

Intelligent Crop Solution Using Machine Learning

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Introduction - Objectives of the Research:

Agriculture, often referred to as the lifeline of nations, plays a crucial role in ensuring global food security, supporting rural livelihoods, and maintaining economic stability. With the global population expected to reach nearly 10 billion by 2050, the demand for food is rising exponentially [1]. To meet this growing demand, enhancing the efficiency and productivity of the agricultural sector has become a global priority.

However, modern agriculture faces a multitude of challenges, including limited arable land, unpredictable climate changes, declining soil fertility, water scarcity, and the prevalence of plant diseases and pests. Moreover, issues such as improper crop selection, excessive or imbalanced fertilizer usage, and delayed identification of crop diseases further hinder productivity and sustainability [2]. Traditional farming methods, often reliant on intuition and experience, may no longer be sufficient in addressing these complex challenges in a consistent and scalable manner.

To overcome these hurdles, technology-driven innovations are increasingly being integrated into agricultural practices. Among them, Machine Learning (ML) a branch of artificial intelligence has emerged as a transformative force. ML allows systems to learn from historical agricultural data, identify patterns, and make accurate predictions or decisions without explicit programming [3]. This includes recommending crops based on soil and climate conditions, suggesting fertilizers based on nutrient deficiencies, and detecting diseases through image-based diagnosis.

Objectives of Research

Crop Recommendation: To develop a model that suggests the most suitable crops for a specific region based on parameters like soil type, pH, temperature, rainfall, and humidity.

Fertilizer Recommendation: To provide precise fertilizer suggestions based on soil nutrient levels and crop requirements to enhance productivity and reduce overuse.

Plant Disease Detection: To implement image-based detection of plant diseases using machine learning and computer vision techniques, enabling early intervention and reducing crop loss.

User-Friendly Interface: To build an accessible interface for farmers and agricultural workers, enabling them to interact with the ML models without requiring technical expertise.

Data-Driven Agriculture: To promote the adoption of data-driven agricultural practices for better decision-making, sustainability, and economic efficiency.

Literature Review :

Shahhosseini et al. (2021) [4] proposed a machine learning-based meta-model framework to predict maize yield and nitrogen (N) loss during the pre-growing season. They evaluated four machine learning algorithms—LASSO Regression, Ridge Regression, Random Forests, and Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost)—along with their ensemble models to replicate the results of the APSIM cropping systems simulator. The research utilized a dataset comprising over three million simulated observations spanning genotype, environment, and management combinations. XGBoost emerged as the most accurate model for predicting maize yield, achieving a relative root mean square error (RRMSE) of 13.5%, while Random Forests outperformed other models in nitrogen loss prediction, achieving a RRMSE of 54%. The study also investigated the influence of training dataset size on model performance, revealing that yield

prediction errors decreased by 10–40% as the dataset grew from 0.5 to 1.8 million entries. However, nitrogen loss predictions lacked consistent accuracy improvements with larger data volumes. Additionally, the study highlighted the importance of input variables such as weather, soil conditions, and initial field states in driving model performance. The findings emphasize the feasibility of combining simulation models with ML to develop fast, scalable, and data-driven pre-season decision-making tools for agriculture.

Yesugade et al. (2020) [5] introduced a crop suggestion system utilizing unsupervised machine learning algorithms to improve agricultural productivity in India, specifically addressing challenges in stagnant pulse crop production. India, being one of the largest producers and consumers of pulses, has seen limited growth in this sector due to inadequate technological innovations and a shift toward commercial crops. The authors emphasized that Maharashtra accounts for 34% of India's pulse production, and states like Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, and Karnataka together contribute nearly 70% of national output. The proposed system aims to guide farmers by analyzing soil quality using data mining techniques to determine the most suitable crops for cultivation in a given region. It also recommends fertilizers tailored to the soil's properties. The research highlights the system's ability to bridge the gap between traditional farming practices and data-driven agricultural management, ultimately helping to maximize yields and ensure more sustainable land use practices.

Rajeswari et al. (2021) [6] presented a smart farming prediction framework that applies machine learning to help farmers navigate unpredictable environmental conditions such as changing weather patterns, soil types, and biological influences. The study focuses on the development of predictive models for both crop yield and market cost estimation. The authors argue that by integrating datasets containing information on temperature, pressure, soil composition, and historical crop types, farmers can make informed decisions to improve crop profitability. The system employs classification and regression algorithms to derive insights and identify the most productive crop options under prevailing conditions. The researchers emphasize that such data-driven solutions can significantly reduce crop losses and ensure consistent revenue generation. The paper positions smart farming as a revolutionary leap forward in precision agriculture, enabling farmers to optimize their choices based on real-time and historical data.

Patil et al. (2019) [7] designed a crop prediction system that leverages various machine learning algorithms with the goal of enhancing traditional farming decisions. They noted that most Indian farmers tend to follow conventional practices such as planting popular crops without considering soil or environmental suitability. The research integrates multiple attributes beyond the single-parameter models explored in previous work. By incorporating diverse inputs such as soil pH, rainfall, temperature, and moisture content, the system delivers more accurate and region-specific crop recommendations. The authors highlight the practical advantages of their system in helping farmers avoid common pitfalls such as overuse of fertilizers or unsuitable crop selection. The system aims to improve yield quality and quantity by encouraging evidence-based farming decisions, thus promoting sustainable agriculture practices.

Thomas et al. (2020) [8] focused on the development of a machine learning-based crop recommendation system aimed at solving real-world agricultural challenges in India. With 60% of India's land used for agriculture to support a population of over 1.2 billion people, optimizing crop selection is crucial. The authors proposed a model that uses environmental variables like soil type, humidity, and temperature to recommend suitable crops before the sowing season. This helps farmers make informed decisions, improve yield, and reduce financial risks. The system acts as a recommender engine and supports the identification of new, viable crop options that farmers may not have previously considered. The project aims to address the broader issue of productivity loss due to poor crop choices and contributes to national food security through efficient land utilization.

Sethy and Barpanda (2020) [9] addressed the critical challenge of plant disease detection by leveraging image-based deep learning techniques. In their study, the authors developed a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model capable of identifying various plant diseases by analyzing digital images of leaves. Their dataset included high-resolution images of plant leaves affected by diseases such as bacterial spot, early blight, and late blight, among others. The model was trained using supervised learning, where labeled datasets were used to teach the algorithm how diseased and healthy leaves appear. The CNN architecture consisted of multiple convolutional layers for feature extraction, pooling

layers for dimensionality reduction, and fully connected layers for classification.

[11] The authors emphasized the importance of early and accurate disease detection, especially in countries heavily reliant on agriculture. Early identification of plant diseases can prevent large-scale crop destruction and significantly reduce economic losses. Their experimental results demonstrated high classification accuracy, with precision values exceeding 90% for several disease categories. This performance showcases the potential of CNNs to serve as reliable tools for automated disease diagnosis. The model also proved to be robust across a variety of conditions and backgrounds, making it suitable for deployment in real-world agricultural environments. The study concludes that image-based machine learning solutions can greatly enhance plant health monitoring, especially when integrated with other digital agricultural systems.

Dutta et al. (2021) [10] expanded on the idea of machine learning for plant disease detection by focusing on mobile-based deployment. Recognizing that many farmers, particularly in remote and underdeveloped regions, lack access to advanced computing infrastructure and stable internet connections, the authors designed a lightweight CNN-based mobile application using TensorFlow Lite, a mobile-optimized machine learning framework. The application was trained to detect common tomato plant diseases by analyzing images captured directly through the mobile camera. The diseases included leaf mold, septoria leaf spot, and bacterial spot, all of which can significantly impact tomato yields if not addressed early.

[12] The model was designed with a focus on computational efficiency, ensuring fast inference times and low memory usage without sacrificing accuracy. Extensive testing showed that the mobile application could achieve real-time disease detection with accuracies comparable

Data Collection

The proposed system involves collecting and preprocessing data from various agricultural sources such as agricultural departments, research centers, and online repositories (e.g., Kaggle, India's Ministry of Agriculture). The dataset consists of different features relevant to crop recommendation and disease prediction.

An integrated machine learning program is used for intelligent decision-making, including: Crop recommendation based on soil, weather, and region.

Disease detection from crop leaf images using CNN models.

Table 1: Features Included in Crop Dataset

Feature	Description
Crop Name	Name of the crop (e.g., Rice, Wheat, Cotton)
Soil Type	Type of soil (e.g., Sandy, Clay, Loamy)
pH Level	Soil pH level on a scale of 1-14
Rainfall	Average annual rainfall in mm
Temperature	Average temperature in Celsius

Once trained and tested, the model can be used to predict the crop type for new data inputs.

N_SOIL	P_SOIL	K_SOIL	TEMPERATURE	HUMIDITY	ph	RAINFALL	STATE	CROP_PRICE	CROP
90	42	43	20.87974	82.00274	6.502985	202.9355	Andaman	7000	Rice
85	58	41	21.77046	80.31964	7.038096	226.6555	Andaman	5000	Rice
60	55	44	23.00446	82.32076	7.840207	263.9642	Andaman	7000	Rice
74	35	40	26.4911	80.15836	6.980401	242.864	Andaman	7000	Rice
78	42	42	20.13017	81.60487	7.628473	262.7173	Andaman	120000	Rice
69	37	42	23.05805	83.37012	7.073454	251.055	Andaman	3500	Rice
69	55	38	22.70884	82.63941	5.700806	271.3249	Andaman	7500	Rice
94	53	40	20.27774	82.89409	5.718627	241.9742	Andaman	6500	Rice
89	54	38	24.51588	83.53522	6.685346	230.4462	Andaman	10000	Rice
68	58	38	23.22397	83.03323	6.336254	221.2092	Andaman	11000	Rice
91	53	40	26.52724	81.41754	5.386168	264.6149	Andaman	9000	Rice
90	46	42	23.97898	81.45062	7.502834	250.0832	Andaman	5600	Rice
78	58	44	26.8008	80.88685	5.108682	284.4365	Andaman	6000	Rice
93	56	36	24.01498	82.05687	6.984354	185.2773	Andaman	3000	Rice
94	50	37	25.66585	80.66385	6.94802	209.587	Andaman	3000	Rice
60	48	39	24.28209	80.30026	7.042299	231.0863	Andhra Pradesh	620	Rice
85	38	41	21.58712	82.78837	6.249051	276.6552	Andhra Pradesh	300	Rice
91	35	39	23.79392	80.41818	6.97086	206.2612	Andhra Pradesh	760	Rice

Crop Name	Soil Type	pH Level	Rainfall	Temperature
Rice	Clay	6.5	1200	30
Cotton	Loamy	7.0	800	28
Wheat	Sandy	6.0	600	25
jowar	loamy	8.0	900	23

Dataset Used for leaf disease

The dataset used in this project comprises labeled images of crop leaves. Each image belongs to a specific class representing either a healthy condition or a specific plant disease.

Sample Dataset Format:

Image Name	Crop Type	Disease Name
apple_healthy_01.jpg	Apple	Healthy
apple_scab_02.jpg	Apple	Apple scab
corn_blight_01.jpg	Corn	Northern light Blight
corn_rust_01.jpg	Corn	Common Rust
grape_black_rot_03.jpg	Grape	Black Rot
potato_early_blight.jpg	Potato	Early Blight
tomato_bacterial_spot.jpg	Patato	Healthy

```
Label: AppleCedarRust1.JPG , Predicted: Apple_Cedar_apple_rust
Label: AppleCedarRust2.JPG , Predicted: Apple_Cedar_apple_rust
Label: AppleCedarRust3.JPG , Predicted: Apple_Cedar_apple_rust
Label: AppleCedarRust4.JPG , Predicted: Apple_Cedar_apple_rust
Label: AppleScab1.JPG , Predicted: Apple_Apple_scab
Label: AppleScab2.JPG , Predicted: Apple_Apple_scab
Label: AppleScab3.JPG , Predicted: Apple_Apple_scab
Label: CornCommonRust1.JPG , Predicted: Corn_(maize)_Common_rust
Label: CornCommonRust2.JPG , Predicted: Corn_(maize)_Common_rust
Label: CornCommonRust3.JPG , Predicted: Corn_(maize)_Common_rust
Label: PotatoEarlyBlight1.JPG , Predicted: Potato_Early_blight
Label: PotatoEarlyBlight2.JPG , Predicted: Potato_Early_blight
```

Actual Work Done with Experimental Setup:

Step 1: Project Setup

- 1.1. Set up your improvement environment by means of putting in Python and Flask.
- 1.2. Create a mission folder and set up a virtual surroundings to manage dependencies.

Step 2: Data Collection

- 2.1. Collect data associated with crops, soil, climate situations (from kaggle).
- 2.2. Preprocess the data to easy, layout, and rework it as wished.

Step 3: Machine Learning Models

- 3.1. Train system gaining knowledge of models for crop advice, fertilizer recommendation. Can use libraries like scikit-research or TensorFlow for this.
- 3.2. Evaluate the models the usage of suitable metrics and first-rate-track them for higher accuracy.
- 3.3. Save the educated models for destiny use.

Step 4: Flask Web Application

4.1. Create a Flask web application with the following routes and templates: Homepage
Crop Recommendation Page Fertilizer Advisor Page
About Page Contact Page

- 4.2. Design the HTML templates for each page to provide a user-friendly interface.
- 4.3. Set up routes and views for each page to handle user interactions.

Step 5: Crop Recommendation

- 5.1. Implement a form on the Crop Recommendation Page for users to input data like soil nutrients, location (Weather API), etc.
- 5.2. Use the trained crop recommendation model to provide suggestions.
- 5.3. Display the recommended crops to the user.

Step 6: Fertilizer Advisor

6.1. Create a form on the Fertilizer Advisor Page for users to input information about their crops and soil.

6.2. Utilize the fertilizer recommendation model to suggest appropriate fertilizers.

6.3. Present the recommended fertilizers along with usage instructions.

Step 7: About and Contact Pages

7.1. Create simple static About and Contact pages to provide information about the project and how to get in touch with you.

Step 8: Testing and Debugging

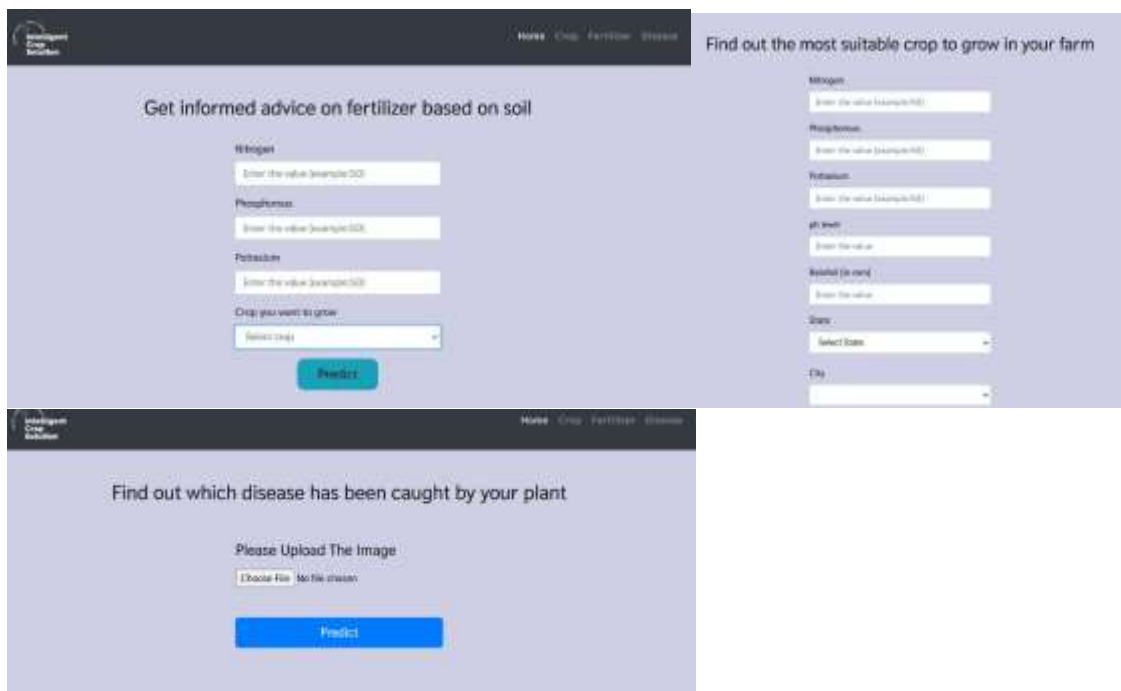
8.1. Thoroughly test the application to ensure it works as expected.

8.2. Debug and fix any issues that arise during testing.

Step 9: Deployment

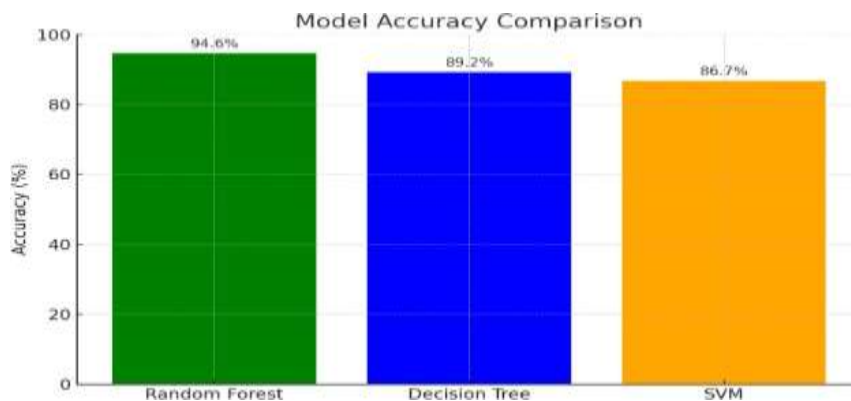
9.1. Choose a hosting platform (e.g., Heroku, AWS, or a VPS) and deploy Flask application.

9.2. Set up any required environment variables and database configurations.



The image displays two screenshots of a web application. The top screenshot shows the 'Fertilizer Advisor' page, which prompts users to 'Get informed advice on fertilizer based on soil'. It features input fields for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, and pH level, each with a placeholder text 'Enter the value (example: 50)'. There is also a dropdown menu for 'Crop you want to grow' with a placeholder 'Select crop'. A blue 'Predict' button is located below these fields. The right side of the top screenshot shows a sidebar with the heading 'Find out the most suitable crop to grow in your farm' and several more input fields for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, pH level, and Rainfall (in mm), each with a placeholder 'Enter the value (example: 50)'. There is also a dropdown for 'State' with a placeholder 'Select State' and a 'City' input field. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Plant Disease Detection' page, which prompts users to 'Find out which disease has been caught by your plant'. It features a 'Please Upload The Image' section with a 'Choose File' button and a 'No file chosen' text. A blue 'Predict' button is located below the upload section.

Results



1. Random Forest

Random Forest is an ensemble learning method that constructs multiple decision trees and merges their outputs to get more accurate and stable predictions. It reduces overfitting and handles both classification and regression tasks effectively.

- Why Used: Random Forest provided the highest accuracy during training and testing phases, making it the optimal model for final deployment in this crop intelligence system.

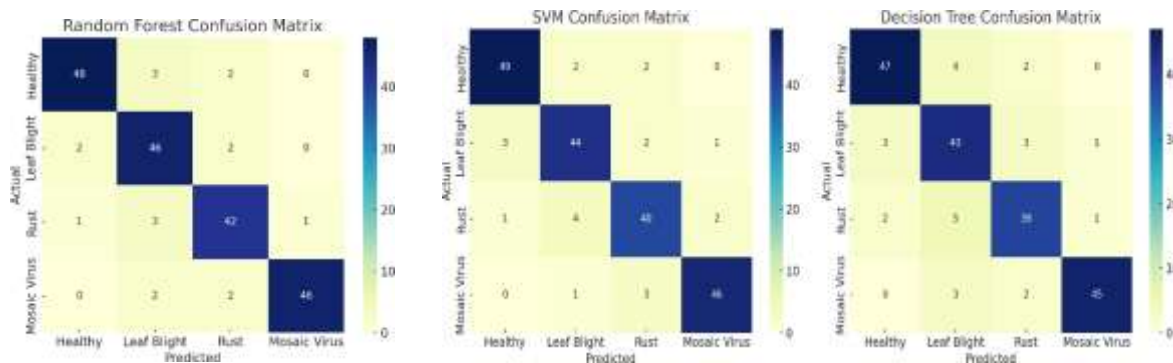
2. Decision Tree

A basic tree-based model that splits data into branches based on decision rules derived from input features. It is simple, interpretable, and fast but may overfit on noisy data.

3. Support Vector Machine (SVM)

SVM constructs a hyperplane in high-dimensional space to separate different classes. It is useful for binary classification tasks and works well on smaller, clean datasets.

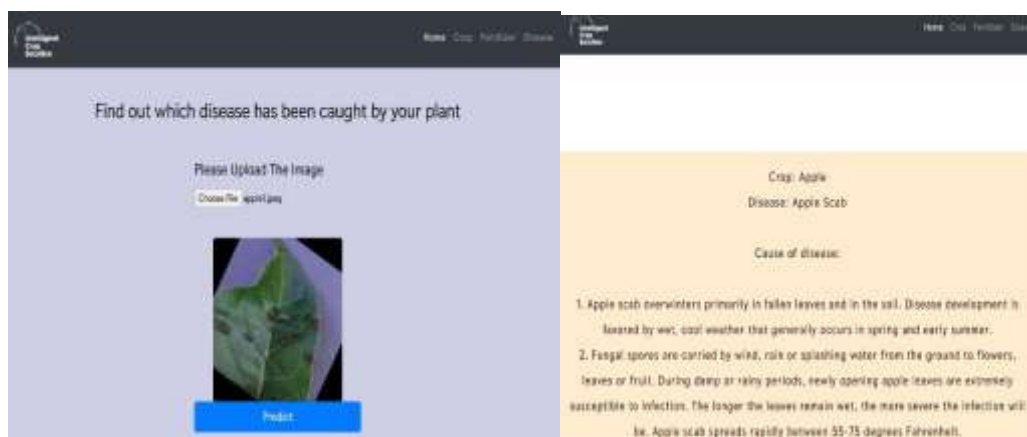
Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Random Forest	94.6	0.95	0.94	0.945
Decision Tree	89.2	0.89	0.88	0.885
Support Vector Machine (SVM)	86.7	0.87	0.85	0.86



The developed Intelligent Crop Solution successfully detects and classifies plant diseases from uploaded leaf images using machine learning. Upon uploading an image of a diseased apple leaf, the system predicted the disease as Apple Scab, demonstrating its ability to identify specific plant diseases.

After prediction, the system also provides:

- Crop Name: Apple
- Disease Name: Apple Scab
- Cause of Disease: A detailed textual explanation describing how the disease spreads,



Future Scope

The Intelligent Crop Solution using Machine Learning holds immense potential for future development and broader application in the field of precision agriculture. Below are several areas where this project can be expanded:

- **Integration with IoT Devices:** Sensors for soil moisture, temperature, and humidity can be incorporated to provide a holistic diagnosis along with visual leaf analysis.
- **Cloud-Based Storage and Monitoring:** A centralized system for storing plant health history and tracking disease spread across regions.
- **Mobile Application Development:** Creating a user-friendly Android/iOS app for real-time disease detection in the field.
- **Deep Learning Improvements:** Utilizing advanced CNN architectures like ResNet, Inception, or

EfficientNet to improve detection accuracy for more complex diseases.

- **Multi-language Support:** Implementing regional language options to make it accessible for farmers across different geographies.
- **Automatic Treatment Suggestions:** Based on detected diseases, the system can provide suggestions for fertilizers, pesticides, or natural remedies.

Limitations

Despite its effectiveness, the current implementation has certain limitations:

- **Image Quality Dependence:** Prediction accuracy heavily depends on the quality and clarity of the captured leaf image.
- **Limited Disease Classes:** Only a fixed set of diseases and crops have been trained— unseen diseases cannot be diagnosed.
- **False Positives/Negatives:** The system may misclassify diseases if symptoms are visually similar or if multiple diseases affect the same leaf.
- **Offline Limitations:** Model currently may require internet access for cloud-based prediction or updates.
- **Lack of Ground Truth Validation:** There is no integrated mechanism for field-level confirmation of disease presence after detection.

Conclusion

The project, which focuses on crop recommendations and fertilizer advice using machine learning, represents an important step towards modernizing and streamlining agricultural practices. It brings the power of data-driven decision-making to farmers, enabling them to increase yields, reduce waste, and better detect and manage crop diseases. This project has three main components, each playing an important role in agricultural transformation: Crop recommendation: Using crop data, soil nutrients and climate, the Crop Recommendation segment provides farmers with customized information for growing the most suitable crops. This enables farmers to make informed choices, increase yields and adapt to changing environmental conditions. The program recommendation process can significantly increase crop selection efficiency, resulting in better yields and resource consumption. Fertilizer Advisor: The Fertilizer Advisor module provides guidance on fertilizer selection and application, further improving crop health and yield. It improves nutrient management by tailoring recommendations to specific crops and soil conditions, promotes sustainable development, cost effectiveness and environmental responsibility on farm. Thus this product has the potential to reduce the excessive use of fertilizers, which can be harmful to the environment, and ensure adequate use of nutrients per capita crop. In conclusion, the integration of machine learning and data analytics in agriculture through this project offers many benefits: Crop selection is improved, increasing yields and profits. Effective and sustainable fertilizers, cost reduction and environmental impact. Data-driven decision making that empowers farmers to adapt to changing conditions and adopt best practices. The project represents an important step towards the modernization and efficiency of agriculture, potentially improving food security, reducing waste and promoting sustainable agricultural practices but it is important to continue refine machine learning models, incorporate new data sources and adapt to evolving farmer needs. Furthermore, education and user support is essential to maximize adoption and benefit of this technology among farmers.

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