FROM THE FIELD

Agentic AI Won't Fix Excel Planning

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Agentic AI won’t fix Excel planning

Over the past days, there has been a noticeable rise in posts and discussions around agentic AI in supply chains. Interestingly, many of them point to the same issue: We’re scaling AI ambitions on top of operational systems that are fundamentally unstable.

In many organizations:
– Planning still runs in Excel
– S/4 is used like a digital typewriter—manual entry, manual changes
– Parameters are outdated or mistrusted
– Feedback loops are broken
– Execution is disconnected from planning
– Ownership is unclear

At the same time, AI narratives keep expanding. Consulting decks multiply use cases. Platforms like Databricks and NVIDIA take center stage.

But rarely do we see working demonstrators in real-world supply chains.

Why?
Because process logic, data integrity, and decision ownership are still unresolved in too many places.
—
Here’s the uncomfortable truth:
You can’t automate what you don’t understand.
And no agent will succeed in a planning environment that lacks stability, structure, and closed feedback loops.
—
“**Dream until it’s your reality**?”
Not in supply chain planning.
Not without resilient processes and operational ownership.

Because firefighting can’t be delegated to an agent. But operational clarity can be designed—and scaled.

#SupplyChain #AgenticAI #DigitalExecution #SCM #OperationsLeadership #COO #Transformation