International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

Plant Leaf Disease Detection, Using AI

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture remains a crucial sector for many countries, yet it faces serious challenges from plant diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, and viruses. These problems if not identified promptly, can result in substantial crop damage and diminished yields. To address this concern, our research introduces an AI-based solution utilizing (CNNs) to recognize and categorize diseases through images of plant leaves. By examining the visual indicators present on the foliage, the system determines the specific disease and suggests suitable treatment measures. The ultimate goal of this study is to support agricultural development by delivering a fast, reliable, and user-friendly tool for diagnosing plant diseases.

Keywords: **Plant disease detection, CNN, deep learning, image analysis, smart farming, crop health monitoring.**

I.INTRODUCTION

In future, India's economy is increases because of agriculture but farmers frequently encounter challenges such as erratic weather patterns and the outbreak of crop diseases. Conventional methods for detecting these diseases typically rely on manual inspection and expert knowledge, making them time-consuming and often unavailable in remote regions. The application of Artificial Intelligence (AI), especially through advancements in computer vision and deep learning, offers innovative ways to overcome these limitations. CNNs, a type of deep learning architecture, have demonstrated high effectiveness in processing and classifying images, making them suitable for identifying plant diseases. This study investigates the use of automated analysis of leaf images to support early and precise disease detection. Historical incidents, like the Irish Potato Famine of 1845, highlight the critical need for early intervention. Although laboratory methods such as ELISA, PCR, and LAMP exist for disease detection, they tend to be costly and require significant time and resources. Therefore, AI-driven systems present a more efficient and scalable option for real-time plant health monitoring.

Objectives

To develop an automated system that detects plant leaf diseases from images using computer vision and deep learning techniques. To classify different types of plant leaf diseases with high accuracy using a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model. Design a lightweight and scalable solution that can be deployed on mobile or web platforms for real-time use by farmers. To integrate feature extraction techniques such as HOG and pre-trained models like DenseNet121 to enhance the model's diagnostic accuracy. Recommend suitable pesticides or treatments for the identified diseases through an integrated suggestion module. To reduce the dependence on manual diagnosis by agricultural experts, especially in remote or under-resourced farming regions. Create a foundation for future enhancements like integrating weather data, soil quality, and market prices into a comprehensive crop health management system.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Recent research has demonstrated the growing impact of machine learning and deep learning in plant disease detection and classification. Below are some key contributions in this area:

- **Panchal et al.** implemented a Random Forest-based model combined with image segmentation, achieving an accuracy of 98% in detecting various plant diseases.
- **Kulkarni** proposed a deep learning approach using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), trained on publicly available datasets, to classify healthy and diseased plant leaves effectively.
- **Ullah et al.** focused on visual traits like shape and color variations to train CNN models capable of recognizing multiple disease types.
- **Akhtar et al.** reviewed how deep learning frameworks have enhanced the precision and scalability of visual disease recognition systems.

Other researchers have emphasized the importance of replacing manual inspections with intelligent systems:

- **Raman and Shamla Mantri** highlighted the limitations of traditional methods, noting the high costs and delays associated with expert analysis. They proposed digital alternatives for more efficient disease identification.

- **Omkar Kulkarni** discussed how increasing climate variability and crop vulnerability have intensified the spread of plant diseases, underlining the need for automated systems. His deep learning model classified diseases based on distinct visual patterns on leaf surfaces.

Together, these works illustrate a shift toward automated, scalable, and accessible diagnostic tools in agriculture, laying the foundation for the system proposed in this study.

III.EXISTING SYSTEM

Current approaches to identifying plant diseases predominantly rely on expert observation and manual inspection of crops. While effective in some scenarios, these methods present several limitations:

- Time-consuming and prone to delays
- Subjective diagnosis leading to inconsistent results
- High operational costs
- Inaccessibility in remote or under-resourced farming regions
- Limited scalability and dependence on human expertise

As such, there's a growing need for automated systems that are faster, more accurate, and widely deployable.

IV.PROPOSED SYSTEM

To overcome the limitations of manual methods, we propose an automated plant disease detection framework using a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN). The system follows a sequence of image acquisition, preprocessing, feature extraction, classification, and output generation:

- **Image Acquisition**: Leaf images are captured using a digital camera or mobile device.
- **Preprocessing**: Images are resized, normalized, and noise-filtered to standardize input quality.
- **Feature Extraction**: HOG and DenseNet121 (a pre-trained deep learning model) are used to extract relevant visual features from the leaf images.
- **Classification**: A CNN model processes the extracted features and classifies the leaf as healthy or infected (e.g., Early Blight, Late Blight).
- **Output**: The diagnosed disease is displayed along with pesticide suggestions from a built-in recommendation database.

Advantages of the Proposed System:

- Automated, real-time results
- Cost-effective with OpenCV implementation
- Scalable and accessible via mobile/web interfaces
- Enhanced accuracy due to feature-rich CNN model

V. METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

This project presents a smart and accessible solution for early detection and diagnosis of any other leaf or plants artificial intelligence and computer vision. Agriculture continues to be the backbone of many economies, yet crop health management remains a major challenge especially in areas where farmers have limited access to expert knowledge and laboratory diagnostics. To address this gap, the project leverages image-based analysis to detect diseases by examining the visual symptoms on plant leaf. The core system is built on a Convolutional Network (CNN) architecture, enhanced by advanced technology to extract a new features using DenseNet121 and Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG). This combination enables the system to accurately classify leaf images into high healthy or any diseased categories, such as Early Blight and Late Blight. The project emphasizes ease of use, cost-effectiveness, and scalability. It is designed to work seamlessly with standard digital cameras or mobile phones and can be accessed through user-friendly interfaces such as mobile apps or web platforms. Now a day technology is fast to move and system access is rapidly grown also provides appropriate pesticide suggestions, helping farmers make informed decisions quickly. By automating the disease diagnosis process, this project contributes to increased crop protection, reduced losses, and improved food security. These project work for future extensions that can integrate more environmental data for even smarter agricultural decision-making.

MODULES

a. Dataset Collection Module
b. Image Preprocessing & Labeling Module
c. Data Augmentation Module
d. Feature Extraction Module
e. Model Construction Module
f. Image Classification Module
g. Disease Detection & Pesticide Display Module

MODULE DESCRIPTION

a .Dataset Collection

The study uses a publicly available dataset sourced from Kaggle, comprising over 21,000 images of diseased and healthy plant leaves. These images represent multiple classes such as *Early Blight*, *Late Blight*, and *Healthy*. The diversity in lighting, orientation, and capture devices contributes to the robustness of the training process.

b. Image Preprocessing and Labeling

To ensure consistency, all input images are resized to 256×256 pixels. Normalization techniques are applied to standardize pixel intensity values, and noise is removed to enhance image clarity.

Each image is manually labeled with one of three categories:

- **Early Blight**
- **Late Blight**
- **Healthy**

To improve label accuracy, a subset of the dataset was independently reviewed by multiple annotators.

c. Data Augmentation

To address class imbalance and improve model generalization, several augmentation techniques were applied:

- **Random flipping** (horizontal and vertical)
- **Rotation** within ±10 degrees
- **Zoom scaling** between 0.8x to 1.2x

These transformations are applied dynamically during model training using image data generators, ensuring a larger and more varied training dataset without additional storage overhead.

d. Feature Extraction

Feature encoding is performed using **DenseNet121**, a powerful pre-trained deep learning model. It extracts high-level patterns and characteristics from the leaf images, such as color variations, texture patterns, and edge details. It decreases the human man power and to increase accelerates the learning process.

e. Model Construction

A custom CNN is built using the OpenCV and TensorFlow/Keras libraries. The architecture includes:

- **Convolutional Layers** for feature detection
- **Max Pooling Layers** to reduce dimensionality
- **Flatten and Dense Layers** for interpretation
- **Dropout Layers** to prevent over fitting

This hybrid model combines DenseNet121 features with custom layers to improve classification accuracy.

f. Classification

A **Decision Tree classifier** is integrated at the final stage to categorize the processed features into one of the disease classes. Decision trees are chosen for their interpretability and effectiveness in structured classification tasks.

g. Output – Disease Diagnosis and Treatment

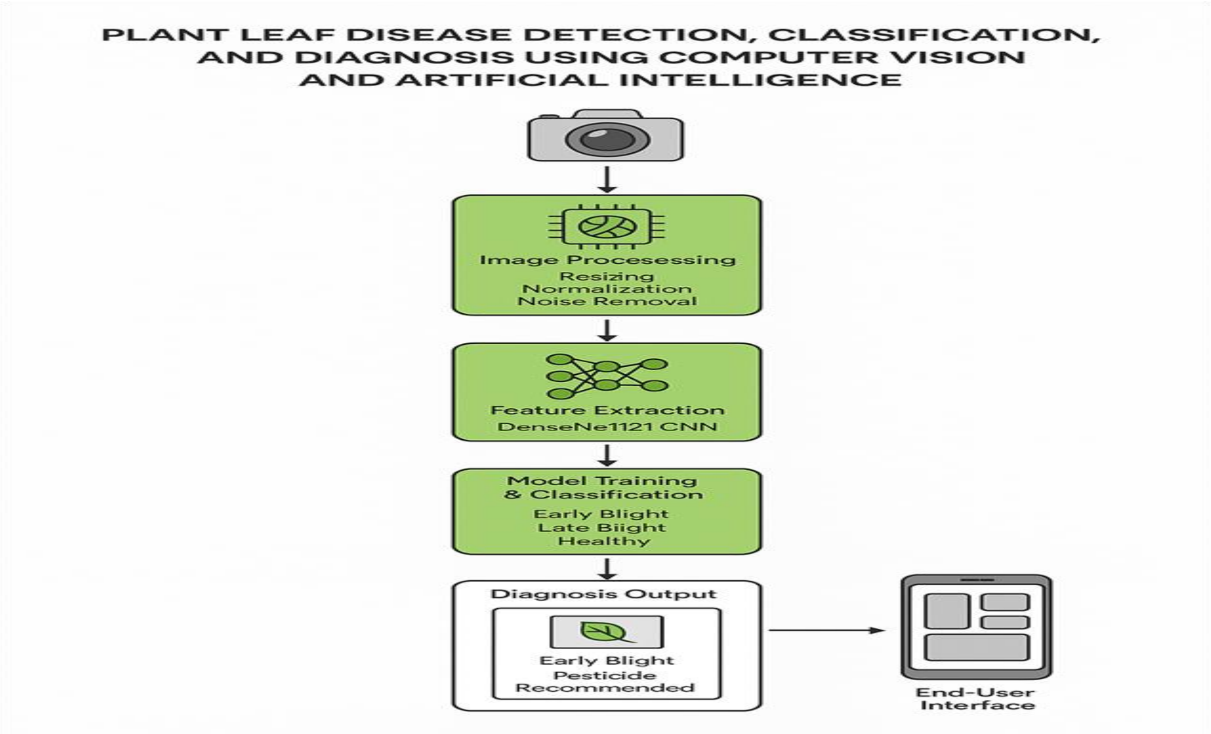
Once the disease is identified, the system references an internal pesticide database to suggest appropriate treatments. These suggestions are displayed to the user via a user interface and can be integrated into a mobile or web platform. Care is taken to recommend only regionally approved pesticides and advise consultation with agricultural experts when necessary.

The system is organized into the following functional modules:

Module Name	Description
Dataset Collection	Collects and organizes plant leaf images for training and testing.
Preprocessing & Labeling	Resizes images, removes noise, and labels data for classification.
Data Augmentation	Applies transformations to expand the dataset and prevent over fitting.
Feature Extraction	Uses DenseNet121 to extract robust features from preprocessed images.
Model Construction	Builds the CNN model architecture using convolutional and pooling layers.
Image Classification	Classifies images into disease categories using a decision tree classifier.

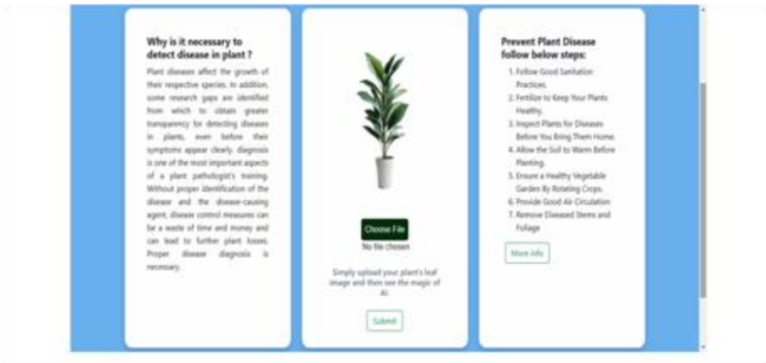
Module Name	**Description**
Disease Detection & Treatment Suggestion	Detects disease and recommends treatment options from a pesticide database.

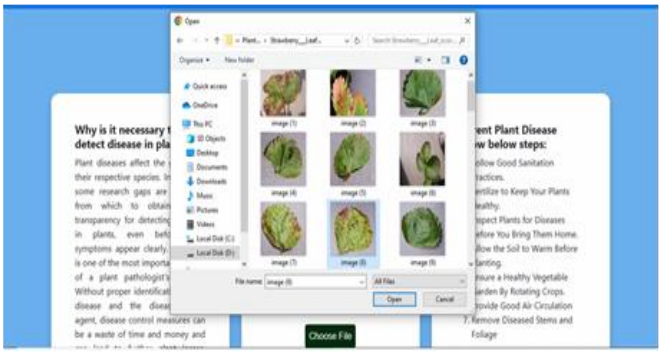
VI.SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE



VII.EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Landing Page:


Why is it necessary to detect disease in plant ?
Plant diseases affect the growth of their respective species. In addition, some research gaps are identified from which to obtain greater transparency for detecting diseases in plants, even before their symptoms appear clearly. diagnosis is one of the most important aspects of a plant pathologist's training. Without proper identification of the disease and the disease-causing agent, disease control measures can be a waste of time and money and can lead to further plant losses. Proper disease diagnosis is necessary.
Choose File
No file chosen
Simply upload your plant's leaf image and then see the magic of AI.
Submit
Prevent Plant Disease follow below steps:
1. Follow Good Sanitation Practices.
2. Fertilize to Keep Your Plants Healthy.
3. Inspect Plants for Diseases Before You Bring Them Home.
4. Allow the Soil to Warm Before Planting.
5. Ensure a Healthy Vegetable Garden By Rotating Crops.
6. Provide Good Air Circulation
7. Remove Diseased Stems and Foliage
More info


Open
Choose File
Open
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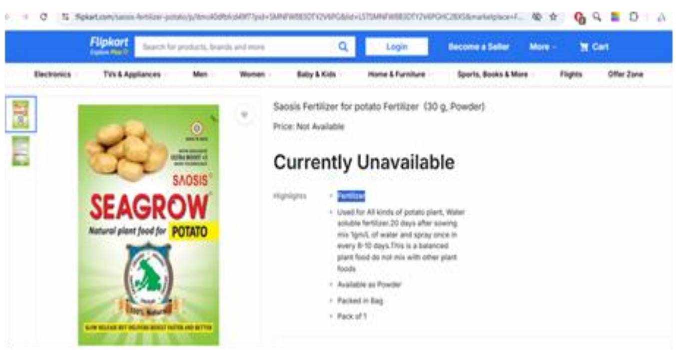
CNN Engine
Supplements
Contact-Us
Potato : Healthy


Benefits :
Packed With Nutrients. Share on Pinterest. Contain Antioxidants. Potatoes are rich in compounds like flavonoids, carotenoids and phenolic acids (4). May Improve Blood Sugar Control. May Improve Digestive Health. Naturally Gluten-Free. Incredibly Filling. Extremely Versatile.
Fertilizer :
SAOSIS
SEAGROW
Natural plant food for POTATO
Saosis Fertilizer for potato Fertilizer
Buy Product


Flipkart
Login
Become a Seller
More
Cart
Electronics
TVs & Appliances
Men
Women
Baby & Kids
Home & Furniture
Sports, Books & More
Flights
Offer Zone
SAOSIS
SEAGROW
Natural plant food for POTATO
Saosis Fertilizer for potato Fertilizer (30 g, Powder)
Price: Not Available
Currently Unavailable
Highlights
Fertilizer
Available as Powder
Packed in Bag
Pack of 1

VIII.CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates the feasibility and effectiveness of using deep learning for automated plant disease detection. By leveraging Convolutional Neural Networks and pre-trained DenseNet121 features, the system can accurately classify plant leaf diseases based on image data. Integration with OpenCV and a decision tree classifier enables real-time predictions with minimal computational overhead. The main motivation of these project provides diagnosis for crop growth and also contain many pesticide recommendations, helping farmers respond promptly and appropriately. This approach can significantly reduce crop loss, enhance yield, and improve the decision-making process in agriculture, especially in remote or under-resourced areas.

XI.FUTURE WORK

Future enhancements to this system could include integration with real-time mobile applications, allowing farmers to diagnose diseases directly from the field. Additional features such as:

- **Soil and weather data analysis**
- **Market and pesticide price tracking**
- **Geo location-based recommendations**

Furthermore, incorporating a feedback mechanism where agronomists and farmers can validate or correct diagnoses would improve the model through continuous learning. Expanding the system to support more crops and disease types will also enhance its applicability.

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