Excerpts from an interview with

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1. What is the future of AgTech by 2050?

We are entering a time of exponential change and increasing more rapid advancements in science and technology. When we look back at the incredible advancements in agriculture in the last 30 years, it is hard to be clear about what the future of agriculture will look like in 2050.

Autonomy, robotics, sensor technology, will be managed and driven by huge and fast amounts of data and connectivity. This technology will be driven, managed and leveraged through the integration of Artificial Intelligence. Agriculture will be at the centre and forefront of managing and adopting sustainable and regenerative practises that not only will provide safe and abundant food but will also be solving many of the world's problems at the same time

2. What are the greatest benefits and risks of embracing advanced technologies on urban and sub-urban farming?

Embracing advanced technology will help agriculture adapt and overcome many of the challenges we will continue to face. As will most areas of business and development risks will lie in not embracing change and adapting to a continuously changing environment

3. What it takes to adapt to precision farming from current agriculture practices?

It is very easy to get started with precision farming and adapting new processes or technology. It is common for many to feel overwhelmed when looking at where to start in many cases. We always try to keep things as simple as possible when implementing new technology. We look to apply the 80/20 rule and find out initially what is the 20 percent of effort or cost that will give the highest return then build from that point forward.

4. How technology can increase food supply faster than demand or at least equal when the increasing population growth is a concerning issue?

While it is hard to predict all of the challenges that we will face and how technology will help solve them, it has been proven over and over through history that science, technology and information collaboration finds a way to solve our biggest challenges. While we continue to improve on food production and sustainable practises, there are still many areas of waste, inefficiency to improve on. We also are just starting to learn and understand new areas of science from soil health, environmental systems, biotechnology, sensors, robotics and AI that will help drive new levels of production and efficiency

5. What steps need to be taken to encourage future generations in agriculture business? If not, what are the drawbacks?

Even though Agriculture and food production are at the leading edge of technology and scientific advancements, we still continue to battle the old viewpoints of agriculture production and farming as lower grade occupations in some cases. As an industry we need to do a better job in promoting the opportunity and excitement of an ever evolving industry that continues to leverage the newest science and technology. Agriculture will need some of the brightest and sharpest minds to work through the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead