review

The systematic literature review in this document was conducted to collect and evaluate existing studies relevant to the topic, with the aim of achieving verifiable or reproducible results. It is not merely a grouping of existing literature but also serves as a guide for researchers and

specialists in the domain. This study applies the systematic review of literature method based on the works of Paluri & Mishal (2020), Kamewor *et al.* (2024), and Bhattacharya *et al.* (2024). The review is executed through three sequential phases:

- **Stage 1:** Planning the review, including specifying the need for the review of the literature, refining the key inquiries of the study, and determining the strategy and criteria for selecting articles.
- **Stage 2:** Conducting the review, including identifying relevant documents, selecting key studies, collecting data, comprehensively evaluating the data, identifying emerging research trends, and providing suggestions for future research.
- **Stage 3:** Reviewing relevant documents, synthesizing data, and writing and validating reports.

The study uses data collected from the Scopus database (126 publications after excluding irrelevant ones, with a search conducted in January 2025) and continues with a repeated search on Google Scholar (adding 40 publications, with a search conducted in January 2025). In total, 166 relevant publications were included in the literature review. These data have been carefully studied and selected as representatives for analysis. The data collected mainly comes from sources such as Elsevier, Emerald, IEEE, Taylor and Francis, Springer, and ResearchGate. This ensures the diversity of data sources. Additionally, the study only uses data from articles presented in English for analysis (conference papers, reviews, book chapters, etc. will be excluded). However, there are some issues with this database that need attention. The author does not have full access to some research articles, which led to their exclusion. Additionally, the author notes that not all research articles found by the keywords were considered, and not all articles with the search keywords were reviewed.

**Table 3.** Definitions related to logistics network

No.	Definition of logistics network	Authors
1	LN includes physical elements such as distribution centers, warehouses, freight terminals, transport depots, storage facilities, transfer hubs, and aggregation points. LN also encompasses the flow of information and goods between these elements	Zhang <i>et al.</i> , (2020); Shu <i>et al.</i> , (2013); Pérez-Mesa <i>et al.</i> , (2012); Huang <i>et al.</i> , (2020)
2	LN is a system of interconnected and complementary elements in the supply chain, including logistics activities and environmental conditions that affect product quality. This network involves manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, and customers, working together to increase profits by enhancing product value.	Albrecht & Steinrücke, (2018)
3	LN is a system for distributing goods from a source point to one or more destination points, including both information flow and physical goods.	Yang <i>et al.</i> , (2019)
4	LN refers to the structure and arrangement of facilities, equipment, and activities related to the transportation and storage of goods.	Shu <i>et al.</i> , (2013); Pérez-Mesa <i>et al.</i> , (2012)
5	LN is described as a three-dimensional network, connecting different supply chains both horizontally and vertically.	Huang <i>et al.</i> , (2020)
6	The LN framework encompasses the creation of sites dedicated to the production, gathering, processing, storage, commerce, and distribution of food, alongside the analysis of the intensity and periodicity of food movement among these sites.	Lin <i>et al.</i> , (2018)
7	The logistics network includes container terminals (CLCs) that play a crucial role in collecting goods from farmers and connecting to the agricultural export system.	Lin <i>et al.</i> , (2017)
8	The Logistics Supply Chain (LSC) encompasses the entire process from production to sales, as well as contracts and decisions related to pricing and logistics. It includes the management of activities such as harvesting, sorting, packaging, preservation, transportation, distribution, and retail.	Sajedi <i>et al.</i> , (2020); Sheikholeslami & Zarrinpoor, (2023); Shu <i>et al.</i> , (2013); Fu <i>et al.</i> , (2017)
9	LSC is not limited to transportation activities but also includes tasks such as network planning, scheduling, and warehouse management.	Raimbekov <i>et al.</i> , (2024)
10	LSC is the process of systematically managing and facilitating the flow of logistics operations, information transmission, and financial transactions utilizing advanced logistics systems and communication tools, by ensuring the seamless integration of various stakeholders and assets involved in the cultivation, processing, marketing, and supply of agricultural goods	Chen & Zhao, (2023)
11	Agricultural Supply Chain (ASC) constitutes a comprehensive series of activities that encompasses the entire journey “from farm to table,” integrating processes such as cultivation, processing, quality inspection, packaging, storage, transportation, distribution, and marketing. ASC is also referred to by various alternative designations, including food supply chain, agricultural value chain, post-harvest supply chain, fruit supply chain, agribusiness supply chain, perishable produce supply chain, fresh produce supply chain, and horticultural supply chain.	Ghahremani-Nahr <i>et al.</i> , (2022); Raimbekov <i>et al.</i> , (2024); Pakdel <i>et al.</i> , (2024)
12	ASC comprises the comprehensive continuum from the generation to the utilization of agricultural commodities, incorporating actions such as cultivation, harvesting, processing, distribution, and retailing, as well as the contracts and accords established among the involved parties	Sajedi <i>et al.</i> , (2020)
13	The ASC constitutes a comprehensive network comprising producers, processors, wholesalers, importers and exporters, retailers along with specialized retail establishments, suppliers of inputs, logistics service providers, public sector organizations and labor unions, in addition to the requisite infrastructure for both public and private transportation and storage facilities.	Lin <i>et al.</i> , (2018)

In conclusion, this study combines both quantitative (bibliometric) and qualitative (content analysis) in a rigorous manner to guarantee the completeness and accuracy of the findings. The application of a strict screening process helps collect important information on research trends, key contributions, and potential areas for future study in the domain of LN for agricultural products.

### 3. LOGISTICS NETWORK FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 3.1. Various definitions of logistics network

The research findings from the literature indicate that authors have different definitions of the logistics network (LN) depending on the perspective of each study. Table 3 shows that there are many definitions of LN and some key points of these definitions. Some authors focus on the physical structure of the logistics network (LN), such as distribution centers, warehouses, and consolidation points (Zhang *et al.*, 2020; Shu *et al.*, 2013; Pérez-Mesa *et al.*,

2012; Huang *et al.*, 2020). Many studies emphasize the relationships between the components of the LN (Albrecht & Steinrücke, 2018; Lin *et al.*, 2017; Lin *et al.*, 2018). Some studies have expanded the concept of LN into Logistics Supply Chain (LSC). According to these studies, LN is not limited to transportation activities but also includes the process of network planning, scheduling, warehouse management, and distribution (Sheikholeslami & Zarrinrou, 2023; Fu *et al.*, 2017).

In recent years (2020 – 2024), many studies have expanded the concept of LN. These concepts not only focus on the physical structure but also integrate digital technology, big data, and smart supply chain management (Raimbekov *et al.*, 2024; Chen & Zhao, 2023; Trinh & Chuyen, 2024). Most definitions of LN primarily refer to transportation and distribution processes, while studies on LN in the agricultural supply chain (ASC) emphasize the entire cycle from production, harvesting, storage, transportation, to consumption (Ghahremani-Nahr *et al.*, 2022; Raimbekov *et al.*, 2024; Pakdel *et al.*, 2024).

**Table 4.** Characteristics of logistics networks

No.	Characteristics and Applications	Source
1	ASC is often complex due to the seasonal nature of production, varying production times, low product standardization, and limitations in trade and storage.	Ghahremani-Nahr <i>et al.</i> , (2022)
2	The logistics network is often complex due to the requirements for temperature control and transportation time to ensure product quality.	Albrecht & Steinrücke, (2018); Cruz <i>et al.</i> , (2019)
3	The logistics supply chain for perishable products often faces many challenges due to their perishable nature, short shelf life, and uncertainty regarding factors such as weather and pricing.	Shirzadi <i>et al.</i> , (2021); Yang & Chen, (2021)
4	Agricultural supply chains often face numerous risks due to seasonality, weather conditions, and price fluctuations. Many agricultural products are perishable, requiring special measures for preservation and transportation.	Cruz <i>et al.</i> , (2019); de Keizer <i>et al.</i> , (2015); La Scalia <i>et al.</i> , (2016); Shirzadi <i>et al.</i> , (2021)
5	ASC has several characteristics, including raw materials sourced directly from farms; short shelf life and perishable nature; demand and prices for agricultural products can fluctuate depending on the season and market conditions; and the need for traceability.	Shu <i>et al.</i> , (2013); Pakdel <i>et al.</i> , (2024); Orjuela-Castro <i>et al.</i> , (2022)
6	The LN is essential in designing and optimizing the supply chain, especially for perishable products. Optimizing the logistics network can help reduce costs, minimize carbon emissions, and improve product quality.	Azab <i>et al.</i> , (2023); Fleischmann <i>et al.</i> , (2000); Ghahremani-Nahr <i>et al.</i> , (2022); Hiassat <i>et al.</i> , (2017); Agahgolnezhad Gerdroodbari <i>et al.</i> , (2021); Abbasian <i>et al.</i> , (2023)
7	The Logistics Supply Chain (LSC) includes freight movement, storage operations, stock control, and data management	Orjuela Castro <i>et al.</i> , (2021); Kailaku <i>et al.</i> , (2022); Dwivedi <i>et al.</i> , (2020); Yuniarti <i>et al.</i> , (2023); Soysal <i>et al.</i> , (2018); Soysal <i>et al.</i> , (2015); Soysal <i>et al.</i> , (2014)
8	The LSC can be improved by enhancing collaboration between e-commerce platforms and logistics businesses, as well as utilizing information technology and the Internet.	Hu, (2024); Hasani <i>et al.</i> , (2012)
9	The ASC has a significant impact on food accessibility and sustainability, nutritional well-being, and the livelihoods of millions of farmers	Rashvand Falari <i>et al.</i> , (2024); Chuyen <i>et al.</i> (2024)

A review of the literature shows that studies approach the issue in diverse ways and highlight the importance of optimizing the logistics network (as presented in Table 4). Some studies focus on analyzing seasonal factors and the short-lived characteristics of products (Ghahremani-Nahr *et al.*, 2022; Pakdel *et al.*, 2024), while other authors emphasize the special requirements for preserving agricultural products, such as temperature control and the duration of product transportation (Albrecht & Steinrücke, 2018; Cruz *et al.*, 2019). This highlights the diversity in research approaches to logistics networks, from the perspective of agricultural supply chain (ASC) management to the optimization of logistics networks in general. Additionally, studies by Azab *et al.* (2023) and Fleischmann *et al.* (2000) emphasize that optimizing logistics networks not only helps reduce costs but also minimizes environmental impacts and contributes to improving product quality. This indicates that current research on logistics networks not only focuses on performance but also on sustainability and green development.

Studies on logistics networks also emphasize the important impact of digital technologies on logistics optimization. Some studies (Orjuela Castro *et al.*, 2021; Kailaku *et al.*, 2022; Dwivedi *et al.*, 2020; Yuniarti *et al.*, 2023; Soysal *et al.*, 2018; Soysal *et al.*, 2015; Soysal *et al.*, 2014) describe the logistics network as an integrated system that encompasses freight movement, storage solutions, stock control, and data management. Furthermore, other studies (Hu, 2024; Hasani *et al.*, 2012) propose strengthening cooperation between e-commerce

platforms and logistics companies as an important direction for the future. Many studies also emphasize the importance of food security (Rashvand Falari *et al.*, 2024; Chuyen *et al.*, 2024) in the context of global food supply chains, which are increasingly impacted by factors such as climate change, economic crises, and global instability.

The research from the literature also reveals that there are certain limitations in the definitions of LN. Many definitions are still general and fail to distinguish between traditional logistics networks and smart logistics networks (Gumzej, 2023; Lei *et al.*, 2022; Kalkha *et al.*, 2023). The intelligent logistics system employs advanced technologies to enhance coordination, transparency, and interoperability, enabling efficient movement and management of goods, improving responsiveness to customer demands, and boosting business competitiveness. In contrast, traditional logistics networks typically rely on manual processes, manual labor, low levels of information technology, and limited communication, resulting in inefficiencies, prolonged procurement cycles, and high operational costs (Gumzej, 2023). Distinguishing between traditional and intelligent logistics networks is critical as it directly affects operational efficiency, costs, and business competitiveness in the context of a globalized market (Lei *et al.*, 2022). Furthermore, adopting intelligent networks can promote sustainable development, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance corporate social responsibility. The consequence of failing to transition to an intelligent model is that businesses may lose their competitive edge in the rapidly growing e-commerce landscape, where customers demand fast and transparent delivery (Kalkha *et al.*, 2023).

**Table 5.** Definitions related to agricultural products

No.	Definition of agricultural products (AP)	Authors
1	APs are derived from farming practices such as crop production, animal husbandry, and fish farming	Ghahremani-Nahr <i>et al.</i> , (2022); Cruz <i>et al.</i> , (2019); Sajedi <i>et al.</i> , (2020); Wu, (2023); Ahumada & Villalobos, (2011)
2	AP can be raw materials such as grains, vegetables, and fruits, or manufactured goods like packaged snacks, bottled juices, and preserved foods	Saffari <i>et al.</i> , (2023)
3	AP can include various types such as vegetables, fruits, meat, eggs, milk, seafood, and grains.	Allaoui <i>et al.</i> , (2018); Baghizadeh <i>et al.</i> , (2022)
4	FAP are characterized by a short shelf life, difficulty in preservation, and high perishability; the aspect of freshness constitutes a significant variable that impacts consumer purchasing behavior, alongside the factor of price.	Agahgolnezhad Gerdrodbari <i>et al.</i> , (2021); Abbasian <i>et al.</i> , (2023); Talkhestani <i>et al.</i> , (2022)
5	Perishable products are items with a short shelf life and whose quality deteriorates over time.	Mohammadi <i>et al.</i> , (2023); Yakavenka <i>et al.</i> , (2020); Shu <i>et al.</i> , (2013); Wang <i>et al.</i> , (2021); Belamkar <i>et al.</i> , (2023); Ji <i>et al.</i> , (2021); Orjuela-Castro <i>et al.</i> , (2023); Allaoui <i>et al.</i> , (2018)
6	Perishable products can include fresh foods such as fruits, vegetables, meat, seafood, and dairy products.	Golestani <i>et al.</i> , (2021)
7	A product is defined as perishable if at least one of the following conditions occurs during the handling process: (1) its quality or quantity significantly decreases, (2) its value decreases over time, and (3) its reduced functionality leads to hazardous consequences.	Hiassat <i>et al.</i> , (2017)
8	Perishable products need to be transported and stored in low-temperature environments to maintain quality and extend shelf life. Managing the supply chain for perishable products requires careful planning of transportation and inventory to minimize spoilage and preserve the value of the products.	Mohammadi & Nikzad, (2023)
9	The agricultural logistics network is a complex system that includes operations related to the production and distribution of agricultural or horticultural products from farms to end users.	Fleischmann <i>et al.</i> , (2000); Abbasi <i>et al.</i> , (2021); He, (2020)

There is also a lack of clarity between regional logistics networks and global logistics networks, despite this being an important factor in LN research. Global logistics helps balance the supply and demand for food but faces major challenges such as high transportation costs and risks from climate change, with losses for fruits and vegetables reaching up to 50-60%. Regional logistics, through infrastructure improvements and packaging standards, can significantly reduce losses while enhancing local distribution efficiency (FAO, 2022). According to GTS (2024), 10% of global trade involves agricultural commodities, with global logistics playing a crucial role in transitioning from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture. However, regional logistics helps reduce transportation costs and damage, particularly for perishable products, supports local economies, and promotes sustainable development.

In the era of Industry 4.0, it is necessary to update the content regarding the influence of artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and big data on LN management. According to Chuyen *et al.* (2024), these technologies help address issues such as food safety, sustainability, and increasing demand. Gumzej (2023) emphasizes that the Intelligent Logistics System (iLS), with smart agents and Big Data, enables route optimization and process automation, reducing transportation costs and delivery times. Kalkha *et al.* (2023) add that IoT and Blockchain

provide real-time tracking and traceability, ensuring food safety and building consumer trust. While digital technologies (such as AI, IoT, Blockchain, and cloud computing) are key components of Industry 4.0, they differ in approach and level of integration. Digital technologies often focus on individual solutions, such as using AI for demand forecasting or IoT for tracking shipments (Gumzej, 2023). In contrast, Industry 4.0 represents an integrated ecosystem, where these digital technologies are combined with elements like automation, Big Data analytics, and autonomous systems to create superior value (Chuyen *et al.*, 2024).

### 3.2. Various reported definitions of agricultural products

The synthesis of research results from various sources, as presented in Table 5, shows that authors have different perspectives on the definition of “agricultural product”, reflecting the diversity of types and uses. Authors such as Ghahremani-Nahr *et al.* (2022), Cruz *et al.* (2019), Sajedi *et al.* (2020), Wu (2023), and Ahumada & Villalobos (2011) emphasize that agricultural products include crops, livestock, and aquaculture. In contrast, other studies specify agricultural products to include vegetables, fruits, meat, milk, grains, and seafood (Saffari *et al.*, 2023; Allaoui *et al.*, 2018; Baghizadeh *et al.*, 2022).

Researchers like Agahgolnezhad Gerdrodbari *et al.* (2021), Abbasian *et al.* (2023), and Talkhestani *et al.*

**Table 6.** Characteristics of agricultural products

No.	Characteristics of Agricultural Products (AP)	Authors
1	AP, especially fresh ones, are perishable, have a short lifespan, quality deteriorates over time, are sensitive to environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity, and are prone to post-harvest losses	Abbasian <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Belamkar <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Daneshvar <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Ghahremani-Nahr <i>et al.</i> , 2022; He, 2020; Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024; Saffari <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Sajedi <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Talkhestani <i>et al.</i> , 2022; Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Zhou <i>et al.</i> , 2024; Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2023
2	AP have uncertain quality, fluctuate over time, are inconsistent, depend on shelf life, and may vary in different quality levels	Ahumada & Villalobos, 2011; Allaoui <i>et al.</i> , 2018; Cruz <i>et al.</i> , 2019; Daneshvar <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Ji <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Mohammadi & Nikzad, 2023; Mohammadi <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Sajedi <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Sun <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Xu <i>et al.</i> , 2019; Yakavenka <i>et al.</i> , 2020
3	AP require temperature control, careful quality management, cold chain, and accurate transportation time to maintain quality and reduce losses, due to their sensitivity to environmental conditions and time.	Agahgolnezhad Gerdodbari <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Costopoulou & Lambrou, 2000; Ghahremani-Nahr <i>et al.</i> , 2022; He, 2020; Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024; Orjuela-Castro <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Sajedi <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Yao <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2023
4	Agricultural production is influenced by seasonality, weather, pests, and uncertain market demand, leading to fluctuations in yield and prices	Ahumada <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Costopoulou & Lambrou, 2000; Daneshvar <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Hu, 2024; Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2021
5	Agricultural logistics is closely related to the geographic/climatic characteristics of the region, through a network of dispersed facilities (farms, collection centers, distribution, warehouses, retailers) and interregional/international transportation, influenced by distance, infrastructure, and transportation conditions	Belamkar <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Daneshvar <i>et al.</i> , 2023; He, 2020; Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024; Hu, 2024; Ji <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Saffari <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Wu, 2023; Xu <i>et al.</i> , 2019; Yao <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Zhou <i>et al.</i> , 2024; Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2023
6	Agricultural logistics requires network design and optimal location decisions based on distance, spoilage rates, regional characteristics, and transportation speed to reduce costs and losses	Abbasian <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Agahgolnezhad Gerdodbari <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Ji <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Mohammadi & Nikzad, 2023; Orjuela-Castro <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Saffari <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Talkhestani <i>et al.</i> , 2022; Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Yakavenka <i>et al.</i> , 2020
7	AP play a crucial role in maximizing profits, increasing farmers' income, and improving livelihoods, especially for small-scale farmers	Belamkar <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Costopoulou & Lambrou, 2000; He, 2020; Hu, 2024; Sun <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Talkhestani <i>et al.</i> , 2022; Wu, 2023; Yakavenka <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Yao <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Zhou <i>et al.</i> , 2024
8	Optimizing agricultural logistics aims to reduce transportation costs, storage costs, post-harvest losses, and stockouts, while enhancing supply chain efficiency	Ahumada & Villalobos, 2011; Costopoulou & Lambrou, 2000; Daneshvar <i>et al.</i> , 2023; He, 2020; Hu, 2024; Ji <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Mohammadi & Nikzad, 2023; Mohammadi <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Sun <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Xu <i>et al.</i> , 2019; Yao <i>et al.</i> , 2023
9	Agricultural logistics contributes to creating job opportunities, reducing lost labor days, supporting rural economies, and promoting local economic development	Belamkar <i>et al.</i> , 2023; He, 2020; Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024; Mohammadi & Nikzad, 2023; Mohammadi <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Saffari <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Sun <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Yakavenka <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Yao <i>et al.</i> , 2023
10	AP play a crucial role in ensuring food safety, food security, and consumer health	Ahumada <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Allaoui <i>et al.</i> , 2018; Daneshvar <i>et al.</i> , 2023; He, 2020; Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024; Mohammadi & Nikzad, 2023; Orjuela-Castro <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Saffari <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Sun <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Yakavenka <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2023
11	Agricultural logistics needs to balance economic, environmental, and social factors, aiming for sustainable development, reducing carbon emissions, minimizing pollution, and enhancing social responsibility	Daneshvar <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Ji <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Mohammadi <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Orjuela-Castro <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Saffari <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Talkhestani <i>et al.</i> , 2022; Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Yakavenka <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Zhou <i>et al.</i> , 2024
12	Effective ASC management helps improve product quality, meet consumer demand, and enhance customer satisfaction	Abbasian <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Costopoulou & Lambrou, 2000; Hu, 2024; Ji <i>et al.</i> , 2021; Sun <i>et al.</i> , 2020; Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2023
13	AP often have small, scattered supplies geographically, with low value and small profits, making logistics management challenging	Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024; Wu, 2023; Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2023
14	The ASC needs to be managed to enhance resiliency against risks such as price fluctuations, weather, and environmental conditions	Abbasian <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Ahumada <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Hu, 2024

(2022) emphasize the perishable nature, limited usability period, and strict storage requirements of FAP. Research by Mohammadi *et al.* (2023), Yakavenka *et al.* (2020), Shu *et al.* (2013), Wang *et al.* (2021), Belamkar *et al.* (2023), Ji *et al.* (2021), Orjuela-Castro *et al.* (2023), and Allaoui *et al.* (2018) focuses on the perishability over time and the cold storage requirements of the products. Thus, most definitions of agricultural products recognize that the perishable nature of the product is a characteristic of agricultural goods, which necessitates proper storage and transportation planning.

Additionally, in the study by Hiassat *et al.* (2017), three criteria are provided to determine whether a product can be considered perishable: (1) Decrease in quality or quantity over time, (2) Decrease in market value over time, and (3) Reduction in functionality to a level that poses a risk to consumers. This is seen as a systematic approach that could help classify agricultural products in future studies. To maintain product quality and shelf life, Mohammadi & Nikzad (2023) emphasize that cold storage and transportation under low-temperature conditions are crucial for perishable products.

The results from Table 6 show that agricultural products, particularly fresh ones, have complex characteristics with a short lifespan, perishability (Abbasian *et al.*, 2023; Belamkar *et al.*, 2023; Daneshvar *et al.*, 2023; Ghahremani-Nahr *et al.*, 2022), and fluctuating quality, requiring strict logistics management with cold chains and optimal location decisions to reduce losses (Agahgolnezhad Gerdrodbari *et al.*, 2021; Costopoulou & Lambrou, 2000; Ghahremani-Nahr *et al.*, 2022). Seasonality, small and scattered supplies, and geographic dispersion further increase challenges in transportation and storage (Ahumada *et al.*, 2012; Costopoulou & Lambrou, 2000; Belamkar *et al.*, 2023; Daneshvar *et al.*, 2023; He, 2020; Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024). Socio-economically, agricultural products play an essential role in food security and job creation, while also contributing to increasing farmers' income, rural development, and promoting sustainability through reducing emissions and social responsibility (Ahumada *et al.*, 2012; Allaoui *et al.*, 2018; Daneshvar *et al.*, 2023; He, 2020; Belamkar *et al.*, 2023; Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024). However, the inconsistency in quality and environmental risks require modern, flexible logistics solutions with high resiliency to meet market demand and optimize the supply chain (Cruz *et al.*, 2019; Daneshvar *et al.*, 2023; Ji *et al.*, 2021; Mohammadi & Nikzad, 2023; Mohammadi *et al.*, 2023; Abbasian *et al.*, 2023; Ahumada *et al.*, 2012; Hu, 2024).

## 4. EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS

### 4.1. Research methodology

The results summarized in Table 7 show that, for logistics network for agricultural products, various models have been used to address different research objectives. Specifically, as shown in Table 7, the studies employed mathematical models to tackle the issues. Mathematical Programming Models dominate the literature due to their ability to optimize complex logistics problems. The most common models include:

**Mixed Integer Programming (MIP):** MIP is a broad class of optimization models that combine continuous and integer variables to address problems such as facility location, routing, and scheduling. MIP includes both linear and nonlinear formulations. In the reviewed studies, MIP accounts for 5.4% (9 out of 166 papers), as seen in works like Pitakaso *et al.* (2022); Chen *et al.* (2022); Orjuela-Castro *et al.* (2023); Mohammadi & Nikzad (2023).

**Mixed-Integer Linear Programming (MILP):** A subset of MIP, MILP restricts the objective function and constraints to linear relationships, making it computationally efficient for problems like cost minimization or profit maximization. MILP is the most frequently used model, appearing in 33.1% (55 out of 166 papers), including studies by Fleischmann *et al.* (2000); Hasani *et al.* (2012); de Keizer *et al.* (2015); Rezaei-Malek *et al.* (2016); Daroudi *et al.* (2021). The popularity of MILP stems from its flexibility in handling large-scale logistics problems with discrete decisions.

**Mixed-Integer Nonlinear Programming (MINLP):** Another subset of MIP, MINLP allows nonlinear objective

functions or constraints, suitable for complex problems involving nonlinear relationships. MINLP also accounts for 5.4% (9 out of 166 papers), with examples like Navazi *et al.* (2019); Patidar & Agrawal (2020); Dwivedi *et al.* (2020); Asghari *et al.* (2021). MINLP extends MILP's capabilities but is more computationally intensive.

**Simulation Model (SIM):** Unlike optimization models, SIM replicates system behavior to evaluate scenarios, such as logistics performance under varying conditions. SIM accounts for 4.2% (7 out of 166 papers), with studies like Lütjen *et al.* (2013); La Scalia *et al.* (2016); Xu *et al.* (2019); Perdana *et al.* (2023); Miao & Ni (2023); Jin (2024). SIM is particularly useful for testing network resilience without requiring a strict optimization framework.

**Linear Programming (LP):** LP involves continuous variables and linear constraints, typically applied to simpler optimization problems (such as in studies by Munhoz & Morabito, 2014; Ji *et al.*, 2021). LP is less common due to its inability to handle discrete decisions, which are common in logistics networks.

**Inventory Routing Problem (IRP):** IRP combines inventory management and vehicle routing, focusing on optimizing delivery schedules for perishable products (e.g. Soysal *et al.*, 2015; Soysal *et al.*, 2018). IRP is a distinct model but can be formulated as an MILP or MINLP.

**Genetic Algorithm (GA):** GA is a heuristic optimization technique inspired by natural evolution, used to solve complex, nonlinear problems where exact methods are computationally infeasible (studies like Malashin *et al.*, 2024; Wang, 2022; Nanthasamroeng *et al.*, 2022). GA complements mathematical programming by providing approximate solutions for large-scale problems.

**Bi-level Programming:** A specialized form of MIP, bi-level programming models hierarchical decision-making, where an upper-level decision (e.g., network design) influences lower-level decisions (e.g., routing). This approach often falls under MIP but is distinguished by its multi-level structure.

**Stochastic Programming:** This method incorporates random variables to handle uncertainties, such as demand fluctuations or transportation times. Stochastic programming can be integrated into MILP, MIP, or MINLP frameworks, depending on the problem's structure. Its overlap with other models depends on whether the underlying formulation is linear or nonlinear.

In addition, an overview of other studies in the 166 documents shows various methods used in many studies. For instance, in the studies by Wang *et al.*, (2024); Zhu *et al.*, (2023), the “bi-level programming model” was used to plan convenient delivery routes for multi-point deliveries and to design the early-stage cold chain logistics network for AP. Additionally, in other studies, the authors used regression analysis methods to identify the relationship between cooperation and the operational efficiency of suppliers of perishable fruits and vegetables; identify ways to diversify sales channels; build logistics networks for agricultural products; and organize and efficiently arrange logistics infrastructure for the storage, marketing, and business of agricultural food products (Zhang & Li, 2023; Yao *et al.*, 2023; Raimbekov *et al.*, 2024; Pu *et al.*, 2021). In the studies by Chen *et al.*, (2018); Violi *et al.*, (2024),

the “Stochastic Programming” method was used to build models for optimal distribution and inventory planning over a short or medium time period. Many other studies also applied methods such as information synthesis, analysis, evaluation, descriptive statistics, reliability testing, value analysis, and factor analysis to evaluate and analyze the cold chain logistics in the agricultural sector; identify areas for improvement in the current cold chain logistics system; and assess the factors affecting logistics service quality (LSQ) in the e-commerce of fresh products (Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024; Wang *et al.*, 2024; de Keizer *et al.*, 2015; Tyukhtenko *et al.*, 2024; Pal & Kant, 2019; Wu, 2023; Hammond *et al.*, 2022; Zhao *et al.*, 2022).

An analysis of 166 studies reveals clear trends in method selection. MILP dominates (33.1%) due to its computational efficiency and ability to model discrete decisions in large-scale logistics networks, particularly for perishable products such as fruits, vegetables, and meat (Table 7). MIP and MINLP, though less common (each accounting for 5.4%), are preferred for problems requiring flexibility (MIP) or nonlinear relationships (MINLP), such as quality degradation or complex cost structures. Time-based trends in research methods show notable changes. From 2000 to 2010, simpler models such as LP were applied (Fleischmann *et al.*, 2000), focusing on cost optimization. From 2011 to 2020, the use of MILP surged (e.g., Hasani *et al.*, 2012; de Keizer *et al.*, 2015; Rezaei-Malek *et al.*, 2016), reflecting an increasing focus on multi-product logistics and perishable goods. After 2020, more advanced methods emerged, including MINLP (e.g., Asghari *et al.*, 2021), stochastic programming (e.g., Violi *et al.*, 2024), and GA (e.g., Malashin *et al.*, 2024), aimed at addressing uncertainties and nonlinear dynamics. This development aligns with the growing complexity of supply chains, driven by globalization, e-commerce, and the demand for sustainability.

#### 4.2 Research Objectives

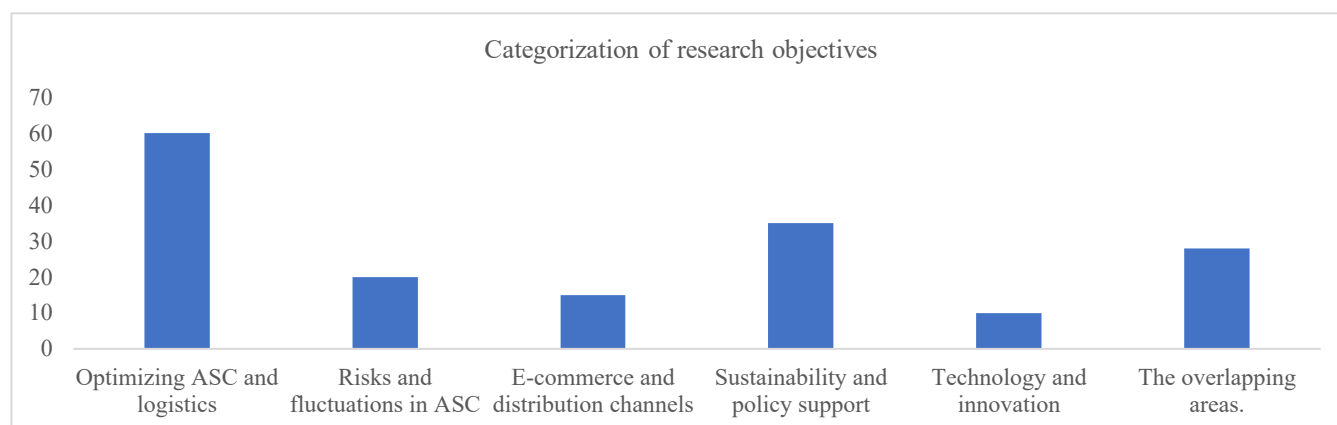
A synthesis of the literature indicates that authors employ various models to optimize objectives related to cost, profit, and environmental and social impacts. The results from Table 7 reveal that among these objectives, most authors focus on maximizing profit and minimizing production, transportation, and storage costs (Fleischmann *et al.*, 2000; Ahumada & Villalobos, 2011; Pérez-Mesa *et al.*, 2012; Rezaei-Malek *et al.*, 2016; Cruz *et al.*, 2019; Liao *et al.*, 2020; Asghari *et al.*, 2021; Talkhestani *et al.*, 2022; Rahbari *et al.*, 2023; Gholian-Jouybari *et al.*, 2024; Shafiee Motlaq-Kashani *et al.*, 2025, and others). Environmental impact and emissions reduction goals are also emphasized in studies by Soysal *et al.*, (2014); Soysal *et al.*, (2015); Allaoui *et al.*, (2018); Roghanian & Cheraghalipou, (2019); Biuki *et al.*, (2020); Ji *et al.*, (2021); Meidute-Kavaliauskiene *et al.*, (2022); Drogenik *et al.*, (2023); and Aghajani *et al.*, (2024). Regarding social impact objectives, several notable studies include those by Allaoui *et al.*, (2018); Navazi *et al.*, (2019); Biuki *et al.*, (2020); Agahgolnezhad Gerdrodbari *et al.*, (2021); Orjuela-Castro *et al.*, (2023); Ahvan *et al.*, (2024), among others. Notably, authors have utilized models such as

MILP, MIP, MCDM, and MINLP to simultaneously optimize all three objectives (social, environmental, and profit-related) (Allaoui *et al.*, 2018; Navazi *et al.*, 2019; Biuki *et al.*, 2020; Yakavenka *et al.*, 2020; Mohebalizadehgashti *et al.*, 2020; Sajedi *et al.*, 2020; Jouzdani & Govindan, 2021; Drogenik *et al.*, 2023; Mohammadi *et al.*, 2023; Mohammadi & Nikzad, 2023; Aghajani *et al.*, 2024; Ahvan *et al.*, 2024; Gholian-Jouybari *et al.*, 2024; Pan & Shan, 2024).

Moreover, Table 7 also presents other objectives that studies have focused on, such as minimizing total distribution time (Li *et al.*, 2019; Wang *et al.*, 2021; Li & Shi, 2024; Wang, 2022; Chen *et al.*, 2022; Daroudi *et al.*, 2021); Improving the smart capabilities of fresh food e-commerce logistics networks (Zhang *et al.*, 2020); optimizing the coordination of barges and tugboats per trip along with key supply chain decisions (Aghalari *et al.*, 2020); ensuring product quality (Golestani *et al.*, 2021; La Scalia *et al.*, 2016; de Keizer *et al.*, 2015); minimizing product waste (Khalafi *et al.*, 2020); and reducing average response time (Rezaei-Malek *et al.*, 2016). On the other hand, studies have also aimed to optimize objectives such as minimizing the number of refrigerated vehicles used in the fresh logistics distribution network (Wang *et al.*, 2021); minimizing value loss (Zhang & Li, 2023); determining location, allocation, inventory, and routing planning (Aloui *et al.*, 2021); and minimizing the loss of product value during transportation (Li & Zhao, 2023; Patidar & Agrawal, 2020; Biza *et al.*, 2024; Orjuela-Castro *et al.*, 2023). Additionally, other objectives include maximizing the total coverage of the network (Sheikholeslami & Zarrinpoor, 2023); predicting product prices (Miao & Ni, 2023; Jin, 2024); evaluating the efficiency of logistics networks and identifying the minimal product loss flow (Lozano & Adenso-Diaz, 2018; Su *et al.*, 2022); optimizing supplier reliability in providing raw materials to manufacturers (Hashemi-Amiri *et al.*, 2023); forecasting future sales volumes for each seller cluster (Shi, 2024); and modeling how prices and product flows interact across different supply and demand markets (Nagurney & Besik, 2022).

In many other studies, research objectives are also highly diverse. These objectives are categorized into groups such as: the group focusing on optimizing agricultural supply chains and logistics; the group studying risks and fluctuations in agricultural supply chains; the group examining e-commerce and agricultural product distribution channels; the group analyzing sustainability and policy support for agricultural supply chains; and the group investigating technology and innovation in agricultural logistics.

Within the group focusing on optimizing ASC and logistics, notable objectives include: optimizing multi-point delivery routes and reducing operational costs (Wang *et al.*, 2024; Li, 2022; Esmizadeh & Mellat Parast, 2021); planning production and distribution to enhance the efficiency of perishable product supply chains (Boudahri *et al.*, 2013; Sinaga *et al.*, 2022; Raimbekov *et al.*, 2024); developing cold chain logistics systems to improve the preservation and transportation of agricultural products



**Figure 3.** Categorization of the research objectives of the paper

(Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024; Huang *et al.*, 2020; He, 2020; Fan *et al.*, 2024); developing product status tracking systems for better cargo monitoring (Woo *et al.*, 2009); and building optimal inventory models that account for factors such as storage, deterioration over time, and transportation costs (Lejarza & Baldea, 2022; Yang *et al.*, 2019; Claassen *et al.*, 2024; Violi *et al.*, 2024).

*The research group on risks and fluctuations in ASC:* This group focuses on identifying and assessing risks that may affect the ASC, covering risks related to logistics and infrastructure; market-related risks; risks in cold chain logistics networks (Nguyen, 2022; Zheng *et al.*, 2021); risks from COVID-19 and its impact on agricultural supply, distribution, and consumption (Sharma *et al.*, 2024); flood risks and their effects on the sustainability of ASC (Yazdani *et al.*, 2021); risks from cross-border e-commerce logistics, particularly issues related to the movement of goods between countries (Hu, 2024); and evaluating agricultural supply chain dynamics, including factors influencing logistics service quality (LSQ) (Wang *et al.*, 2024; Fu *et al.*, 2017; Ramos *et al.*, 2022; Wang & Gao, 2024).

*The research group on e-commerce and agricultural product distribution channels:* Studies in this group focus on selecting optimal distribution channels for AP in the context of e-commerce (Song & He, 2019; Yan *et al.*, 2021; Li *et al.*, 2022; Wu, 2023; Zheng *et al.*, 2019; Pérez-Mesa *et al.*, 2021); the impact of cold chain logistics on e-commerce channels for FAP (Hu, 2023); and developing virtual agricultural market models to better connect farmers with consumers (Costopoulou & Lambrou, 2000).

*The research group on sustainability and policy support for ASC:* This group aims to develop sustainable supply chain models, including evaluating the impact of government subsidies on cold chain logistics development (Zhu *et al.*, 2023); designing ASC ecosystems based on coordination between farmers, businesses, and stakeholders (Lingjuan *et al.*, 2018; Sun *et al.*, 2020; Zhou *et al.*, 2024; Zhang & Li, 2023; Yao *et al.*, 2023; Okdinawati *et al.*, 2020; Chen & Zhao, 2023; Cai *et al.*, 2013; Liu *et al.*, 2018; Bourlakis & Bourlakis, 2005); identifying barriers to cold chain logistics development and proposing solutions (Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024); analyzing and recommending solutions to enhance the efficiency of agricultural supply chains (Feng *et al.*, 2023; de Keizer *et al.*, 2015; Tyukhtenko *et al.*, 2024; Zhuang *et al.*, 2022; Pu *et al.*, 2021; Hammond *et al.*, 2022; Zhao *et al.*, 2022; Kumar & Kumar Singh, 2022; Fan *et al.*, 2021; Adugna *et al.*, 2023; Chen *et al.*, 2018).

*The research group on technology and innovation in agricultural logistics:* These studies focus on applying technology to logistics and agricultural supply chains, including using blockchain for product tracking to increase transparency and traceability (Niu *et al.*, 2021; Li *et al.*, 2023); developing smart logistics systems that utilize big data and AI to optimize supply chains (Zhu, 2024; Hemmelgarn *et al.*, 2023; Pal & Kant, 2019); and applying artificial neural networks to optimize logistics hub locations (Hu, 2023).

Figure 3 highlights a strong focus on logistics optimization (60/166 articles) and sustainability (35/166 articles), reflecting the need to enhance efficiency and reduce environmental impact. The risk (20 articles), e-commerce (15 articles), and technology (10 articles) groups receive less attention, indicating research gaps, particularly in digital transformation and e-commerce. The overlap of 28 articles across groups demonstrates interdisciplinary research, but deeper integration is needed to address the complex challenges of the agricultural supply chain (ASC).

Overall, these studies have high practical significance, especially as agricultural supply chains are increasingly affected by climate fluctuations and market demands. At the same time, the integration of artificial intelligence, blockchain, and smart logistics systems is an important research direction pursued by scholars to improve supply chain efficiency. Furthermore, risk assessment helps stakeholders in the supply chain develop appropriate response strategies to market changes. The synthesis results also indicate that many studies focus on e-commerce and product distribution channels in the context of global e-commerce. Technology application is also a highly regarded research direction, particularly in blockchain, big data, and AI. Lastly, assessing and analyzing conditions to propose policies and strategies for developing sustainable supply chains is also a topic of interest among many researchers.

**4.3 Product Type**  
 A synthesis of the literature shows that approximately 42.2% of research studies are based on multi-product analysis (including 70 out of 166 documents). The

remaining studies focus on a single product or a case study of a specific enterprise within the agricultural logistics network. The summary results from Table 7 also indicate that researchers focus on product categories such as fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, seafood, staple foods, and flowers. Among these, vegetables are the most studied product, accounting for approximately 25% (Jing & Mu, 2020; Patidar & Agrawal, 2020; Solina & Mirabelli, 2021; Pitakaso *et al.*, 2022; Chen & Chen, 2023; Khazaeli *et al.*, 2024, and others). Next, fruits are also extensively researched, comprising about 23.9% (including studies by Pérez-Mesa *et al.*, 2012; Ahumada *et al.*, 2012; Roghanian & Cheraghalipou, 2019; Liao *et al.*, 2020; Orjuela-Castro *et al.*, 2022, and others).

Additionally, meat and meat products have been widely studied, accounting for approximately 13% (Soysal *et al.*, 2014; Mohebalizadehgashti *et al.*, 2020; Daroudi *et al.*, 2021; Mohammadi *et al.*, 2023; Jin, 2024; Miao & Ni, 2023, and others). Milk is also a product of interest, making up around 12% (Rezaei-Malek *et al.*, 2016; Yavari & Geraeli, 2019; Khalafi *et al.*, 2020; Jouzdani & Govindan, 2021; Talouki *et al.*, 2021; Meidute-Kavaliauskiene *et al.*, 2022; Abbasian *et al.*, 2023, and many other studies). Moreover, other products have also been studied, such as seafood (Pan *et al.*, 2022; Wang, 2022; Li *et al.*, 2019) and flowers (de Keizer *et al.*, 2015; de Keizer *et al.*, 2017; Antonio Violi *et al.*, 2024), along with other products like coffee, staple crops, and various types of seeds. These results indicate that vegetables, fruits, meat, and meat products are essential in maintaining the long-term viability of the ASC.

In many documents related to the topic, authors employ various methods to achieve their research objectives. At the same time, the research subjects are highly diverse. The studied products include: FAP in general (Fresh agricultural products, Perishable products, Fresh products, etc.) (Chen *et al.*, 2018; Wang *et al.*, 2024; Lejarza & Baldea, 2022; Tyukhtenko *et al.*, 2024; Khalili-Fard *et al.*, 2024; Zhuang *et al.*, 2022; Zheng *et al.*, 2021, etc.); logistics networks, agricultural supply chains, and agricultural product logistics (Fresh food, Perishable agri-food products, etc.) (Raimbekov *et al.*, 2024; Niu *et al.*, 2021; Zhu, 2024; Fan *et al.*, 2024); and cold supply chains (Cold supply chain, Cold chain logistics) (Huaizhi & Abdullah, 2024; He, 2020). Additionally, some studies focus on businesses operating within the agricultural supply chain (Nguyen, 2022; Sharma *et al.*, 2024). In general, beyond research focusing on specific products such as blueberries (Sun *et al.*, 2020), tomatoes, onions, and garlic (Adugna *et al.*, 2023), and apples (Feng *et al.*, 2023), many studies also examine the structure of the entire agricultural supply chain or businesses operating within the logistics network. This indicates the diversity of research subjects across various studies.

#### 4.4. Overview of Software and Tools

Systematizing the literature shows that authors use various software and tools to address different research objectives, including CPLEX, LINGO, Gurobi, MATLAB, OpenSolver, Python, and SPSS. Among them, CPLEX is the most frequently used software to solve optimization problems and handle models such as MILP,

MIP, and MCDM (Ahumada & Villalobos, 2011; Soysal *et al.*, 2014; La Scalia *et al.*, 2016; Allaoui *et al.*, 2018; and many other studies). IBM ILOG CPLEX is a powerful optimization tool widely recognized for its advanced capabilities in solving complex Linear Programming (LP) and Mixed-Integer Programming (MIP) problems. Its Academic Research version provides free access for educational and non-commercial research, encouraging its use in academic environments. CPLEX's powerful C++ API facilitates the implementation of various constraints and optimization techniques, making it appropriate for numerous applications (Kucharczak *et al.*, 2012). The studies of Hasani *et al.* (2012), Patidar & Agrawal (2020), Mohebalizadehgashti *et al.* (2020), and Dwivedi *et al.* (2020) used LINGO software to solve optimization problems related to costs, profits, environmental impacts, or social objectives. Additionally, MATLAB software has shown its effectiveness in handling models such as LRP (Wang *et al.*, 2018), Bayesian network models (Zhang *et al.*, 2020), MOPSO (Sajedi *et al.*, 2020), and even MILP models (Tabatabaei *et al.*, 2021). This indicates that MATLAB has various features that cater to different models. Simulation tools like FlexSim and ProModel are also used, reflecting some studies that combine simulation to verify the feasibility of models (Xu *et al.*, 2019; Jin, 2024). Other tools are also employed to handle research models, such as Gurobi (Aghalari *et al.*, 2020; Ji *et al.*, 2021; Estes *et al.*, 2021; Orjuela-Castro *et al.*, 2022) or Microsoft Excel software, which is used to solve optimization problems (Al-Ashhab *et al.*, 2021).

Overall, Mixed-Integer Linear Programming (MILP, 33.1%) is the most prevalent method in ASC research, particularly in the optimization group (60/166 papers), focusing on cost and profit maximization for vegetables (25%) and fruits (23.9%). CPLEX and Gurobi dominate these studies due to their computational efficiency in handling large-scale logistics models. In sustainability research (35/166 papers), LINGO is widely used for Mixed-Integer Nonlinear Programming (MINLP) models, addressing environmental and social objectives, often for meat (13%) and dairy (12%). Technology and innovation studies (10/166 papers) prefer MATLAB and Python for AI, big data, and blockchain applications, primarily targeting fresh agricultural products in e-commerce contexts. Simulation tools like FlexSim and ProModel are common in risk and fluctuation studies (20/166 papers), evaluating logistics resilience for perishable goods like meat and vegetables. E-commerce research (15/166 papers) leverages MATLAB and Python for virtual market models. CPLEX leads in optimization-heavy studies, while MATLAB and Python are emerging in technology-driven and e-commerce research. These trends reflect a clear alignment between methods, software, and product types, with vegetables and fruits driving optimization efforts, while technology focuses on digital transformation across diverse products.

## 5. DISCUSSION

### 5.1. Synthesis of Key Findings

This study synthesized and analyzed 166 academic articles published from 2000 to January 2025, using a bibliometric analysis combined with a systematic review

to explore the LN for AP. The results reveal a significant increase in the number of publications in this field, especially from 2021 to 2024, with China leading the way, followed by the United States, India, Iran, and Indonesia.

The logistics network is not solely a physical framework (like warehouses and distribution centers) but also a cohesive system that integrates digital technologies, big data, and smart supply chains. The ASC encompasses the complete journey from production and processing to inspection, packaging, transportation, distribution, and marketing. This chain is characterized by various complexities, including seasonality, a lack of standardization, and risks associated with weather patterns and pricing. Agricultural products, such as raw materials (grains, vegetables, fruits) and processed items (snacks, juices), are especially perishable, necessitating cold storage and meticulous management to reduce losses.

The research utilized optimization models like MILP (33.1%), MIP (5.4%), and MINLP (5.4%), as well as other frameworks such as SIM, LP, IRP, and GA, to achieve supply chain optimization goals, including cost reduction, profit maximization, and the minimization of environmental and social impacts. The research aims were grouped into five primary categories: logistics optimization (60 papers), sustainability (35 papers), risk assessment (20 papers), e-commerce (15 papers), and technological innovation (10 papers). Technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, and big data were highlighted as means to improve efficiency and sustainability. The primary products analyzed included vegetables (25%), fruits (23.9%), meat (13%), and dairy (12%). Various software tools, including CPLEX, LINGO, MATLAB, Gurobi, and Python, were employed to solve optimization and simulation challenges.

### 5.2. Limitations of the Study

Even though studies on logistics networks for agricultural products have achieved significant results, there are still some limitations in terms of data review and synthesis, as well as analysis that need to be addressed. These limitations are related to data and the generalization capability of the problem, or they are linked to the methodology and scalability of the research. Specifically, the limitations are as follows.

Firstly, some articles related to LN for AP may have been overlooked in this review due to limitations in the search methodology or the accessibility of data sources. A significant amount of data may have been missed. Therefore, this review does not fully reflect all the issues in the research. Additionally, the study only synthesizes data from articles published in reputable journals, so it may have overlooked papers, conference papers, or book chapters from other journals. Thus, the results presented do not fully reflect the research issues. At the same time, many authors, when conducting research, have proposed different perspectives on the logistics network for agricultural products, which may lead to the absence of a clear and comprehensive definition of the issue. Therefore, when discussing definitions related to logistics networks and agricultural products, a detailed analysis and synthesis of the different definitions is necessary.

Although some studies address the relationship between different components in the LN of AP, these studies are quite limited. Consequently, these studies have not fully analyzed the collaborative relationships between parties in order to bring long-term and sustainable benefits to the entire network. At the same time, some studies have not considered factors such as market conditions, government policies, or political risks. These factors also significantly impact the development of logistics networks in general. Although some studies mention new technological trends (blockchain, AI, big data), they have not thoroughly examined how these technologies are integrated into logistics networks or reflected the full efficiency and optimization of these trends.

Many studies focus only on certain types of products, such as fruits, apples, and vegetables, so they do not fully reflect all the existing issues in the agricultural sector. External variables such as weather, diseases, and market conditions have not been fully considered. Furthermore, the studies focus only on certain segments of logistics and do not cover the entire agricultural supply chain. Besides, some studies use simplified assumption models but do not accurately reflect market demand, return rates, or practical operational factors such as loading times. Optimization models face limitations when scaling up. Additionally, some computational tools are not well-suited for handling extensive and intricate problems.

### 5.3. Future Research Directions

Future research should broaden data sources to encompass conference proceedings and unconventional publications to enhance thoroughness. It is vital to create a standardized definition of logistics networks through comprehensive analysis. A thorough exploration of supply chain collaboration, taking into account elements such as governmental policies, political risks, and market conditions, is required to guarantee sustainable advantages. The effectiveness of technologies like blockchain, AI, and IoT should be evaluated for their practical application. Furthermore, research should be extended to other agricultural commodities and encompass the complete supply chain, while considering factors like weather conditions, diseases, and market variations. Finally, the creation of flexible optimization models that accurately represent market demand and genuine operational factors will elevate the practical significance of future research.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The primary motivation of this study is to address the critical research gap in comprehensively examining logistics networks for agricultural products, which play an essential role in ensuring food security, economic stability, and sustainability in global supply chains. The research question centers on synthesizing and evaluating existing literature to identify key trends, methodologies, and objectives in optimizing these networks, particularly for perishable agricultural products. Through a systematic literature review and bibliometric analysis of 166 academic articles from 2000 to January 2025, sourced

from Scopus and Google Scholar, the study reveals that logistics networks for agricultural products are pivotal in balancing economic, social, and environmental goals. The findings highlight a predominant focus on cost optimization, profit maximization, and minimizing environmental impacts, with Mixed-Integer Linear Programming (MILP) being the most widely used model due to its efficiency in addressing complex logistics challenges. Vegetables, fruits, and meat are the most studied products, reflecting their significance in agricultural supply chains. The integration of advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and big data, is identified as a transformative trend, enhancing supply chain transparency, traceability, and efficiency. Additionally, the study underscores the importance of addressing risks like seasonality, climate change, and market volatility to ensure network resilience. Despite these insights, limitations in data access and methodological generalizability highlight the need for further research, particularly in integrating digital technologies and exploring e-commerce-driven distribution channels. Ultimately, this study emphasizes that optimizing logistics networks for agricultural products is crucial for sustainable development, supporting food security, and fostering economic and environmental resilience in the face of global challenges, paving the way for innovations in agricultural supply chain management.

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## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest regarding the subject matter.

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### APPENDIX A

**Table 7.** Literature review of related topics

Studies	Model type	Objective Functions				UCT	Multi-Product	Type of Products	Real case
		Social purposes	E-Impact	Cost/Profit	Others				
Fleischmann <i>et al.</i> , (2000)	MILP			√	√			N/A	Netherlands, Germany, the USA, Belgium
Ahumada & Villalobos, (2011)	MIP			√	√	√	√	Bell pepper, Tomato	USA
Pérez-Mesa <i>et al.</i> , (2012)	MCDM			√	√		√	Fruits and Vegetables	Spain
Ahumada <i>et al.</i> , (2012)	STP			√		√	√	Fruits and Vegetables	Mexico
Hasani <i>et al.</i> , (2012)	MILP			√	√	√	√	Food	Iran
Lütjen <i>et al.</i> , (2013)	SIM			√				Banana	Costa Rica
Soysal <i>et al.</i> , (2014)	MOLP		√	√		√		Beef	Brazil
Munhoz & Morabito, (2014)	LP			√		√		Orange juice	Brazil
de Keizer <i>et al.</i> , (2015)	MILP			√	√		√	Flowers	Netherlands
Soysal <i>et al.</i> , (2015)	IRP		√	√		√		Fresh Tomatoes	Turkey
Rezaei-Malek <i>et al.</i> , (2016)	MILP			√	√	√		Milk	Iran
Li <i>et al.</i> , (2016)	MILP			√	√	√	√	Meat, Seafood, Dairy products, Fruits, Vegetables	China
La Scalia <i>et al.</i> , (2016)	SIM				√	√		Strawberry	Italy
Guo <i>et al.</i> , (2017)	MIP			√		√		N/A	China
de Keizer <i>et al.</i> , (2017)	MILP			√		√	√	Flower	EU
Albrecht & Steinrücke, (2018)	MILP			√		√	√	Strawberries, Raspberries	Germany
Lozano & Adenso-Diaz, (2018)	NDEA				√		√	N/A	Spain
Allaoui <i>et al.</i> , (2018)	MCDM	√	√	√				N/A	EU
Soysal <i>et al.</i> , (2018)	IRP		√	√		√	√	Figs, Cherries	Turkey
Wang <i>et al.</i> , (2018)	LRP			√		√	√	N/A	China
Higgins <i>et al.</i> , (2018)	TraNSIT				√	√	√	Sugar, Cotton, Cottonseed	Australia
Lin <i>et al.</i> , (2018)	DMPC, MILP			√	√	√		Rose	Netherlands
Cruz <i>et al.</i> , (2019)	MILP			√		√		Sugar beet	Netherlands
Li <i>et al.</i> , (2019)	MILP			√	√	√	√	Foods (meat, seafood,...)	China
Fatemi Ghomi & Asgarian, (2019)	TILRP			√				N/A	Iran
Roghani & Cheraghalipou, (2019)	MILP		√	√				Citrus	Iran
Yavari & Geraeli (2019)	MILP		√	√		√		Milk	Iran
Xu <i>et al.</i> , (2019)	SIM			√		√	√	N/A	China
Navazi <i>et al.</i> , (2019)	MINLP	√	√	√			√	Milk, Fruit, Vegetables, Meat	Iran
Biuki <i>et al.</i> , (2020)	MIP	√	√	√		√	√	N/A	Iran
Jing & Mu, (2020)	DLS				√	√	√	Vegetables, Fruits, Meat	China
Liao <i>et al.</i> , (2020)	MILP		√	√				Citrus fruits	Iran
Zhang <i>et al.</i> , (2020)	Bayesian network model			√	√	√	√	Fruit, Vegetables, Meat, Seafood	China
Patidar & Agrawal, (2020)	MINLP			√	√	√	√	Vegetables	India

Studies	Model type	Objective Functions				UCT	Multi-Product	Type of Products	Real case
		Social purposes	E-Impact	Cost/Profit	Others				
Li <i>et al.</i> , (2020)	IP			√		√		Tomato	China
Yakavenka <i>et al.</i> , (2020)	MILP	√	√	√		√	√	Fruit	North-Eastern Europe
Mohebalizadehgashti <i>et al.</i> , (2020)	MILP	√	√	√			√	Meat	Canada
Khalafi <i>et al.</i> , (2020)	MILP			√	√			Milk	Iran
Aghalari <i>et al.</i> , (2020)	MILP			√	√	√		Corn and Soybeans	USA
Sajedi <i>et al.</i> , (2020)	MOPSO	√	√	√		√	√	N/A	Iran
Dwivedi <i>et al.</i> , (2020)	MINLP		√	√		√	√	Food grains	India
Agahgolnezhad Gerdrobari <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	MILP	√		√			√	Food, dairy, Vegetables, Meat, Medicine	Iran
Asghari <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	MINLP			√		√	√	N/A	Iran
Ji <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	LP		√	√		√	√	N/A	China
Al-Ashhab <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	MINLP		√	√		√	√	Milk, Pharmaceuticals, Blood	Egypt, Saudi Arabia
Tabatabaei <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	MILP		√	√		√	√	N/A	Iran
Esteso <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	MILP			√		√	√	Fresh fruit, Vegetables	Spain
Orjuela-Castro, et al (2021)	MILP			√		√		Fruit	Columbia
Gilani & Sahebi, (2021)	MILP		√	√		√		Pistachio	Iran
Golestani <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	MILP			√	√		√	N/A	Iran
Solina & Mirabelli, (2021)	MILP			√				Vegetables	Italy
Wang <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	MILP			√	√	√		N/A	China
Aloui <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	MILP			√	√	√		N/A	France
Jouzani & Govindan, (2021)	MIP	√	√	√				Milk	Iran
Wang <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	MIP		√	√	√		√	Fruit	Vietnam
Daroudi <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	MILP		√	√	√	√	√	Smoked sausages, Food	Iran
Yang & Chen, (2021)	FCCP			√	√	√	√	N/A	China
Shirzadi <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	MINP			√		√		Tomato	Iran
Talouki <i>et al.</i> , (2021)	DVRP		√	√		√		Milk	Iran
Talkhestani <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	MINP			√				N/A	Iran
Ghahremani-Nahr <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	RFSO			√		√		Fruit and Vegetable	N/A
Nanthasamroeng <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	GA, DE, VaNSAS			√		√	√	Rice, Rubber and Cassava	GMS
Orjuela-Castro <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	MILP			√		√		Fruit	Columbia
Meidute-Kavaliauskiene <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	MILP		√	√	√	√		Milk	Turkey
Kumar <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	NMIP		√	√	√	√		N/A	India
Pitakaso <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	MIP			√		√	√	Vegetable	GMS
Pan <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	PI			√		√	√	Seafood	China
Kailaku <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	GP, SM			√	√	√		Mango	Indonesia
Su <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	PO			√	√	√	√	N/A	China
Wang, (2022)	GA			√	√	√	√	Seafood	China
Nagurney & Besik, (2022)	SPE				√	√		N/A	USA
Baghizadeh <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	MINLP		√	√	√	√		Fruit	Iran
Chen <i>et al.</i> , (2022)	MIP			√	√	√	√	N/A	China
Rahbari <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP			√		√		Canned food	Iran
Orjuela-Castro <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MIP	√		√	√	√	√	Blackberry, Strawberry, Mango, Tangerine, Orange	Colombia
Drofenik <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP	√	√	√			√	Fruits, Vegetable, Grapes	Slovenia
Kurniawati & Rochman, (2023)	MILP			√		√	√	Meat, Fish, Vegetables, Fruits	Indonesia
Hashemi-Amiri <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP			√	√	√	√	Poultry meat	Iran
Clavijo-Buritica <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP			√				Coffee	Colombia
Chen & Chen, (2023)	MILP			√	√	√	√	Vegetables	China
Zhang & Li, (2023)	DLAP, VRPD			√	√	√		N/A	China
Belamkar <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP		√	√		√		Apple	India
Chen <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP			√		√		Fruits, Vegetables	China
Yuniarti <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP			√			√	Organic Vegetables, Food waste and Compost	Indonesia
Sheikholeslami & Zarrinpoor, (2023)	FCCP			√	√	√	√	N/A	Iran
Azab <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP	√		√				Sugar beet	Netherlands
Abbasian <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	HMCGP-UFGA		√	√		√		Milk	Iran
Perdana <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	SIM			√	√	√		French Bean	Indonesia

Studies	Model type	Objective Functions				UCT	Multi-Product	Type of Products	Real case
		Social purposes	E-Impact	Cost/Profit	Others				
Mohammadi <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MINLP	√	√	√				Meat (Sausage, Kielbasa, and Hamburger)	Iran
Saffari <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP				√		√	N/A	Iran
Daneshvar <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MINLP			√		√	√	N/A	Iran
Li & Zhao, (2023)	MILP			√	√	√	√	N/A	China
Rajabi-Kafshgar <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP		√	√				Cashew	Iran
Mohammadi & Nikzad, (2023)	MIP	√	√	√		√		N/A	China
Miao & Ni (2023)	SIM				√		√	Vegetables and Chicken	China
Ahmadi-Javid <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP			√				Milk	China, Germany, France
Fahmy <i>et al.</i> , (2023)	MILP			√		√	√	N/A	Egypt
Antonio Violi <i>et al.</i> , (2024)	MILP			√		√	√	Fruits and Flowers	Italy
Aghajani <i>et al.</i> , (2024)	MILP	√	√	√		√		Stevia	Iran
Ahvan <i>et al.</i> , (2024)	MILP	√	√	√		√	√	Fruit	Iran
Gholian-Jouybari <i>et al.</i> , (2024)	MILP	√	√	√				Coconut	Philippines
Bryan Urra-Calfuñir <i>et al.</i> , (2024)	MILP			√				Olive oil	Chile
Khazaeli <i>et al.</i> , (2024)	MILP			√			√	Vegetables	Iran
Lei <i>et al.</i> , (2024)	MILP			√				N/A	China
Jin, (2024)	SIM				√		√	Vegetables and Chicken	China
Liao & Chen, (2024)	NMIP			√		√		N/A	China
Pakdel <i>et al.</i> , (2024)	MONP		√	√		√		N/A	Iran
Shi, (2024)	GPR			√	√	√	√	N/A	China
Pan & Shan, (2024)	MILP	√	√	√		√	√	Milk, Fruit, Vegetables	China
Li & Shi, (2024)	MILP			√	√	√	√	N/A	China
Rashvand Falari <i>et al.</i> , (2024)	MINLP			√	√	√		N/A	Iran
Biza <i>et al.</i> , (2024)	MILP			√	√	√		Tomato	Ethiopia
Malashin <i>et al.</i> , (2024)	GA			√		√		N/A	Russia
Shafiee Motlaq-Kashani <i>et al.</i> , (2025)	MILP	√		√				N/A	Iran

Notes: UCT: Uncertainty; GMS: Greater Mekong Subregion; MIP: mixed integer programming; SIM: Simulation; MILP: Mixed-Integer Linear Programming; MINP: mixed integer nonlinear programming; MINLP: mixed-integer nonlinear programming model; NMIP: nonlinear mixed integer programming; RFSO: robust fuzzy stochastic optimization; HMCGP-UFGA: Heuristic Multi-Choice Goal Programming and Utility Function Genetics Algorithm; DLAP (Distribution Site Location-Allocation Problem); VRPD (Vehicle Routing Problem with Drones); MOPSO: Multi-Objective Particle Swarm Optimization; FCCP: fuzzy chance-constrained programming method; TILRP: transportation inventory location routing problem; NDEA: Network Data Envelopment Analysis. TraNSIT: Transport Network Strategic Investment Tool; MCDM: Multi-Criteria Decision Making; GP and SM: Goal Programming and Surplus Model; IRP: Inventory Routing Problem; MOLP: Multi-Objective Linear Programming; MONP: Multi-Objective Nonlinear Programming; GPR: Gaussian Process Regression; LRP: Location-Routing Problem; LP: linear programming model; PO: path optimization model; PI: Physical Internet; IP: Integer Programming; DMPC: Distributed Model Predictive Control; GA: Genetic Algorithm; SPE: Spatial Price Equilibrium; STP: stochastic tactical planning model; DE: Differential Evolution Algorithm; VaNSAS: Variable Neighborhood Strategies Adaptive Search

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