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2 3 4	The Use of Information Technology in The Marketing of Agricultural Products With The UTAUT Approach
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12	ABSTRACT
13	The fast advancement of information technology is reported to have a profound impact on
14	various aspects of the community, including the agriculture sector. On the other hand, the
15	millennial generation who are sensitive to technological advances are reportedly less interested
16	in agriculture. Apart from that, millennial farmers also have not optimized the use of information
17	technology to market their agricultural products. Hence, the purpose of this study is to
18	investigate the factors that encourage millennial farmers in Central Java to use of information
19	technology in marketing agricultural products using a Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use
20	of Technology (UTAUT) approach. The location and samples were purposively determined in
21	Central Java. A total of 120 millennial farmers were included in the sample population, and data
22	analysis was conducted using the Structural Equation Modeling-Partial Least Square (SEM-
23	PLS) method. The findings indicated that behavior intention to use information technology were
24	influenced by performance expectancy, effort expectancy, and facilitating conditions, then
25	behavior intention would influence use behavior. Based on these findings, motivation and self-
26	confidence need to be instilled to accelerate the adoption of innovation and technology towards
27	modern agriculture. This research will be useful for the government in creating a program or
28	policy.
29	Keywords: Information technology, Millennial farmers, Structural equation modeling.
30	

# INTRODUCTION

Agriculture holds a significant position within Indonesian society and is deeply ingrained in the lives of the people (Rozaki, 2020). According to the BPS (2021), among the 131,050,523 workers aged  $\geq$  15, a total of 28.33% are employed in the forestry, fisheries, and agriculture sectors. However, a concerning trend has appeared because the younger generation exhibits a declining interest in pursuing a career in agriculture (Widiyanti et al., 2020; Riptanti et al., 2022). A recent report has also shown that the number of farmers aged 15 to 39 in the

agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors has decreased by 10.07% between 2017 and 2021
(BPS, 2022a). The low adoption of technology has been reported to be one of the prominent
factors contributing to this decline (Effendy et al., 2022).

41 The reluctance of young people, including those with agricultural education, to pursue a 42 career in the sector, has adverse effects on agricultural and agro-industrial enterprises, the labor 43 market, and regional development (Bednaříková et al., 2016). Therefore, it is important to 44 address this declining interest to prevent future shortages of farmers, which can negatively impact various aspects of life. On the other hand, the millennial generation is a generation that 45 46 is aware of technology. This should be an opportunity for Indonesia, which in 2022 will have a 47 millennial population of 88,268,937 people or 32% of Indonesia's population (BPS, 2022a). 48 The Indonesian government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has taken steps to accelerate 49 farmer regeneration by implementing the millennial farmer program throughout the country. 50 This initiative serves as a ray of hope for the younger generation, showing the potential for them 51 to become successful in the sector (Kusnandar et al., 2023). It also aims to facilitate the younger 52 generation's interest in working in the agricultural sector (Riptanti et al., 2022). The term 53 "millennial farmer" has been introduced to sustain the Indonesian agricultural system and 54 expedite the adoption of information technology in the field (Harisudin et al., 2023). Millennial 55 farmers are hoped to play a pivotal role as catalysts for change because they adapt to a 56 technology-driven world with readily available information (Hasibuan & Nasution, 2022).

57 The internet and global connectivity hold tremendous potential in accelerating the 58 livelihoods of farmers through technological innovations. However, many of them are yet to 59 fully capitalize on these opportunities (Diaz et al., 2021). For example, there remains a considerable number of older farmers in Indonesia who prefer to sell their products to 60 middlemen to quickly obtain funds to meet their family's needs (Haryoso et al., 2020). Mgale 61 62 & Yunxian (2020) also stated that in traditional marketing channels, farmers often relied on 63 middlemen or village collectors to sell their product. Although these middlemen provide access 64 to the market (Truong & Sidique, 2022), the prices offered are often significantly lower 65 compared to the real market prices (Utomo et al., 2022).

Millennial farmers, who possess forward-thinking characteristics and great curiosity, are actively utilizing information technology, particularly social media, to enhance their agricultural businesses (Khaerunnisa et al., 2022). Based on the purpose of internet use in Indonesia, 74.02% of internet use aims to access social media and 4.63% is for selling goods or services (BPS, 2022b). This approach offers an alternative for marketing agricultural products by addressing limitations in the sales process and enhancing effectiveness and

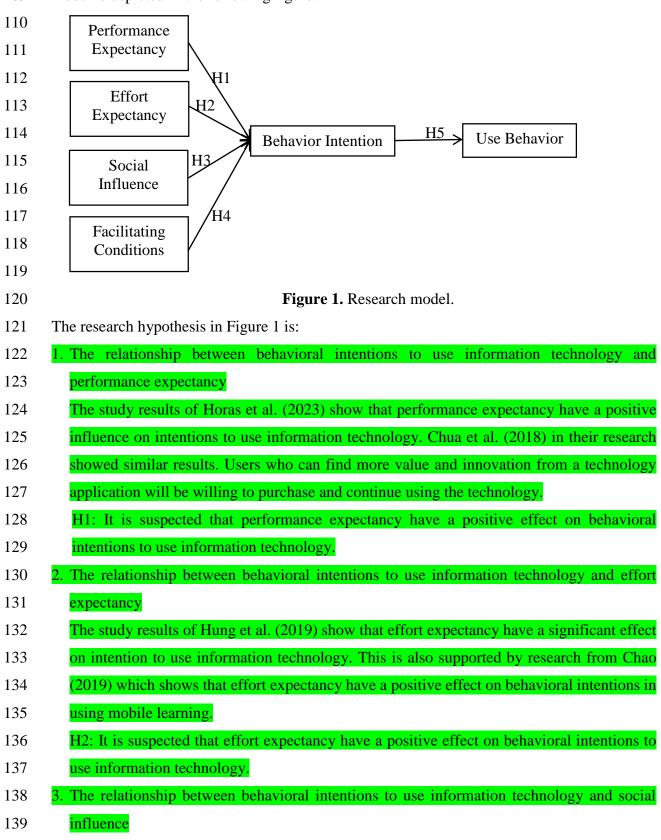
efficiency (Widiyanti et al., 2022). The problem is that in 2023 only 42.23% of millennial
farmers will use information technology for their business activities (Katadata, 2023).

74 Central Java is a region with significant agricultural potential, as evidenced by the presence 75 of a workforce under the age of 40, commonly referred to as millennials, in the agriculture, 76 forestry, and fisheries sectors. Previous reports showed that they accounted for 7.19% of the 77 total workforce in 2021 (BPS Central Java, 2021). Millennial farmers in Central Java operate 78 in various subsectors, such as horticulture, plantations, food, fisheries and animal husbandry. 79 The substantial number of millennial farmers is expected to bring agricultural success in the 80 future due to their higher propensity for adopting innovative technologies than older groups (Effendy et al., 2022). However, internet use by residents of Central Java whose main business 81 82 fields are agriculture, fisheries and forestry has only reached 10.18% of the total population 83 (BPS, 2022b).

84 Various factors influence the adoption of information technology especially social media 85 and ecommerce among millennial farmers in Central Java. The Unified Theory of Acceptance 86 and Use of Technology (UTAUT), created by Venkatesh et al. (2003), is one contemporary 87 theory that describe a technology acceptance model. The model comprises multiple constructs, 88 including 1) performance expectancy, which gauges an individual's belief in the ability to use 89 ICT to improve their performance; 2) effort expectancy, which evaluates an individual's 90 perception of the ease of using information technology; 3) social influence, which pertains to 91 the support received from others regarding the use of information technology; 4) facilitating 92 conditions, which encompass factors such as infrastructure and equipment availability as well 93 as the ability to use ICT (Scur et al., 2023). Previous studies demonstrated the influential role 94 of constructs such as effort expectancy, performance expectancy, and social influence in 95 shaping behavior intention while the presence of facilitating conditions and behavior intention 96 can affect use behavior (Venkatesh et al., 2016). Han et al., (2022) using these determinants 97 found that all direct relationships between variables were significant. However, Widodo et al. 98 (2019), Abdullah et al. (2020), Maita et al. (2022), and Scur et al. (2023) found that facilitating 99 conditions had a significant effect on behavior intention. This result in inconsistent with Esawe 100 (2022) that facilitating conditions variable did not significantly influence behavior intention. 101 Based on these findings, future reports are advised to focus on the influence of facilitating 102 conditions on behavior intention.

103 The novelty of this study is attributed to the incorporation of the facilitating conditions 104 variable in the UTAUT approach, which is directly associated with behavior intention. In 105 addition, no previous research has examined the use of information technology in marketing

agricultural products by millennial farmers in Central Java. Therefore, the purpose of this study
 is to investigate the factors affecting the use of information technology in marketing agricultural
 products by millennial farmers in Central Java using the UTAUT model approach. This research
 model is depicted in the following figure.



140	The study results of Hwang & Mulyana (2022) show that social influence variables have a
141	positive influence on the intention to use information technology. This is also in line with
142	research by Abed (2018) which shows that social influence has a positive relationship with
143	behavioral intentions to use e-commerce.
144	H3: It is suspected that social influence has a positive effect on behavioral intentions to use
145	information technology.
146	4. Relationship between information technology use behavior and facility conditions
147	The study results of Putri dan Suardikha (2020) show that facilitating condition variables
148	influence the use of e-money. This is supported by Diniyah (2021) who stated that the
149	condition of the facilities has a positive effect on the waqif's intention to give waqf through
150	the waqf crowdfunding platform.
151	H4: It is suspected that facility conditions have a positive effect on intentions to use
152	information technology.
153	5. The relationship between use behavior and behavior intention to use information technology
154	The study results of Abbad (2021) show that the behavioral intention variable has a
155	significant effect on Moodle use behavior. This is supported by Kadim dan Sunardi (2023)
156	who stated that behavioral intention has a positive effect on the use behavior of users of the
157	Jabodetabek QRIS payment tool.
158	H5: It is suspected that behavior intention has a positive influence on information technology
159	use behavior.

# 161 MATERIALS AND METHODS

This was a quantitative study, which used a descriptive-correlational method (Sarcheshmeh 162 163 et al., 2018). Central Java province was purposively selected as the study location, taking into 164 account 10 regencies with the highest number of millennial farmer ambassadors based on the 165 Decree of the Minister of Agriculture No. 434/KPTS/SM 020/M/8/2021. These regencies included Magelang, Sukoharjo, Klaten, Wonosobo, Tegal, Purbalingga, Temanggung, 166 Semarang, Purworejo, and Banyumas. Primary data were gathered through interviews utilizing 167 168 a questionnaire that included respondent identities and attitude statements measured on a Likert 169 scale. Meanwhile, secondary data were obtained from relevant agencies, such as the Central 170 Statistics Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The research was conducted in 2022 after the Covid-19 pandemic. The samples were determined purposively, with criteria that the millennial farmers resided in Central Java, aged between 19 and 39 years, and had been engaged in agricultural activities in the fields of food

174	crops, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and plantations for a minimum of 2 years. The
175	aim is to ensure that respondents are truly experienced farmers so they can make decisions
176	regarding the use of information technology based on that experience. Another criterion is that
177	respondents have used information technology, especially social media, in the last 3 months for
178	communication, seeking information, or promoting and selling agricultural products. The
179	sampling in each regency was conducted proportionally. The sample size was decided by
180	allotting 5-10 respondents for each parameter (indicator) of the variables under examination
181	(Kadim & Sunardi, 2021). The minimum size was 95 respondents, but we chose to include a
182	total of 120 respondents to obtain more representative and robust data. Table 1 presents the
183	latent variables and corresponding indicators used in the study. Indicator measurement uses a

- 184 Likert scale from 1-5.
- 185

Table 1. Latent	variables ar	d indicators	in the model.
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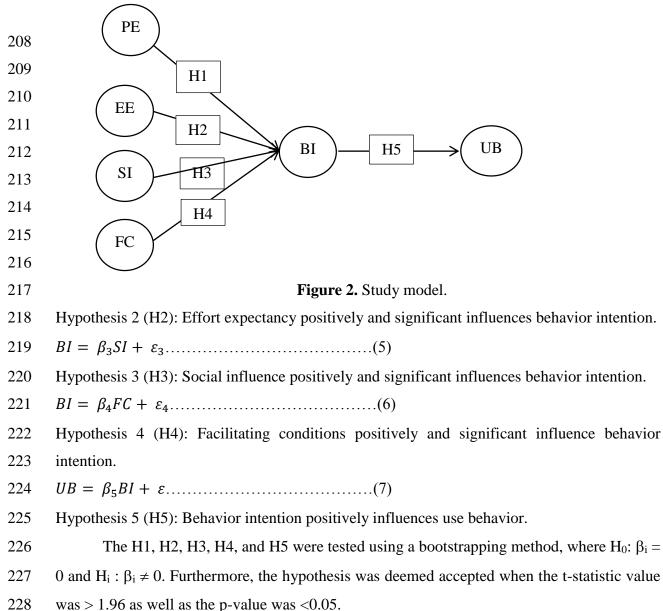
Variable	Indicator	Code
Performance Expectancy (PE)	1. Perceived usefulness	PE1
	2. Job-fit	PE2
	3. Extrinsic motivation	PE3
	4. Outcome expectation	PE4
	5. Relative advantage	PE5
Effort Expectancy (EE)	1. Perceived ease of use	EE1
	2. Ease of use	EE2
	3. Complexity	EE3
Social Influence (SI)	1. Subjective norm	SI1
	2. Social factor	SI2
	3. Image	SI3
Facilitating Conditions (FC)	1. Facilitating condition	FC1
	2. Perceived behavioral control	FC2
	3. Compatibility	FC3
Behavior Intention (BI)	1. Desire	BI1
	2. Intention	BI2
	3. Plan	BI3
Use Behavior (UB)	1. Intensity	UB1
	2. Behavior to be automatic	UB2
	3. Addiction	UB3

Source: Vankatesh et al. (2003); Han et al. (2022); Maita et al. (2022); Esawe (2022); Scur (2023).

188 The reliability and validity test results of the questionnaire administered to 30 millennial 189 farmers revealed a loading factor of UB3 < 0.7, indicating that UB3 statement could not be used 190 further in the study. An AVE (Average Variance Extracted) value of > 0.5 indicated the validity 191 of the questionnaire (Chen et al., 2023). Furthermore, Cronbach's alpha (CA) of > 0.6 and 192 composite reliability (CR) value of > 0.7 were considered the cut-off values (Al-Sharafi et al., 193 2023). These findings demonstrated that all variables were reliable, providing consistent and 194 stable answers, and could be used for data collection. The collected data were then analyzed using SEM-PLS (Structural Equation Modeling-Partial Least Squares) with the assistance of 195 SmartPLS version 3.0 software, includes measurement model analysis, structural model 196

- 197 analysis, and hypothesis testing (Farida & Sutopo, 2023). The study model was formulated as
- 198 follows:
- 199  $BI = \gamma_1 PE + \gamma_2 EE + \gamma_3 SI + \gamma_4 FC + \epsilon_1 \dots \dots (1)$
- 201 The relationship between exogenous and endogenous variables was examined by testing
- 202 the hypotheses below:
- 203  $BI = \beta_1 PE + \varepsilon_1$ .....(3)
- Hypothesis 1 (H1): Performance expectancy positively and significant influences behaviorintention.





### 229 **RESULTS**

#### 230 **Respondent Characteristics**

231 Respondents can be classified into several categories. In this research, characteristic

respondents were grouped based on gender, age, education level, business field, turnover,

- 233 marketing methods and marketing reach, see Table 2. The respondents had an average age of
- 234 31 years and an education duration of 13 years.
- 235

Description	Quantity (Person)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Man	110	91.67
Woman	10	8.33
Age (Years)		
20-24	18	15.00
25-29	39	32.25
30-34	27	22.50
35-39	36	30.00
Education		
Elementary School	8	6.67
Junior High School	5	4.17
Senior High School	53	44.17
Diploma	7	5.83
Bachelor	43	35.83
Master	4	3.30
Business field	·	
Production	99	82.50
Processing	9	7.50
Marketing	1	0.83
Production and Processing	10	8.30
Production and Marketing	1	0.83
Omzet (Million IDR)	1	0.05
Omzet≤5	45	37.50
5< Omzet≤ 10	31	25.83
$10 < \text{Omzet} \le 15$	12	10.00
15< Omzet≤ 20	8	6.67
$20 < \text{Omzet} \le 25$	5	4.17
25< Omzet	19	15.83
Use of ICT	19	15.05
WhatsApp	120	100.00
Facebook	35	29.16
Instagram	24	20.00
Youtube	4	3.33
Website	4 2	5.55 1.67
Shopee	5	4.16
Tokopedia	5	4.16
Purpose of using ICT	5	4.10
Communication and get information	35	29.16
Marketing agricultural product	85	70.83
Marketing method	03	/0.85
Online	85	70.83
Offline	85 35	29.16
	55	29.10
Marketing area	27	20.02
Local Regional	37 50	30.83
		41.67
National	30	25.00
International	3	2.50

Source: Processed Primary Data, 2023.

These results suggested that the respondents were relatively young and had a significant opportunity to embrace new technologies (Olufunmilola et al., 2017). The results also

demonstrated that the samples had a high level of education, as they had completed high school.
Gebresilassie and Bekele (2015) stated that farmers with a higher level of formal education
tended to analyze information and adopt technology faster compared to those without
education.

243 Some respondents were involved in multiple business fields and subsectors. They were 244 active in the horticulture, plantation, food crops, livestock, fisheries, horticulture, and livestock, 245 horticulture and plantation, horticulture, food crops, and plantation, fisheries, livestock, and 246 food crops, and fisheries and food crops subsectors, respectively. The participants engaged in 247 the processing of various items, including palm sugar, fertilizer, coffee powder, mocaf flour, 248 bread, banana chips, and salted eggs. Furthermore, those who engaged in marketing were sellers 249 of agricultural products and others in both production and processing were farmers and 250 livestock keepers who processed their products into semi-finished and finished goods. For 251 example, roasted coffee, chili powder, crystal guava jenang (jam-like snack), shredded tobacco, 252 satay, and milk were some of the goods produced. The respondents involved in both production 253 and marketing cultivated ornamental plants and had livestock feed stalls.

254 The participants in this study had been running their businesses for more than 5 years with 255 an average monthly turnover of IDR 25 million. This indicated that millennial farmers tended 256 to have a strong customer base (Adeyanju et al., 2023). This finding was inconsistent with 257 Thephavanh, et al. (2023), where 52.7% of young farmers had been running their businesses 258 for less than 4 years. Furthermore, they utilized information technology, such as social media 259 (WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook), websites, and YouTube to market their agricultural 260 products. Durant et al. (2023) also revealed that 42% of farmers experienced an increase in 261 online marketing and sales during the pandemic.

263 **Outer Model Test** 

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To ensure the validity and reliability of the instrument, a measurement model analysis was conducted to confirm the suitability of the survey items in measuring the intended constructs (Bakri et al., 2023). Convergent validity (CV) testing (Table 3) indicated that the model met the criteria, as the loading factors were above 0.7, and the AVE (Average Variance Extracted) values exceeded 0.5 (Dong et al., 2023a). These results suggest that all indicators effectively represent the latent variables used in this study.

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Loading factor	PE	EE	SI	FC	BI	UB
PE1	0.752					
PE2	0.825					
PE3	0.806					
PE4	0.835					
PE5	0.802					
EE1		0.777				
EE2		0.866				
EE3		0.760				
SI1			0.802			
SI2			0.802			
SI3			0.788			
FC1				0.823		
FC2				0.820		
FC3				0.771		
BI1					0.870	
BI2					0.847	
BI3					0.791	
UB1						0.979
UB2						0.981
AVE	PE	EE	SI	FC	BI	UB
-	0.648	0.644	0.636	0.648	0.700	0.961

274 Source: Processed Primary Data, 2023.

275 The discriminant validity test results in Table 4 showed that the model fulfilled the criteria.

276 The Fornell-Larcker criterion stated that a model had discriminant validity when the square root

277 of the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) for each variable surpassed the correlation coefficient

between rows and columns (Dong et al., 2023b).

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L	1	9

**Table 4.** Discriminant validity test results.

Fornell-Larcker	PE	EE	SI	FC	BI	UB
PE	0.805					
EE	0.507	0.802				
SI	0.573	0.587	0.798			
FC	0.195	0.344	0.388	0.805		
BI	0.536	0.536	0.485	0.363	0.836	
UB	0.271	0.390	0.479	0.295	0.501	0.980
Cross Loading	PE	EE	SI	FC	BI	UB
PE1	0.752	0.492	0.581	0.216	0.418	0.361
PE2	0.825	0.367	0.331	0.054	0.413	0.129
PE3	0.806	0.395	0.461	0.180	0.485	0.257
PE4	0.835	0.344	0.497	0.178	0.475	0.227
PE5	0.802	0.466	0.422	0.149	0.332	0.080
EE1	0.379	0.777	0.440	0.370	0.379	0.208
EE2	0.435	0.866	0.559	0.279	0.498	0.475
EE3	0.404	0.760	0.397	0.188	0.400	0.214
SI1	0.406	0.539	0.802	0.313	0.435	0.467
SI2	0.411	0.416	0.802	0.282	0.360	0.300
SI3	0.567	0.435	0.788	0.333	0.354	0.362
FC1	0.244	0.393	0.398	0.823	0.378	0.283
FC2	0.096	0.185	0.254	0.820	0.258	0.209
FC3	0.040	0.146	0.202	0.771	0.136	0.175
BI1	0.427	0.444	0.369	0.287	0.870	0.485
BI2	0.499	0.450	0.524	0.360	0.847	0.479
BI3	0.412	0.457	0.293	0.251	0.791	0.256
UB1	0.269	0.393	0.472	0.272	0.481	0.979
UB2	0.263	0.371	0.466	0.305	0.500	0.981

280 Source: Processed Primary Data, 2023.

The reliability test results in Table 5 showed that each variable had a CA and CR value above 0.7. This indicated that all variables were deemed reliable and capable of providing stable and consistent responses (Zheng et al., 2023).

 
 Table 5. Model reliability test results.
 Composite Reliability Variable Cronbach Alpha Performance Expectancy 0.864 0.902 0.723 0.844 Effort Expectancy Social Influence 0.716 0.840 **Facilitating Conditions** 0.847 0.765 **Behavior Intention** 0.787 0.875 0.959 0.980 Use Behavior

Source: Processed Primary Data, 2023.

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287 Inner Model Test

The inner model test was performed to examine the relationship of latent variables. An  $R^2$ of 0.75 was considered substantial, 0.5 was moderate, 0.25 was weak, and 0.9 or higher indicated overfitting. A  $Q^2$  value > 0 indicated predictive relevance, while a  $Q^2$  value < 0 showed no predictive relevance.

Furthermore,  $Q^2$  values above 0, 0.25, and 0.50 denoted small, moderate, and large levels 292 of predictive accuracy for the PLS path model, respectively (Hair et al., 2019). Table 5 showed 293 that the variable behavior intention had an  $R^2$  value of 0.417, which was in the moderate 294 category, while its  $O^2$  value was 0.272, indicating moderate predictive relevance (Tan & 295 Antonio, 2022). This shows that the variables performance expectancy, effort expectancy, 296 297 social influence, and facilitating conditions together influence behavior intention by 41.7%, 298 while the rest is influenced by variables not examined in the research. The variable use behavior had an  $R^2$  value of 0.251, which was in the weak category, while its  $Q^2$  value was 0.237, 299 indicating small predictive relevance. This shows that the behavior intention variable influences 300 301 use behavior by 23.7%, while the rest is influenced by variables not examined in the research.

Table 6. Inne	r model test resul	ts.
Variable	$\mathbb{R}^2$	$Q^2$
Behavior Intention (BI)	0.417	0.272
Use Behavior (UB)	0.251	0.237

Source: Processed Primary Data, 2023.

#### **304** Hypothesis Test

The hypothesis test was carried out using the bootstrapping method with a confidence level of 95%. The criteria for hypotheses included Ha was accepted and H0 was rejected when the t-statistic value was > 1.96 and the p-value was below 0.05 (Fitri et al., 2021). Ha was rejected and H0 was accepted when the t-statistic value was < 1.96 and the p-value was above 0.05.

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Table 7. Hypothesis test results.

Relationship	Path coefficient	t-Statistic	P-value
$PE \rightarrow BI$	0.324	3.534	$0.000^{***}$
$EE \rightarrow BI$	0.267	2.861	$0.004^{***}$
$SI \rightarrow BI$	0.073	0.700	0.484 <sup>ns</sup>
$FC \rightarrow BI$	0.180	2.253	$0.025^{**}$
$\mathrm{BI} \rightarrow \mathrm{UB}$	0.501	7.067	$0.000^{***}$

312	Source: Processed Primary Data, 2023
313	Notes:
314	Ns: Insignificant
315	***: significant at $\alpha \leq 1\%$
316	**: significant at $\alpha \leq 5\%$
317	*: significant at $\alpha \leq 10\%$ .

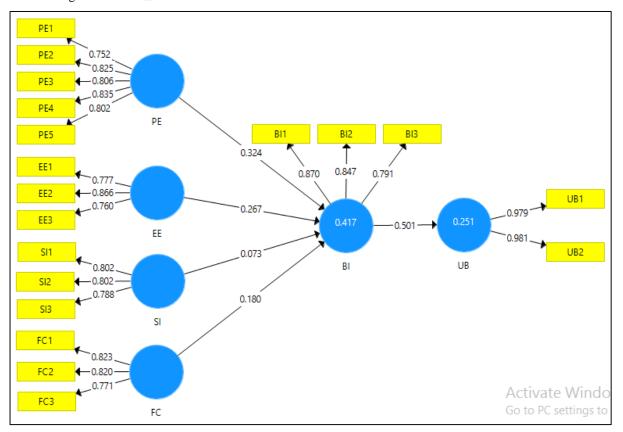


Figure 3. Hypothesis test result.

### 320 **DISCUSSION**

321 The result demonstrated that the respondents were relatively young and had a high level of 322 education, as they had completed high school. They had a significant opportunity to embrace 323 new technologies (Olufunmilola et al., 2017). Besides that, Gebresilassie & Bekele (2015) 324 stated that farmers with a higher level of formal education tended to analyze information and 325 adopt technology faster compared to those without education. Respondents were dominated by 326 those who worked in the horticulture subsector, in contrast with Thephavanh et al. (2023), 327 where 40.7% of the young farmer respondents were coffee producers (in the plantation 328 subsector). The average income received by farmers is quite large indicated that millennial

farmers tended to have a strong customer base (Adeyanju et al., 2023). The large number of farmers who use information technology to market their products is in line with Durant et al. (2023) who stated that 42% of farmers experienced an increase in online marketing and sales during the pandemic. The results of this study are greater than the research of Durant et al.

### 333 (2023) of 70.83%.

334 According to the test results, hypothesis 1 (H1) was accepted, indicating that performance 335 expectancy significant positively influenced behavior intention. Otter & Deutsch (2023) 336 similarly concluded that performance expectancy exerted a statistically significant positive 337 influence on behavior intention. Furthermore, farmers expected that the use of information 338 technology could be an effective solution for marketing their agricultural products (Hashem et 339 al., 2021). Advanced information technology was expected to serve as a means to expand 340 market reach, thereby increasing sales volume and market share. It was also expected to 341 enhance the experience and skills of farmers, as online marketing had become a promising 342 alternative (Khomah et al., 2021). This finding was consistent with Hassaro & Chailom (2023), 343 that online marketers gained satisfaction from the marketing process, leading to increased sales, 344 revenue, and profits through the acquisition of new customers.

Based on the test results, hypothesis (H2) was accepted, indicating that effort expectancy had a significant positive influence on behavior intention. This finding was consistent with Yuniarty et al. (2023) that business expectations significantly impacted behavior intention to utilize web applications. The feeling of being freed from the effort or difficulty involved with the use of technology often helped individuals to derive maximum benefits (Kamble et al., 2019). Furthermore, the expectations of ease of use, supported by the absence of difficulties or errors in its practical use could encourage individuals to continue using the technology.

Hypothesis 3 (H3) test results showed that social influence did not significant positively influence behavior intention, indicating the rejection of H3. This finding was inconsistent with Xie et al. (2022) that social influence significantly impacted behavior intention. According to Erjavec & Manfreda (2022), social influence became a less relevant factor in the UTAUT model due to social isolation caused by Covid-19, leading to reduced interaction with the closest social circles.

358 Hypothesis 4 (H4) test results revealed that facilitating conditions had a significant positive 359 influence on behavior intention, indicating the acceptance of H4. This finding was consistent 360 with Gunawan et al. (2019) that facilitating conditions positively impacted the habit and desire 361 to use technology. This confirmed that the novelty of the study was acceptable because it 362 aligned with the conditions of millennial farmers in Central Java. Hypothesis 5 (H5) test results showed that behavior intention had a significant positive influence on use behavior, indicating the acceptance of H5. Based on the findings, farmers who had the intention to use information technology to market their agricultural products were more likely to achieve it. This was consistent with Alkhowaiter (2022) that intention had a strong relationship with final behavior. The use of ICT by millennial farmers in their business endeavors made them more determined to achieve their marketing goals.

369 The results indicated that the use of information technology on agricultural product 370 marketing could save time and energy for farmers. This research was conducted after the Covid-371 19 pandemic. During the pandemic, various economic and social activities were restricted. 372 Farmers could easily promote and attract customers by creating product posts anytime and 373 anywhere. Information technology had provided an effective solution for many businesses 374 facing Covid-19 lockdowns, as technology had become the only means of communication 375 between business partners (Alalwan et al., 2021). Moreover, the use of technological 376 innovations could also cut out intermediaries in the marketing chain, enabling farmers to 377 directly sell their products to consumers. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) 378 for agricultural product marketing significantly helped in minimizing intermediaries, reducing 379 transaction costs, and identifying potential customers (Hoang, 2020). ICT was not only an 380 essential tool for smart agriculture, but also for strengthening communication among the 381 government, business owners, consumers, consultants, and farmers (Hashem et al., 2021).

382 Findings in the field state that information and communication technology has been used in daily life, especially for business such as using WhatsApp and Facebook. Furthermore, 383 384 respondents utilized ICT in marketing their agricultural products (Durant et al., 2023). This 385 existing experience made farmers optimistic about their ability to use information technology 386 in selling their goods. According to Ulhaq et al. (2022), respondents who were confident about 387 learning new technology tended to believe that it was easier to use compared to those without 388 confidence. The social distancing policy during the pandemic encouraged the acceleration of 389 online marketing, which was easier to implement (Khomah et al., 2021).

This study revealed that millennial farmers already had experience in using information technology in their daily lives, thereby providing motivation and optimism (Badsar & Karami, 2021). Furthermore, this was the driving force behind the millennial farmers' use of information technology in marketing their agricultural products. The strong motivation made the respondents resilient in their beliefs and difficult to influence. According to Chang et al. (2007), experienced and confident individuals were found to be less susceptible to the influence of their social environment. In the case of millennial farmers, their decisions to adopt informationtechnology for marketing purposes were not impacted by their social environment.

398 Based on the observation results, farmers who had facilities, knowledge, and skills were 399 more interested in adopting technology and were more active in marketing using ICT. This was 400 proven by their ability to create more structured content or posts compared to those with fewer 401 supportive facilities. According to Ndubuisi et al. (2022), facilities, such as reliable internet 402 access could facilitate task completion, knowledge and information acquisition, exchange, and 403 collaboration through online channels. Furthermore, respondents living in highland areas 404 experienced difficulties in getting internet signals, making it challenging to engage in online 405 marketing.

406 This study showed that millennial farmers need to be more aware of the benefits of online 407 marketing using information technology for the advancement of their businesses. Additionally, 408 it was expected that the government would develop policies or programs that promoted the 409 realization of this objective by taking into account the extent of influence of each variable. The 410 motivation and self-confidence of farmers need to be instilled to accelerate the adoption of 411 innovation and technology towards modern agriculture. The availability of supportive facilities 412 could also facilitate the implementation of innovation and technology, including the use of ICT 413 for online marketing.

414

#### 415 CONCLUSIONS

416 In conclusion, behavior intention was directly impacted by performance expectancy, effort 417 expectancy, and facilitating conditions, while social influence had no influence. The results also 418 showed that behavior intention positively influenced use behavior. Expectations that served as 419 motivation for farmers and the availability of facilities could provide strong encouragement to 420 utilize information technology in their businesses. Based on the results, the government needs 421 to maximize information or success stories of farmers who have marketed using information 422 technology to encourage and motivate other farmers who have not used it. Apart from that, this 423 also needs to be done to maintain the enthusiasm of farmers who already use information 424 technology for marketing. This can be done by holding workshops and inviting motivators. The 425 government also needs to increase the provision of digital marketing training activities so that 426 farmers find it easy to operate applications for online marketing. Apart from that, it is necessary 427 to procure and improve the condition of facilities that support the implementation of digital 428 marketing. One thing that needs to be done is equal distribution of internet access. This is 429 necessary so that farmers in each region can more easily use technological information for 430 marketing activities so that the marketing system is more effective and can increase profits for

431 farmers.

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