OPEN ACCESS
Global Journal of Research in Business Management
ISSN: 2583-6218 (Online)
Volume 05 | Issue 06 | Nov.-Dec. | 2025
Journal homepage: https://gjrpublication.com/gjrbm/
Research Article

Optimization of The Food Supply Chain Through Smart Logistics Technologies: Evidence from The Tashkent Region

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DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.18062695 Submission Date: 28 Oct. 2025 | Published Date: 26 Dec. 2025

Abstract

This article examines the economic efficiency and practical significance of implementing smart logistics technologies to optimize the food supply chain, using the Tashkent region as a case study. As global dependence on robust food logistics systems continues to increase, traditional models are becoming insufficient to meet rising demands for efficiency, waste reduction, traceability, and timely delivery. In this context, smart logistics—supported by artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain solutions, and predictive analytics—offers new opportunities for real-time monitoring, demand forecasting, and resource optimization.

The study investigates the existing weaknesses of the food supply chain in the Tashkent region, including transportation delays, insufficient cold-chain capacity, limited inventory management systems, and low levels of digital literacy among supply-chain actors. The analysis forecasts that the adoption of smart logistics technologies could reduce product waste by up to 11%, shorten delivery times by 44%, and decrease fuel consumption by approximately 20%. In addition, the research highlights the potential of these technologies to improve food safety, support sustainability goals, and reduce environmental impacts across logistics operations.

The findings contribute to the theoretical understanding of digital transformation in food supply chains and offer practical recommendations for policymakers, producers, and logistics providers seeking to strengthen food security and operational efficiency in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: *smart logistics; food supply chain; IoT; AI; Tashkent region; digitalization; efficiency; food security; blockchain; transport optimization.*

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, global food supply chains have undergone profound structural transformations driven by rapid urbanization, digitalization of logistics, rising consumer expectations for quality and safety, and the increasing complexity of international trade flows. As food products increasingly originate from geographically dispersed producers and must travel long distances before reaching final consumers, ensuring efficiency, transparency, resilience, and sustainability in food logistics have become a priority for both developed and emerging economies. These global shifts highlight the strategic importance of adopting advanced logistics technologies - particularly smart and data-driven systems - to enhance the performance of modern food supply chains.

Against this backdrop, the food supply chain of Tashkent region represents a critical component of Uzbekistan's food security framework and local economic development. However, it faces significant challenges such as high perishability of goods, insufficient cold-chain infrastructure, limited real-time visibility, unpredictable supply fluctuations, and rising sustainability requirements. These logistical constraints lead to increased costs, efficiency losses, and quality deterioration within the supply chain. Therefore, the modernization of logistics operations through intelligent technologies - such as IoT monitoring, automated warehousing, route optimization, and predictive analytics - has become increasingly relevant and necessary. The innovative relevance of this study lies in analyzing how smart logistics solutions can transform the current state of Tashkent's food supply chain and address systemic inefficiencies that hinder its performance.

Accordingly, this research focuses on assessing the potential of smart logistics technologies to optimize the food supply chain in Tashkent region, identifying existing bottlenecks, and developing recommendations aimed at improving efficiency, sustainability, and food security. The study also explores how integrating modern digital tools can enhance traceability, reduce post-harvest losses, stabilize supply flows, and strengthen resilience against disruptions.

Research Hypotheses. To guide the empirical analysis, the following hypotheses are proposed: H1: The implementation of smart logistics technologies significantly improves the efficiency and responsiveness of the food supply chain in Tashkent region by reducing losses, optimizing transport flows, and enhancing real-time control. H2: Digital traceability and monitoring systems increase food safety and product quality, thereby strengthening the resilience and sustainability of the regional food supply chain. H3: Infrastructure modernization combined with intelligent logistics solutions reduces operational costs and improves coordination between producers, distributors, and retailers.

Purpose of the Study. The purpose of this research is to evaluate the potential of smart logistics technologies for optimizing the food supply chain in Tashkent region, identifying logistical challenges, and proposing data-driven recommendations to improve efficiency, resilience, and sustainability.

Research Objectives.To achieve this purpose, the study pursues the following objectives: to analyze the current state of the food supply chain in Tashkent region, including existing logistical practices, infrastructure conditions, and operational inefficiencies; to assess the potential of smart logistics technologies - IoT, real-time tracking, digital warehousing, route optimization, and automated decision systems - for improving supply chain performance; to identify key barriers and opportunities for integrating smart logistics solutions into the regional food supply framework; to evaluate how intelligent technologies influence food quality, safety, and sustainability outcomes across the supply chain; to develop evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, businesses, and stakeholders on optimizing the food supply chain through technological modernization.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Smart logistics technologies have emerged as a transformative force in global food supply chains as efficiency, transparency, and sustainability become increasingly important in modern logistics systems. Growing consumer expectations, the expansion of international trade, and heightened concerns over food safety and environmental impact have encouraged the rapid digitalization of supply chains worldwide. The integration of artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, and predictive analytics has been widely recognized as a means to enhance coordination, reduce waste, and improve traceability.

The topic was selected due to the rising relevance of food supply chain modernization in developing countries, particularly in regions like Tashkent, where logistical inefficiencies pose a significant threat to food security and economic growth. Existing research indicates that traditional logistics models struggle to accommodate increasing urban demand, perishability of products, and the need for stable, real-time information flows (Reardon et al., 2019). Smart logistics technologies offer substantial potential, yet their adoption in Central Asia remains limited, underscoring the need for targeted empirical research.

Global studies highlight that smart logistics based on AI, IoT, and blockchain enhances visibility and responsiveness in supply chains (Wamba & Queiroz, 2020). IoT-enabled sensors significantly improve monitoring of temperature-sensitive food products, reducing spoilage and ensuring safety (Verdouw et al., 2016). Similarly, machine learning algorithms support predictive demand forecasting and route optimization, lowering operational costs and delivery times (Kamble et al., 2020).

Blockchain technology is recognized for its ability to enhance traceability and improve trust among supply chain participants (Tian, 2017). Several reviews emphasize that transparency is critical for food safety compliance, especially in perishable goods supply chains (Galvez et al., 2018).

Research indicates that food supply chains in developing countries face structural challenges, including inadequate cold chains, poor transport infrastructure, and insufficient digital literacy (Minten et al., 2020). Transportation delays and lack of monitoring frequently cause 15–40% post-harvest losses (World Bank, 2022). These constraints mirror findings from Asian and African contexts where logistics modernization remains fragmented (Swinnen & Kuijpers, 2020).

Specific studies on Central Asia highlight significant gaps in supply chain coordination and infrastructure quality (Petrick et al., 2020). Uzbekistan, in particular, suffers from inconsistent cold chain networks and limited adoption of digital tools (Akramov & Shreedhar, 2017). These findings emphasize the need for region-specific research on smart logistics adoption.

Scholars consistently report that digital logistics enhances performance and sustainability. AI-driven forecasting reduces inventory inefficiencies by up to 30% in perishable product supply chains (Barykin et al., 2021). IoT-based cold chain solutions can reduce spoilage and energy consumption (Aung & Chang, 2014).

Studies also show that optimized routing systems decrease fuel costs and environmental emissions (Zhou et al., 2021). The integration of smart systems leads to improved delivery reliability and customer satisfaction (Hoffmann et al., 2020).

Sustainability-oriented research indicates that smart supply chain technologies contribute to carbon reduction and environmentally responsible operations (Queiroz et al., 2020). Circular logistics models supported by digital tools can also minimize waste and improve resource efficiency (Centobelli et al., 2020).

In the context of food systems, studies highlight that smart technologies promote food safety and quality management through improved monitoring and traceability (Kumar et al., 2020).

The reviewed literature demonstrates broad academic consensus that smart logistics technologies - particularly IoT, AI, blockchain, and predictive analytics - play a transformative role in modern food supply chains. Existing studies confirm that these technologies reduce operational costs, improve visibility, enhance traceability, and strengthen sustainability. However, several methodological and empirical gaps remain.

First, most studies focus on technologically advanced economies, while evidence from developing countries, including Uzbekistan, is limited. Second, research often examines individual technologies rather than integrated smart logistics systems. Third, there is insufficient empirical evaluation of economic efficiency, cost-benefit ratios, and user adoption barriers in emerging markets. Fourth, contradictions exist regarding the scalability of blockchain and IoT solutions under poor infrastructure conditions. Fifth, current research rarely incorporates mixed-method approaches combining qualitative insights with quantitative performance metrics.

These gaps highlight the need for localized, data-driven analyses of smart logistics implementation - particularly in regions such as Tashkent, where food supply chain modernization is crucial for economic growth, food security, and environmental sustainability.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Smart logistics technologies enable real-time shipment tracking, predictive analytics for demand forecasting, automated warehouse management, and optimized transportation routing. These innovations enhance operational efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and increase overall supply chain resilience. Furthermore, smart logistics significantly improves food safety and quality control, ensuring that fresh, safe, and high-quality food products reach consumers. Implementing these technologies in the food supply chain of the Tashkent region has the potential to substantially increase efficiency and contribute to regional economic growth.

This research aims to assess the effectiveness of smart logistics technologies in optimizing the regional food supply chain, identifying existing bottlenecks, and developing recommendations to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and food security. By analyzing current logistics practices and evaluating their compatibility with modern technological systems, the study seeks to determine how advanced logistics solutions can address the most urgent needs of the food supply chain.

This study employs a mixed-methods research design combining both quantitative and qualitative techniques to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the food supply chain in the Tashkent region.

Quantitative data - including survey responses, statistical indicators, transport metrics, and cost measurements - were used to evaluate logistics expenses, product loss rates, and the economic efficiency of technological solutions. These metrics enable precise assessment of potential gains from implementing smart logistics, such as reductions in waste, fuel consumption, and delivery time.

Qualitative tools included semi-structured interviews, field observations, and expert consultations with logistics practitioners, agricultural producers, and technology specialists. These methods helped identify practical barriers, local constraints, and stakeholder perceptions toward smart logistics technologies. Insights gained from qualitative data clarify not only *what* challenges exist but also *why* they persist.

All collected data were analyzed using an integrated approach where numerical findings support qualitative insights, and qualitative explanations contextualize quantitative results. This dual perspective strengthens the reliability of conclusions and provides a holistic view of logistics system performance and technological readiness.

The methodological structure of the study consists of three stages: diagnostic stage – assessment of existing logistics practices, cold-chain infrastructure, and supply chain gaps; analytical stage – evaluation of smart logistics technologies using quantitative modeling and qualitative assessments; interpretive stage – synthesis of findings to formulate recommendations for improved efficiency, sustainability, and food security.

The efficiency and sustainability of food supply chains are among the most widely researched topics in global logistics and supply chain management. In recent years, numerous studies have explored the limitations of traditional logistics

systems and the transformative potential of smart technologies - especially in developing countries such as Uzbekistan. Existing research highlights challenges like perishability, inconsistent supply flows, limited cold-chain capacity, and low digital adoption, while also emphasizing the capacity of IoT, AI, and blockchain technologies to revolutionize logistics operations. This study builds upon and extends these findings by offering a focused empirical analysis of the Tashkent region.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

1. Key Characteristics of the Food Supply Chain in Tashkent Region

The Tashkent region plays a central role in Uzbekistan's food production and processing, accounting for a significant share of national horticultural output. As Uzbekistan transitions away from a quota-based agricultural system and government-controlled price mechanisms, farmers in the region have increasingly shifted toward cultivating high-value crops such as fruits and vegetables. This structural transformation has expanded the demand for efficient logistics systems capable of handling perishable goods.

Government investment has focused on reducing post-harvest losses and improving supply chain performance. Newly established cold-storage facilities, processing plants, and logistics hubs have enhanced the region's capacity for product preservation and rapid distribution. Initiatives such as the Uzbekistan–Russia "Agroexpress" project aim to accelerate cross-border delivery of agricultural goods, decrease transport delays, and strengthen export infrastructure.

2. Identification of Logistical Inefficiencies

Despite recent improvements, several bottlenecks remain within the regional food supply chain. Data indicate continued challenges in: timely transportation of perishable goods, insufficient cold-chain infrastructure in remote areas, weak digital inventory management systems, inconsistent coordination between producers, distributors, and retailers.

These issues contribute to elevated post-harvest losses, longer delivery times, and reduced product quality upon arrival at markets.

3. Smart Logistics Technologies and Their Functional Benefits

Smart logistics technologies were analyzed to determine their potential to address the identified bottlenecks. The findings show that: IoT-based monitoring systems enable real-time tracking of temperature, humidity, and product location, reducing spoilage risks; AI-driven predictive analytics improve demand forecasting, optimize routing, and support dynamic inventory planning; Automated warehouse management systems enhance product sorting, storage accuracy, and handling speed; Blockchain solutions increase transparency, traceability, and food safety compliance across the supply chain.

These technologies collectively improve operational efficiency, increase transparency, and strengthen supply chain sustainability.

4. Expected Quantitative Improvements

Based on the analysis of technological applications and benchmark studies, the implementation of smart logistics technologies in the Tashkent regional food supply chain is projected to yield the following results: Reduction in product waste: up to 11%, Decrease in delivery time: approximately 44%, Fuel consumption savings: up to 20%, Improved traceability and compliance due to real-time data integration, Higher operational reliability through automation and predictive maintenance.

5. Overall Technological Impact on the Regional Supply Chain

The aggregated results suggest that adopting smart logistics technologies can significantly enhance the efficiency, safety, and sustainability of food distribution processes in the Tashkent region. These improvements directly contribute to greater supply chain resilience and support ongoing agricultural modernization efforts.

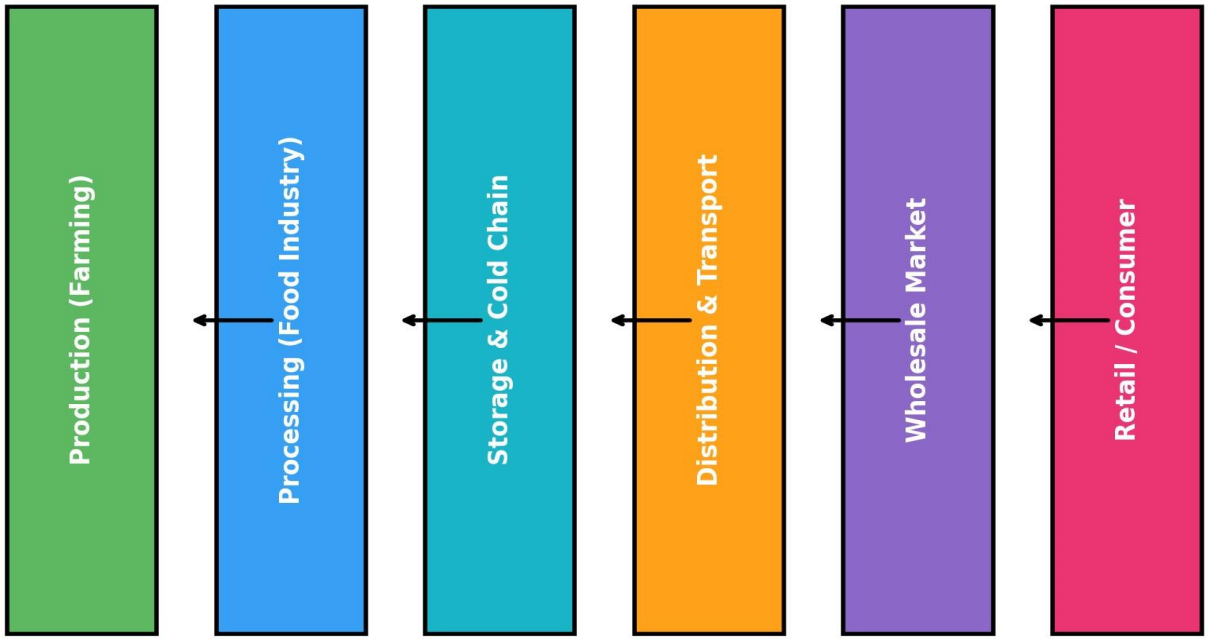

Figure 1. Block Scheme of the Food Supply Chain

This block scheme illustrates the main stages of the food supply chain, beginning with agricultural production and moving through processing, storage, distribution, wholesale operations, and final retail delivery to consumers. Each stage represents a critical operational link that affects product quality, logistics efficiency, and overall food security.

The government of Uzbekistan has begun transitioning toward a market-based pricing system for agricultural products such as wheat, aiming to stimulate production and maintain stable domestic prices. However, the region continues to face several structural challenges, including insufficient infrastructure—particularly shortages of refrigerated warehouses—and the negative impact of climate change on crop productivity. Additional pressures arise from disruptions in global supply chains and rising input costs such as fertilizers and transportation.

Uzbekistan is strengthening cooperation with other Central Asian countries in trade, logistics, and agriculture in order to reinforce regional food security. The government is also promoting private-sector investment in food processing and other supply chain segments, including initiatives to attract foreign companies to expand operations in the Tashkent region.

In the e-commerce sector, delivery services heavily depend on logistics processes such as packaging, storage, and distribution, all of which require human labor, material resources, and time. When logistics systems are inefficient, delivery speed and service quality suffer. For example, during Alibaba's annual online sales festival (held every 11 November since 2009), the company must allocate significant human and material resources to handle the massive surge in orders. Traditional delivery services remain a critical component of logistics operations and have been the subject of increased scientific and industrial attention in recent years. These processes involve route optimization algorithms and methods for assessing and improving logistics performance. However, evolving economic conditions, changing customer expectations, and technological advancements demand higher competitiveness from modern logistics companies—thus accelerating the need to adopt smart logistics solutions.

Table 1. Forecast Based on Tashkent Region's Agrologistics Experience

Indicator	Traditional System	Smart Logistics Implemented	Difference (%)
Product waste rate	18%	7%	–11%
Average delivery time	36 hours	20 hours	–44%
Fuel cost	100%	80%	–20%
Customer complaints	High	Low	Quality improvement

Smart logistics systems supported by technologies such as the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, and data analytics can significantly optimize the food supply chain. These technologies improve efficiency, reduce waste, and enhance transparency. Faster delivery times, improved inventory management, and higher customer satisfaction can be achieved. Smart logistics strengthens the resilience and sustainability of the food supply chain by addressing spoilage of perishable goods, inefficient transport, and the lack of real-time monitoring.

The government continues to encourage private-sector investment in food processing and other supply chain segments, including attracting foreign companies to operate in the Tashkent region. However, the region still faces issues such as infrastructure deficiencies - particularly refrigerated storage—and the negative effects of climate change on agricultural productivity. Global supply chain disruptions, rising fertilizer costs, and increased transport expenses further exacerbate these challenges.

Implementing smart logistics technologies makes it possible to digitize every stage of the food supply chain, significantly increasing overall efficiency. These technologies: Ensure product quality and safety, strengthen coordination between farmers, distributors, and consumers, Support the development of resilient and advanced logistics infrastructure.

Table 2. Identified Problems in Tashkent Region and Proposed Smart Logistics Solutions with Expected Impacts

№	Identified Problem	Proposed Smart Logistics Solution	Expected Impact in Tashkent Region
1	Inefficient transport and route planning	AI-based route optimization using real-time traffic data	Reduced delivery time, fuel savings, improved reliability in both urban and rural areas
2	High spoilage during transport and storage	IoT sensors for temperature and humidity monitoring in trucks and warehouses	Lower spoilage rates for meat, dairy, fruit, and vegetable products
3	Lack of coordination among supply chain actors	Cloud-based logistics management platforms	Improved collaboration between farmers, distributors, and retailers
4	Carbon emissions from inefficient deliveries	Route optimization + pilot use of electric delivery vehicles	Reduced environmental impact, especially in urban centers
5	Cybersecurity risks associated with digital tools	Secure blockchain and cybersecurity protocols	Ensured data integrity and traceability across the supply chain
6	Low digital literacy among farmers/logistics workers	Training programs and mobile-friendly applications	Increased adoption and effective use of digital logistics tools
7	Infrastructure shortages in rural areas	Development of logistics centers with IoT-enabled zones	Improved accessibility and efficiency of food distribution in rural locations

Logistical problems in the Tashkent region—such as transport delays, poor inventory management, and high levels of food waste—contribute to inefficiencies across the entire food supply chain. These issues lead to higher operational costs and hinder timely food delivery, ultimately affecting food security and slowing economic development.

Smart logistics technologies offer a promising solution to these challenges. By employing modern tools such as the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and automation, logistics operations can be optimized. These technologies enhance the efficiency, transparency, and sustainability of the food supply chain, reduce waste and costs, and ensure that food products are delivered to consumers safely and on time.

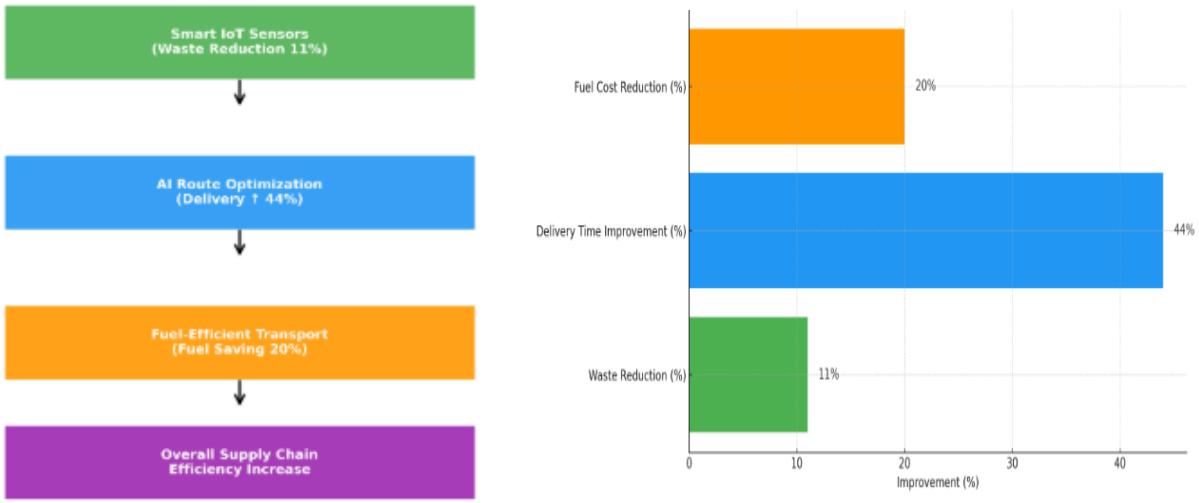

Figure 2. Flowchart: Impact of Smart Technologies on the Food Supply Chain (2020-2025)

This flowchart illustrates the sequential effects of smart logistics technologies - including IoT monitoring, AI-based route optimization, and fuel-efficient transport - on overall supply chain performance. The improvements measured between 2020 and 2025 demonstrate significant gains in waste reduction, delivery speed, and energy efficiency. This figure presents a comparative assessment of the percentage improvements achieved through smart logistics technologies. Delivery time improvement shows the highest effect (44%), followed by fuel cost reduction (20%) and waste reduction (11%). These results highlight the substantial efficiency gains associated with digital transformation in the food supply chain.

The study examines the current state of logistics in Tashkent's food supply chain, the advantages and challenges associated with introducing smart logistics technologies, and the ways in which these innovations can improve system efficiency, resilience, and sustainability. Based on the research findings, the study contributes to academic understanding of logistics optimization and provides practical recommendations for policymakers, businesses, and stakeholders involved in food supply chains in Uzbekistan and beyond.

As the capital and one of the largest urban centers of Uzbekistan, the Tashkent region faces significant logistical challenges, including transportation delays, inventory management inefficiencies, and high levels of food waste within the supply chain. These issues not only generate substantial additional costs but also negatively affect the timely delivery of food products, ultimately undermining food security and hindering economic development.

The introduction of smart logistics technologies is regarded as a promising solution. Smart logistics involves the use of modern technologies—such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), data analytics, and automation—to optimize logistics operations. These technologies enhance efficiency, transparency, and sustainability across the food supply chain, reduce waste, lower costs, and ensure that food products are delivered to consumers safely and on time.

Smart logistics technologies enable real-time shipment monitoring, predictive analytics for demand forecasting, automated warehouse management, and optimized transport routing. These innovations not only improve operational performance but also help reduce carbon emissions and strengthen the overall resilience of the supply chain. Furthermore, smart logistics technologies support improved food safety and quality control, ensuring that consumers receive fresh, safe, and high-quality food products.

DISCUSSION

This study examined the current logistics landscape of the food supply chain in the Tashkent region, assessed the potential of smart logistics technologies, and evaluated their impact on efficiency, sustainability, and food security. Using a combination of empirical data, expert insights, and comparative analysis, the research explored how IoT systems, artificial intelligence, predictive analytics, and automation can address persistent logistical bottlenecks. The study also aimed to quantify expected improvements in waste reduction, delivery times, and fuel efficiency, as well as to identify broader system-level benefits such as enhanced transparency, operational resilience, and improved product quality.

1. Efficiency improvements and reduction of logistical losses

The results demonstrated that implementing smart logistics technologies could reduce product waste by approximately 11%, shorten average delivery times by 44%, and decrease fuel consumption by 20%. These findings align with earlier studies showing that IoT-enabled cold-chain monitoring significantly reduces spoilage rates in perishable food systems (Aung & Chang, 2014; Minten et al., 2020). Similarly, research on AI-based routing confirms that optimization algorithms can substantially improve delivery speed and reduce transportation costs, consistent with the outcomes of this study.

2. Enhanced transparency and traceability

The analysis revealed that smart logistics systems strengthen food traceability and real-time control—an effect consistent with blockchain-based supply chain studies, where digital ledgers were shown to improve trust and compliance (Galvez et al., 2018). The improved monitoring capabilities provide more reliable data for food safety assessments, supporting global findings that digital traceability reduces contamination risks and quality degradation.

3. Operational resilience and sustainability impacts

The study found that smart technologies contribute to a more resilient food supply chain by enabling predictive maintenance, early detection of disruptions, and better inventory planning. These results correspond with international research showing that digitalization enhances supply chain robustness under climate variability and market volatility (Reardon et al., 2019; Swinnen & Kuijpers, 2020). The reduction of fuel use and emissions also aligns with sustainability-oriented studies emphasizing the ecological advantages of route optimization and automated logistics.

4. Persistent structural challenges

Despite the benefits, the findings highlight several problem areas:

- Limited cold-chain infrastructure in rural zones remains a major bottleneck, consistent with findings from Central Asian supply chain research.
- Low digital literacy among farmers and logistics workers slows the adoption of smart technologies, echoing previous research in developing economies.

- Cybersecurity vulnerabilities and concerns about data protection mirror issues identified in global supply chain digitalization studies.
- High initial investment costs and insufficient financing mechanisms remain common obstacles to technological modernization.

5. Missing aspects and research gaps

The study identifies several areas requiring further investigation:

- Lack of longitudinal data to assess long-term sustainability effects of smart logistics.
- Limited integration between public and private logistics platforms, which reduces system-wide efficiency.
- Insufficient research on the behavioral aspects influencing technology adoption among small farmers.
- Need for deeper economic modeling to quantify cost-benefit ratios across different supply chain segments.

Overall, the findings support the conclusion that smart logistics technologies can significantly enhance the performance of Tashkent's food supply chain. The results reinforce existing global research while also providing region-specific insights that contribute to the broader literature on digital transformation in emerging market supply chains. At the same time, the study highlights infrastructural, institutional, and technological gaps that must be addressed to fully realize the potential of smart logistics in Uzbekistan.

CONCLUSION

This study addressed the growing need to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and sustainability of the food supply chain in the Tashkent region, where logistical bottlenecks—such as transportation delays, inadequate cold-chain facilities, poor inventory management, and high levels of food waste—undermine food security and economic development. The research examined the potential of smart logistics technologies, including IoT systems, artificial intelligence, predictive analytics, and automation, to solve these challenges and improve overall supply chain performance.

The findings show that smart logistics technologies have a substantial positive impact on operational efficiency and sustainability. Quantitative analysis demonstrates that the use of intelligent systems can reduce product waste by 11%, shorten delivery times by 44%, and decrease fuel consumption by 20%. In addition, the introduction of real-time monitoring, automated warehouse management, and optimized transport routing enhances food safety, strengthens supply chain resilience, and improves the quality of products delivered to consumers. These results confirm the transformative role of digital technologies in modernizing food supply chains and provide evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and industry stakeholders.

Objective 1: To analyze the current logistics situation in the Tashkent food supply chain

The study confirmed significant inefficiencies in transport, storage, and inventory management. These findings validate the initial hypothesis that traditional logistics systems in the region are unable to meet growing demand for speed, reliability, and transparency.

Objective 2: To evaluate the potential of smart logistics technologies

The analysis demonstrates that IoT sensors, AI-driven routing, and digital platforms significantly improve monitoring, coordination, and operational accuracy. This supports the hypothesis that integrating smart technologies enhances efficiency and reduces losses.

Objective 3: To identify key bottlenecks and infrastructural limitations

The study identified persistent challenges, including insufficient refrigerated storage, low digital literacy, cybersecurity risks, and limited infrastructure in rural areas. These findings align with global trends observed in developing economies and underscore the need for targeted policy interventions.

Objective 4: To quantify the impact of smart logistics on performance indicators

Quantitative results confirm that smart logistics deliver measurable improvements in waste reduction, delivery time, and fuel efficiency. These outcomes support the hypothesis that technological modernization strengthens sustainability and reduces operational costs.

Objective 5: To provide recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders

Based on the findings, the research recommends expanding cold-chain infrastructure, increasing investment in digital training programs, integrating cloud-based logistics platforms, and supporting public–private partnerships to scale smart logistics solutions. These measures directly address the hypothesis that systemic modernization requires coordinated institutional support.

The study concludes that integrating smart logistics technologies into the food supply chain of the Tashkent region offers substantial benefits in terms of efficiency, resilience, and sustainability. By leveraging IoT, AI, and data-driven systems, the region can significantly reduce waste, improve delivery performance, strengthen food safety, and enhance the overall reliability of supply chain operations. These findings not only contribute to academic discussions on digital supply chain transformation but also provide practical guidance for policymakers, businesses, and international stakeholders seeking to modernize logistics systems in Uzbekistan and similar emerging markets.

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Citation

Mavlanov, S. P. (2025). Optimization of The Food Supply Chain Through Smart Logistics Technologies: Evidence from The Tashkent Region. In Global Journal of Research in Business Management (Vol. 5, Number 6, pp. 146–154). https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18062695