Guide

FROM AI AMBITION TO REAL-WORLD EXECUTION

With Sage X3 SaaS



Sage

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Introduction

Food & Beverage (F&B) manufacturers are moving rapidly from exploring artificial intelligence to operationalizing it across forecasting, production, quality management and supply chain operations.

As AI applications and payback mature, organizations are increasingly looking beyond experimentation and focusing on how to deploy AI at scale to deliver measurable operational value.

Key AI-driven F&B applications cover recipe formulation, batch production, supplier quality and performance, food safety and product traceability, compliance, inventory optimization and recall management.

However, successful AI adoption within your ERP depends on something more fundamental than algorithms alone. It requires consistent and accurate operational and financial data.

Sage X3 - deployed in public or private cloud SaaS environments - provides that data foundation. As a Cloud ERP deployed through a SaaS business model, it combines real-time operational visibility, scalable multi-entity architecture, continuous delivery of new capabilities, embedded AI and agentic AI automation, and open integration frameworks. All these help manufacturing companies like yours adopt AI faster and scale it more confidently across your operations.

As Sage's own authentic AI strategy demonstrates, capabilities such as Sage Copilot, predictive insights, anomaly detection, intelligent agentic automation and future AI skills are delivered as part of a continuously evolving platform and made accessible through cloud deployment. Rather than simply supporting AI initiatives, Sage X3 helps accelerate them by ensuring its customers have the data, agility and infrastructure required to move from AI ambition to AI execution.

Sage X3 offers powerful native AI-enabled features such as:

- Sales Intelligence Agent for a range of insights related to customer orders, sales, seasonal demand shifts and shipments
- Operational Intelligence Agent for up-to-date information related to suppliers, ingredient availability, purchase orders and production batch scheduling
- Accounts Payable (AP) automation
- Supply-chain optimization

But AI developments don't stand still at Sage. Just emerging are AI-driven features for:

- Smart re-ordering (shelf life & replenishment schedules)
- Intelligent and dynamic forecasting (seasonal demand & production planning)
- Outlier and anomaly detection for rapid resolution (QC and product deviations)

And the network of Sage partners is also developing AI-driven add-ons such as:

- Dynamic inventory management
- Predictive alerts
- Workflow automation
- Production scheduling

Let's look at eight of the key AI-enabled capabilities that Sage X3 SaaS makes possible



AI must be accurate, auditable and reliable in real workflows, not just impressive in a demo.” That means moving from a ‘black box’ technology to the transparency of a ‘glass box’ technology.”

“Trust is the biggest barrier to adopting AI... We’re not just building artificial intelligence. We’re building authentic intelligence.”

“Leaders should expect AI to earn trust the same way their teams do: by showing how it got there.”

Aaron Harris, CTO, Sage

1. Transparency across plants, inventory and production – in real-time

The vision of AI-driven planning, forecasting and operational optimization depends on timely, accurate data.

AI models cannot deliver reliable recommendations when they are working from outdated or fragmented information. Real-time visibility across F&B manufacturing operations becomes a foundational requirement for AI success.

Why Cloud SaaS deployment matters
Cloud SaaS deployment ensures that your users, locations and partners operate on a single, always-current version of the system, with continuous access to live operational information across the enterprise. This eliminates many of the data silos and synchronization issues that can undermine AI initiatives and slow decision making

How Sage X3 delivers
Sage X3 provides comprehensive real-time visibility through:

- Real-time dashboards spanning production, ingredient availability, inventory by site, supply chain performance and finance
- Live tracking of work-in-progress (WIP), batch visibility, inventory by lot, QC status, expiry monitoring
- Embedded AI insights that help reveal anomalies, risks and opportunities through Sage Copilot
- Unified access to operational data across cloud-connected manufacturing environments

As Sage Copilot evolves, your users can increasingly interact with operational information through conversational AI, enabling managers and planners to access contextual business insights more quickly and naturally, empowering workers to focus on interpreting these insights and executing tasks within the compliance framework of X3 rather than the mechanics of data retrieval

> Instead of waiting for users to manually search reports, reconcile disconnected data, or identify problems after they happen, [Sage X3] is moving toward systems that can proactively identify issues, recommend actions, and support faster operational decisions.
>
> **Sage X3 Partner, United States**

Impact
By providing a real-time view of manufacturing operations, Sage X3 ensures that AI models for scheduling, forecasting, inventory optimization and quality management are driven by current, quality enterprise data. The result is faster, more accurate decision-making and greater confidence in AI-driven recommendations.

2. Multi-site, multi-entity scalability

The value of AI increases significantly when insights and optimizations can be applied consistently across your entire manufacturing value chain (process plants, bakeries, beverage production sites, packing locations) rather than within isolated sites or business units.



Why Cloud SaaS deployment matters
Cloud SaaS deployments provide the infrastructure required to scale AI initiatives without introducing additional complexity, infrastructure costs or IT management overhead. As organizations grow, AI capabilities can grow with them.

How Sage X3 delivers
Sage X3 supports enterprise-wide scalability through:

- Scalability with native multi-site, multi-company and multi-legislation architectures
- Options with centralized yet flexible cloud-based deployment across global operations
- Consistent, reliable insight with standardized processes and data structures across teams and locations.
- Quicker ROI with rapid onboarding of new facilities, business units or acquisitions
- Confidence with Enterprise-grade data protection and role-based access through robust, multi-layered security and accessibility SLAs

This popular operating environment helps manufacturers create consistent data foundations and governance models that are essential for successful AI deployment.

Impact
AI-driven planning, analytics and optimization can be deployed consistently across your entire manufacturing network – however complex it is today... or becomes in the future. This enables you to extend AI value beyond stand-alone plants and create enterprise-wide improvements in efficiency, forecasting accuracy and operational performance.

3. SaaS updates for continuous innovation

AI technology is advancing rapidly. New capabilities, models and use cases emerge continuously, which means ERP platforms must evolve just as quickly if you are to remain competitive.

Why Cloud SaaS deployment matters
Cloud SaaS deployment ensures that new AI capabilities, feature enhancements and regulatory updates can be delivered automatically without the disruption, cost and risk associated with traditional upgrade projects.

How Sage X3 delivers
Sage X3 supports ongoing innovation through:

- Continuous delivery of new capabilities via SaaS updates
- Ongoing rollout of AI-powered functionality including:
  - Conversational AI through Sage Copilot
  - Predictive insights
  - Anomaly detection
  - AP and other agentic AI automation
- Adaptable architecture capable of supporting evolving manufacturing requirements

The broader Sage AI vision over the next few years demonstrates how Cloud SaaS delivery enables manufacturers to benefit from emerging innovations such as AI agents, smart forecasting, scheduling optimization, smart reordering and increasingly sophisticated decision-support capabilities.

Within the F&B industry, we can expect forthcoming developments in AI-driven formulation management, regulatory update implementation, food safety workflows and automated quality analytics, to name just a few examples.



With the AI agent designer I was really pleased. Now [Sage X3 is] deploying really useful stuff and it's capable... anything you prompt and have the data for, you can achieve.

Sage X3 Partner, United Kingdom

Impact
Manufacturers remain at the forefront of AI innovation without needing large-scale transformation programs or disruptive upgrade cycles. You gain access to the latest capabilities as they become available, helping them maintain agility and competitive advantage.

4. Lower TCO for greater investment in agentic automation



While AI offers significant opportunities, successful adoption requires investment.

Your organization therefore needs ways to redirect resources from infrastructure management toward innovation and operational improvement.

Why Cloud SaaS deployment matters
Cloud SaaS deployment reduces the costs and worry associated with infrastructure, maintenance, upgrades and ongoing system administration. This shifts spending away from maintaining technology and toward generating business value.

How Sage X3 delivers
Sage X3 supports ongoing innovation through:

- Reduced dependence on on-premise infrastructure
- Elimination of costly upgrade projects
- Integrated processes that reduce duplication and inefficiency
- Automation across finance, supply chain and operational functions
- Simplified security, IT management, and support requirements

Emerging capabilities such as AI-powered invoice processing, agentic automation and workflow optimization further reduce manual effort while increasing productivity. F&B processes most likely to benefit include agentic QC automation, supplier documentation management, regulatory workflow management (without escalating human cost), customer-specific packaging.

Impact
Resources that would otherwise be spent maintaining systems can be reinvested into:

- AI initiatives
- Process optimization
- Advanced analytics,
- Building more strategically aligned relationships with internal and external stakeholders

This creates a virtuous cycle in which your operational savings help fund further innovation and transformation.

5. Firm data foundation for AI initiatives

AI is only as effective as the data on which it operates. Clean, connected, governed and trusted data is essential for generating reliable insights and supporting automated decision-making.



Why Cloud SaaS deployment matters
Cloud SaaS deployment helps ensure consistency, standardization and accessibility of data across the enterprise. This creates the trusted data foundation that your modern AI initiatives demand, across formulas, product masters, technical sheets, QC specifications, BOM versions, ingredient genealogy, supplier performance, and many other areas.

How Sage X3 delivers
Sage X3 provides a strong AI-ready data foundation through:

- A unified data model spanning manufacturing, supply chain and finance
- Real-time synchronization of information across sites and functions
- Full traceability through lot, batch and genealogy tracking
- Structured bills of materials (BOMs), routings and product data

This unified data environment supports both operational reporting and more advanced AI-driven capabilities such as predictive analytics, anomaly detection and intelligent planning.

Impact
AI models operate on trusted enterprise-wide data, improving forecasting accuracy, operational visibility and overall decision quality. Manufacturers can deploy AI with greater confidence because they know the underlying data is consistent and reliable.

> I've asked [Sage X3 AI] some really, really complicated questions that it's been able to address largely. I'm excited with what I've seen.
>
> **Sage X3 Partner, South Africa**

6. Integration-ready architecture for AI ecosystems

F&B manufacturing AI extends far beyond ERP.

Valuable insights increasingly come from connected systems including shop-floor technologies, quality systems, supplier portals, R&D lab systems, IoT devices, distribution networks, analytics platforms and specialized subcontractor applications.

Why Cloud SaaS deployment matters
Cloud-based deployment enables your organization to integrate more easily with external platforms, business partners and new technology innovations as they emerge.

How Sage X3 delivers
Sage X3 supports ecosystem-wide AI through:

- Open APIs and web services
- Connectivity with MES, WMS, IoT, supplier and analytics platforms
- AI-driven add-ons developed by software partners in the wider Sage X3 ecosystem
- Extensible architecture supporting partner and third-party innovation

The Sage Platform provides the environment in which applications, workflows and data can be connected, creating a broader ecosystem that supports intelligent decision-making across the enterprise.



The quality of the [AI] language model [in Sage X3] is very good. It understands everything I ask, even if my prompt is not perfect and gives a very good quality answer.

Sage X3 Partner, Germany

Impact
Sage X3 becomes the central hub for operational data and business processes, enabling AI initiatives that span the entire manufacturing vista rather than remaining confined to individual systems.

7. Workforce productivity in the factory, the back-office and sales



The greatest value of AI comes not from replacing your people, but from amplifying them.

By reducing manual effort and accelerating decision-making, AI enables your employees to focus on higher-value activities that drive business performance. That's everyone across your food technologists, your quality managers, your finance professionals, your production people, your warehouse supervisors and your compliance officers.

Why Cloud SaaS deployment matters
Cloud SaaS deployment ensures that AI capabilities, agentic automation features and modern user experiences are consistently available to all users regardless of location. This consistency is essential when scaling productivity improvements across global manufacturing operations.

How Sage X3 delivers
Sage X3 enhances workforce productivity through:

- Sage Copilot, which provides conversational AI access to operational and financial data. Which lots need to be recalled? Which formulations deliver the best margin?
- AI-driven insights and alerts that highlight risks, priorities and opportunities in real time. Which products contain a specific allergen? Which ingredients expire in the next two weeks?
- Automation of routine processes such as invoice capture, reconciliation, approvals and workflows
- Role-based dashboards tailored to planners, operators and finance professionals
- Cloud access that supports distributed teams and multi-site operations

Sage Copilot further strengthens productivity by enabling your users to ask natural-language questions about orders, shipments, customers and operational performance, helping teams access information more quickly and act with greater confidence.

Impact
From the shop floor to the finance department, your employees spend less time searching for information, reconciling transactions and reacting to problems. Instead, they can focus on analysis, optimization and proactive decision-making. AI becomes a practical productivity engine embedded into everyday work that improves efficiency and enhances employee satisfaction.

8. More powerful traceability, automated compliance, tighter governance

AI-driven manufacturing requires trust. That trust depends on accurate, traceable and compliant data, particularly within highly regulated industries and quality-critical manufacturing environments.

Why Cloud SaaS deployment matters
Cloud SaaS deployment helps ensure that governance, compliance and process-control capabilities remain standardized and continuously updated across the enterprise. This creates a reliable foundation for both operational control and AI-driven analysis.

How Sage X3 delivers
Sage X3 supports governance and compliance through:

- Bi-directional and end-to-end traceability across lots, batches, serial numbers and product/ingredient genealogy
- Integrated workflows that enforce approvals, controls and audit trails
- Real-time data capture and validation across your manufacturing and supply chain processes – QC, batch optimization, shelf-life management
- Automated compliance processes and reporting – Certificates of Analysis, non-conformance indicators
- Continuous SaaS updates that support evolving regulations and industry best practices in areas such as safety and recall tracking
- AI-powered anomaly detection and insights that identify deviations, risks and compliance issues earlier

These capabilities help ensure that both operational users and AI systems are working from trusted, validated information.

Impact
Manufacturers gain a single, trusted source of truth for operations and compliance. This strengthens AI-enabled governance, improves audit readiness, and helps automate the growing burden of compliance reporting. The result is quicker insights, reduced risk and smarter decision-making across the organization.

What now?

Sage X3 SaaS (whether public or private cloud-based) transforms ERP from a transactional system into a platform for AI agility. It's powerful yet strictly built for transparency and explainability – AI you can trust.

It combines:

- Real-time visibility;
- Scalable global operations;
- Continuous innovation;
- Integrated data and processes;
- Embedded AI intelligence;

Sage X3 provides the foundation you need to move beyond AI experimentation and into practical, enterprise-scale execution.

As capabilities such as natural language queries through Sage Copilot, predictive insights, agentic automation, anomaly detection and future AI agents continue to evolve, manufacturers require an ERP platform capable of supporting that evolution. Sage X3 delivers the operational visibility, data foundation, scalability and continuous innovation required to unlock the full value of AI.

And we're only at the beginning.

Sage X3 provides Food & Beverage manufacturers with a trusted SaaS platform that combines AI, real-time operational visibility, recipe and batch management, quality control, regulatory compliance and end-to-end traceability. Rather than simply supporting AI initiatives, Sage X3 enables organizations to move confidently from AI ambition to AI execution - while protecting product quality, consumer trust and operational resilience.

A Sage Partner

nextec

Address:

Tel:

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Sage

High-Performance
Finance Software

POWERED BY Ai

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