International Journal of Scientific Research and Engineering Development-– Volume 9 Issue 3, May-June 2026
Available at www.ijsred.com

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

CropHealth: AI-Based Leaf Disease Detection Using CNN

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Abstract

This research paper introduces an intelligent system for early detection of plant leaf diseases, addressing one of the major challenges in modern agriculture. Crop diseases caused by pathogens such as fungi, bacteria, and viruses significantly reduce yield and quality, leading to economic losses for farmers worldwide. Timely identification of these diseases is essential to ensure sustainable agricultural practices and food security. Traditional methods of disease detection rely heavily on manual inspection, which is often labor-intensive, time-consuming, and prone to human error.

To overcome these limitations, this study proposes an automated approach using computer vision and deep learning techniques. The system processes leaf images through preprocessing steps such as resizing, normalization, and noise reduction, followed by classification using a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model. The proposed model is trained on a dataset of healthy and diseased plant leaves to accurately identify various disease types.

Experimental results demonstrate that the system achieves high accuracy and reliability in disease classification. The proposed solution is designed to be user-friendly, cost-efficient, and scalable, making it suitable for real-time deployment in agricultural environments. This work aims to support farmers and agricultural experts by providing a rapid and effective tool for crop health monitoring and decision-making.

Keywords: Plant Disease Detection, Crop Health Monitoring, Deep Learning, Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), Computer Vision, Image Processing, Smart Agriculture

Introduction

Agriculture is a key sector that supports food production and economic growth, but plant diseases remain a major challenge affecting crop yield and quality. Diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, and viruses can lead to significant losses if not detected at an early stage. Traditional methods of disease identification rely on manual inspection, which is time-consuming, requires expert knowledge, and may lead to inaccurate results.

With advancements in artificial intelligence, automated plant disease detection has become possible using computer vision and deep learning techniques. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have proven to be highly effective in image classification tasks, including leaf disease detection.

In this work, an automated system is proposed to detect plant leaf diseases using image processing and deep learning. The system takes leaf images as input, performs preprocessing, and classifies diseases using a CNN model. This approach aims to provide a fast, accurate, and cost-effective solution for farmers. The proposed system can assist in early detection and help improve crop health and agricultural productivity.

Literature Review

Plant disease detection using image processing and machine learning has gained significant attention in the domain of precision agriculture. Accurate and early identification of diseases helps in reducing crop damage and improving overall productivity. Over time, various approaches have been proposed to automate the detection process.

In the initial stages, researchers focused on traditional image processing techniques such as thresholding, segmentation, color space conversion, and morphological operations. These methods extracted features like color, texture, and shape to identify infected regions. However, their performance was often affected by environmental factors such as noise, complex backgrounds, and varying lighting conditions, resulting in inconsistent accuracy.

Later, machine learning techniques were introduced to improve classification performance. Algorithms such as Support Vector Machines (SVM), K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), and

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Decision Trees were widely used. These models provided better results compared to conventional methods but required manual feature extraction, making the process time-consuming and dependent on dataset quality.

In recent years, deep learning approaches, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have demonstrated superior performance in image-based disease detection. CNN models automatically learn relevant features from input images and achieve high accuracy in classification tasks. Studies using large datasets such as PlantVillage have shown promising results in controlled environments. However, challenges still exist in real-world conditions due to variations in lighting, background noise, and occlusion.

This research focuses on developing an efficient deep learning-based system that overcomes these limitations and provides reliable disease detection in practical agricultural scenarios.

Proposed Work

- Capture plant leaf images using a camera or upload from the device.
- Apply image preprocessing techniques such as resizing, normalization, and noise reduction.
- Analyze the processed image using a deep learning-based CNN model for disease detection.
- Classify the leaf into healthy or specific disease categories.
- Display the predicted disease along with relevant information or suggestions.
- Provide real-time results through a user-friendly interface.
- Continuously improve accuracy by training the model with more diverse datasets.

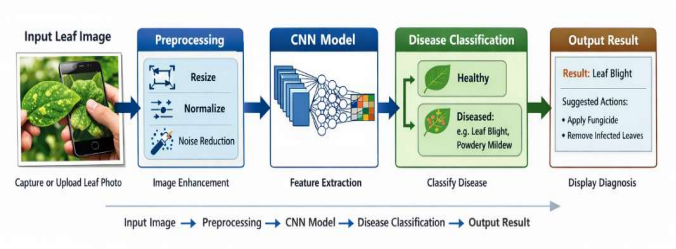

Fig.1. Proposed System's Architecture

Methodology

The proposed system follows a structured approach for detecting plant leaf diseases using deep learning techniques. Initially, a dataset of plant leaf images is collected, containing both healthy and diseased samples. The images are then preprocessed using techniques such as resizing, normalization, and noise reduction to improve data quality.

After preprocessing, the dataset is divided into training and testing sets. A Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model is then designed and trained using the training dataset. The model automatically learns important features from the images without manual feature extraction.

Once the training is completed, the model is evaluated using the testing dataset to measure its accuracy and performance. The trained model is then used to predict diseases from new input images provided by the user.

The overall methodology ensures efficient and accurate classification of plant diseases and can be implemented in real-time applications for crop health monitoring.

Scope

- The system can be used for early detection of plant leaf diseases to reduce crop losses.
- It can be applied in smart agriculture for continuous crop health monitoring.
- The model can be extended to support multiple crops and a wider range of diseases.

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- It can be integrated into mobile or web applications for easy access by farmers.
- The system can be improved using larger datasets for better accuracy in real-world conditions.
- Future enhancements may include real-time detection, weather-based analysis, and recommendation systems for treatment.

Objectives

- To develop an automated system for detecting plant leaf diseases using deep learning techniques.
- To apply image preprocessing methods for improving the quality of input leaf images.
- To design and train a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model for accurate disease classification.
- To identify whether a plant leaf is healthy or affected by a specific disease.
- To provide fast and reliable results to assist in early disease detection.
- To create a cost-effective and user-friendly solution for real-world agricultural applications.

System Design

- **Image Input:** Captures plant leaf images using a camera or allows users to upload images from the device.
- **Image Preprocessing:** Enhances image quality using resizing, normalization, and noise reduction techniques.
- **Feature Extraction:** Extracts important features from leaf images using a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN).
- **Disease Classification:** Classifies the leaf as healthy or identifies the specific disease using the trained model.
- **Result Display:** Shows the predicted disease along with basic information or suggestions.
- **User Interface:** Provides a simple and interactive interface for uploading images and viewing results.
- **Model Training:** Uses a labeled dataset of plant leaves to train the CNN model for accurate predictions.
- **Data Handling:** Manages image data and prediction results efficiently for smooth system performance.

Implementation

- **Dataset Collection:** Collected a dataset of plant leaf images containing both healthy and diseased samples from available sources.
- **Data Preprocessing:** Performed image resizing, normalization, and noise reduction to prepare the dataset for training.
- **Model Development:** Designed and implemented a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for feature extraction and classification.
- **Model Training:** Trained the CNN model using the prepared dataset to learn patterns of different plant diseases**.**
- **Model Evaluation:** Tested the model on unseen data to evaluate accuracy and performance.
- **Integration:** Integrated the trained model into a web-based interface for user interaction.
- **User Input Handling:** Enabled users to upload leaf images and receive predictions in real time.
- **Output Generation:** Displayed the predicted disease along with basic details in a user-friendly format.

Conclusion

This project presents an automated system for detecting plant leaf diseases using image processing and deep learning techniques. The developed system enables early identification of diseases, which plays a vital role in effective crop management and helps in reducing agricultural losses.

By incorporating steps such as data collection, image preprocessing, feature extraction, and CNN-based classification, the system is capable of accurately distinguishing between healthy and

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diseased leaves. The performance of the model was evaluated using appropriate metrics to ensure reliable and consistent results. A user-friendly interface was also implemented, allowing users to easily upload leaf images and obtain disease predictions.

Overall, this work highlights the effectiveness of integrating artificial intelligence with agriculture to enhance crop health monitoring. The proposed system provides a practical and scalable solution that can support farmers in making timely decisions. In the future, the system can be further improved by increasing the dataset size, enhancing model performance, and incorporating real-time detection and advanced recommendation features for better usability in real-world applications.

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