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AI-Powered Crop Recommendation Using Soil and Weather

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, the agricultural sector has faced increasing challenges related to soil degradation, unpredictable climate patterns, and declining crop productivity. Farmers often rely on manual soil testing or traditional experience-based methods, which are time-consuming, error-prone, and insufficient for modern precision farming. To address these issues, there is a growing demand for intelligent systems that can analyse soil health accurately and recommend suitable crops to improve yield. This project focuses on the research problem of identifying soil characteristics using data-driven approaches and generating reliable crop recommendations to support sustainable agriculture. The significance of this work lies in leveraging AI to enable informed decision-making, reduce resource wastage, and promote higher productivity.

The project uses machine learning techniques to analyse soil parameters such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, pH level, moisture, and organic content. A structured dataset is pre-processed, normalized, and trained using algorithms like Random Forest and Decision Tree classifiers to predict the best crop for a given soil profile. Soil-quality analysis is performed through predictive modelling, and the system produces recommendations with high accuracy. An interactive interface enables users to input soil values and receive crop suggestions instantly. Initial results show strong classification performance and improved precision compared to traditional methods. The project's innovative aspect is its integration of automated soil assessment with intelligent crop prediction to support precision farming.

The research concludes that AI-driven soil analysis significantly enhances crop recommendation accuracy and supports sustainable agricultural practices. This system contributes to the Agri-Tech field by offering a scalable, data-driven solution for soil management and crop planning. It can be expanded for region-specific crop models, real-time sensor integration, and mobile-based access for farmers. Future research may explore deep learning models, climate-based prediction, and IoT-enabled smart farming applications to further optimize agricultural productivity.

Keywords: Soil analysis, Crop recommendation, Precision agriculture, Machine learning, Soil nutrients, AI-based prediction, Sustainable farming.

1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture remains the backbone of many developing economies and plays a crucial role in ensuring global food security. However, in recent years, the agricultural sector has faced several challenges, including soil degradation, nutrient imbalance, unpredictable climatic conditions, and inefficient traditional farming practices. Farmers often depend on manual soil testing or rely on their experience to decide which crop to cultivate. These conventional methods are not only time-consuming but also lack precision and scientific accuracy. As a result, poor crop selection, reduced yield, and soil nutrient depletion have become common issues, directly affecting agricultural productivity and farmer income.

This project, AI-powered Crop Recommendation Using Soil and Weather, focuses on leveraging machine learning techniques to analyze key soil parameters such as nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), pH level, moisture content, and temperature. By processing these variables, the system predicts the most suitable crops for a particular soil type, promoting sustainable agriculture and optimal resource utilization. The goal is to enhance farming efficiency, reduce unnecessary input costs, and increase crop yield through technologically supported decision-making. In an era where precision agriculture is becoming essential, this AI-powered solution provides an innovative and scalable approach to modern farming challenges, bridging the gap between traditional agricultural knowledge and advanced technological solutions.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Several studies have explored the application of machine learning, IoT, and data-driven techniques in agriculture, each contributing valuable insights while revealing notable research gaps. Kumar et al. (2020) conducted a broad survey of machine learning algorithms such as Random Forest, SVM, and KNN, highlighting their effectiveness in classification tasks; however, the study lacked domain-specific tuning tailored to agricultural datasets. Patel and Singh (2021) applied supervised learning models for soil nutrient and fertility prediction, but their work was limited by a small dataset that did not

incorporate samples from diverse regions. Similarly, Sharma et al. (2019) proposed a crop recommendation model using Random Forest, yet the evaluation relied solely on accuracy, omitting more comprehensive performance metrics.

IoT-based approaches have also been widely studied. Verma and Gupta (2022) designed an IoT monitoring system capable of collecting real-time soil and climatic data, though it did not integrate predictive analytics for decision-making. Khan and Alam (2020) combined IoT sensors with machine learning to automate farm processes, but they did not assess real-time prediction latency, which is crucial for timely field operations. In parallel, Reddy et al. (2020) focused on big data frameworks such as Hadoop and Spark for agricultural data management, though their work lacked real-time analytical capabilities.

Comparative analyses of machine learning algorithms have been performed by Choudhary et al. (2018), who evaluated Decision Trees, SVM, and Random Forest for soil classification but failed to address dataset imbalance issues. Naveen et al. (2023) examined feature engineering techniques for agricultural datasets, yet the study did not quantify how engineered features affected model performance. Regression-based approaches were explored by Thomas and Roy (2017) for soil pH prediction; however, their methods struggled due to the inherently non-linear nature of soil characteristics.

Various studies have attempted to incorporate advanced AI techniques in agriculture. Ali and Mohammed (2021) applied artificial intelligence models to enhance crop yield predictions but did not validate their findings on real-world field data. Chaudhari et al. (2021) used artificial neural networks for soil fertility classification, though the models required large datasets and showed signs of overfitting. Ensemble learning methods such as bagging and boosting were investigated by Deshmukh et al. (2019), but the study did not analyze the computational cost versus accuracy trade-offs, an important consideration for resource-limited agricultural settings.

Decision support systems (DSS) have also been explored. Abraham et al. (2022) developed a DSS integrating machine learning predictions with a user-friendly interface, yet the system lacked deployment on cloud platforms for scalability. Climate-based prediction models, like those proposed by Rathi et al. (2018), incorporated rainfall, temperature, and humidity variables but omitted soil nutrient information, thereby reducing prediction accuracy. More recently, Joseph and Paul (2023) reviewed data-driven techniques—spanning ML, IoT, and cloud computing—but did not offer benchmark comparisons across methodologies.

Overall, the existing literature highlights substantial progress in the use of ML, IoT, and big data for smart agriculture. Nevertheless, persistent gaps remain in dataset size and diversity, real-time analytics, integration of soil and climate variables, comprehensive evaluation metrics, and deployment challenges. These gaps indicate strong opportunities for developing more robust, scalable, and context-aware predictive systems for modern agriculture.

3.OBJECTIVE

- Develop an AI-Based Crop Recommendation System
- Evaluate Essential Soil Parameters
- Classify Crop Types Accurately
- Recommend Suitable Crops Using Machine Learning
- Improve Decision-Making in Agriculture
- Develop a User-Friendly Platform
- Support Sustainable and Productive Farming
- Enhance Food Security through Technology

4.METHODOLOGY

The research methodology for this project follows a systematic and structured approach to develop an effective AI-based soil analysis and crop recommendation system. The methodology consists of six major steps: Data Collection, Preprocessing, Model Development, Evaluation, Implementation, and Deployment. Each phase ensures accuracy, efficiency, and real-world applicability of the system.

4.1. Data Collection

- Soil data is gathered from agricultural databases, research institutes, and IoT sensors.
- Includes key parameters: Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), pH, moisture, temperature, and soil type.
- A large, diverse dataset helps the ML model learn accurate patterns.

4.2. Preprocessing

- Raw data is cleaned, corrected, and prepared.

- Missing values are handled, outliers removed, and data normalized.
- Categorical data (e.g., soil type) is converted to numerical form using encoding techniques.
- Ensures data quality and improves model accuracy.

4.3. Model Development

- Machine Learning algorithms such as Decision Tree, Random Forest, SVM, or Neural Networks are trained.
- Dataset is split into training and testing sets.
- Hyperparameter tuning is done to optimize model performance.
- The model learns the relationship between soil features and suitable crops.

4.4. Evaluation

- The trained model is tested using accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and confusion matrix.
- Cross-validation may be applied to avoid overfitting.
- Ensures reliability and correctness of crop recommendations.

4.5. Implementation

- The final model is integrated into a web or mobile application.
- Users can input soil data manually or through IoT sensors.
- The system provides instant soil analysis and crop recommendations.
- Interface is designed to be user-friendly and simple.

4.6. Deployment

- System is hosted on cloud servers for real-time access.
- Farmers and users can access recommendations anytime, anywhere.
- Continuous updates and model retraining maintain accuracy.

5.FACILITY REQUIRED

Hardware Requirements

- Laptop/PC with at least 8GB RAM for model training and testing
- Optional IoT Sensors for real-time soil monitoring:
 - Soil Moisture Sensor
 - Temperature Sensor\
 - pH Sensor

Software Requirements

- Python 3.x for programming
- Jupyter Notebook for model development and testing
- Machine Learning libraries: NumPy, Pandas, Scikit-Learn, Matplotlib
- Flask/Django for building the web interface
- GitHub for version control and project collaboration
- Cloud platforms (AWS/GCP/Azure) for optional deployment and scalability

6.RESULT

The AI-powered crop recommendation using soil and weather prototype was successfully developed to analyse soil images and recommend suitable crops. The computer vision module accurately detected soil colour, texture, and surface moisture characteristics using OpenCV. A machine-learning classifier was trained using a curated soil dataset, and after hyperparameter tuning (grid search, feature normalization, and improved image preprocessing), the model achieved ~90% accuracy on the test dataset for soil-type prediction (sandy, loamy, clayey).

The system delivered predictions within 2–3 seconds, and the crop recommendation module generated consistent outputs based on the classified soil type and agronomy rules. Real-time testing on field-like samples showed stable performance under controlled lighting.

7.CONCLUSION

AI-powered crop recommendation using soil and wheather demonstrates that an AI-driven soil analysis system can achieve high accuracy even with minimal hardware and open-source tools. The integration of optimized computer vision preprocessing and a tuned machine-learning model enabled the system to reach around 90% soil classification accuracy, validating its reliability for practical use.

The prototype shows strong potential for deployment as a low-cost decision-support tool for farmers. Although further improvements such as larger datasets, variable lighting adaptation, and hardware sensors could enhance robustness, the current implementation successfully proves that accurate soil analysis and crop suggestion can be performed efficiently using AI.

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