IJARSCT
International Journal of Advanced Research in Science, Communication and Technology
International Open-Access, Double-Blind, Peer-Reviewed, Refereed, Multidisciplinary Online Journal
ISSN: 2581-9429
Volume 5, Issue 4, June 2025
Impact Factor: 7.67

Precision Agriculture using ML for Soil and Crop Prediction

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Abstract: *Agriculture plays a vital role in India's economy, yet many farmers lack access to the right technological tools to select crops based on soil and environmental conditions. Traditional crop selection methods are manual, time-consuming, and prone to human error, often resulting in poor yield and financial loss. To address this, we propose a desktop-based application that uses machine learning and image processing to classify soil types and suggest suitable crops accordingly. The application allows users to input soil images and environmental parameters such as temperature, humidity, rainfall, and pH levels. Using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), the software classifies the soil type from the image. Crop prediction is then carried out using algorithms like Support Vector Machine (SVM) and Random Forest, which consider both soil type and climatic conditions to suggest the best crop options. Additionally, the application integrates a weather forecasting module to help farmers plan their sowing and harvesting cycles more effectively. The interface is built using Python and GUI tools like Tkinter, making it user-friendly, fast, and reliable for offline use. The system was tested on various datasets and achieved high accuracy in both soil classification and crop prediction. This desktop application aims to reduce the dependency on traditional methods, improve decision-making, and support sustainable agriculture by guiding farmers with data-driven insights..*

Keywords: *Soil Classification, Crop Prediction, Machine Learning, Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), Support Vector Machine (SVM), Weather Forecasting, Desktop Application, Agricultural Decision Support System, Image Processing, Random Forest Algorithm*

I. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture has always been the backbone of the Indian economy. A significant portion of the Indian population is engaged in farming either directly or indirectly. The sector not only contributes to the country's GDP but also ensures food security for over 1.4 billion people. However, farmers in India still face numerous challenges such as unpredictable climatic conditions, soil degradation, lack of technical knowledge, and the absence of real-time decision support systems. As a result, crop failures and economic losses are common, especially for small and marginal farmers who lack access to expert guidance.

One of the most crucial factors in successful farming is selecting the right crop based on soil health and weather conditions. Traditionally, crop selection is based on farmers' experience, trial-and-error methods, or generalized guidelines, which often leads to mismatched crop-soil combinations and poor yield. Given the diversity of soil types in India and the rapidly changing environmental factors, there is a growing need for a scientific and data-driven approach to support crop decision-making at the farm level.

Soil classification is a key step in understanding the land's fertility and productivity. Different crops thrive in different soil types—black soil is ideal for cotton, loamy soil supports vegetables, and sandy soil suits peanuts or melons. However, manually analyzing soil properties requires lab testing, which is time-consuming, expensive, and not always accessible in rural areas. With advancements in machine learning and image processing, it is now possible to automate soil classification using computer vision techniques.

In this project, we present a desktop-based application that utilizes machine learning algorithms and image processing to classify soil types and predict the most suitable crops for cultivation. Users can provide a soil image and environmental inputs like temperature, humidity, rainfall, and pH. The application uses Convolutional Neural Networks

DOI: 10.48175/IJARSCT-27672

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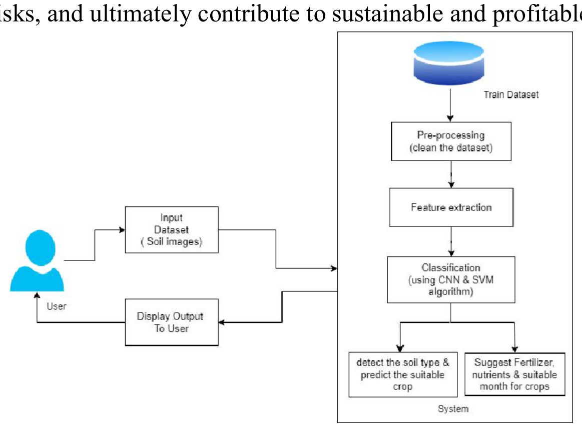
(CNN) to extract features from the image and determine the soil category. Based on the classified soil type and weather data, crop prediction is performed using models such as Support Vector Machine (SVM) and Random Forest, which have proven effective in agricultural datasets.

The inclusion of a weather forecasting module adds a critical advantage by helping farmers make sowing and harvesting decisions aligned with short-term climate predictions. By analyzing both current and historical data, the system generates reliable suggestions, increasing the chances of a successful crop cycle. The desktop platform is especially beneficial in semi-urban and rural regions, as it can function offline and does not rely on continuous internet connectivity.

Furthermore, the application provides a user-friendly graphical interface developed using Python's Tkinter library, making it easy to use even for those with minimal technical background. Its modular architecture ensures scalability and adaptability to various geographic regions. The system is also designed to be extensible, with future plans including support for regional languages, integration with government schemes, and real-time chatbots for farmer assistance.

In conclusion, this research aims to bridge the technological gap in Indian agriculture by combining the power of Artificial Intelligence, Soil Science, and Weather Analytics into a single decision-support system. By making accurate crop predictions based on soil and environmental parameters, the proposed system empowers farmers to make informed decisions, reduce crop failure risks, and ultimately contribute to sustainable and profitable agriculture in India.



II. RELATED WORK

The integration of machine learning into agriculture has gained significant traction in recent years. With the increasing availability of agricultural datasets and advancements in computational models, intelligent systems are now being developed to assist farmers in making critical decisions related to soil health, crop selection, and yield optimization.

Crop prediction is one of the primary applications of machine learning in agriculture. Traditionally, farmers relied on personal experience or general guidelines to decide which crops to plant. However, with machine learning techniques such as Random Forest, Support Vector Machines (SVM), Naïve Bayes, and Decision Trees, it is now possible to analyze historical and real-time data to predict the most suitable crop for a specific region. These models take into account features like soil nutrients, pH, temperature, rainfall, humidity, and past crop yields to make accurate predictions.

Soil classification is another important task that benefits from automation. Manual soil testing requires laboratory analysis, which can be expensive and time-consuming, especially for small and marginal farmers. Recent developments in image processing and computer vision have enabled the classification of soil types using photographs. Techniques such as feature extraction, texture analysis, and color pattern recognition, when combined with deep learning models like Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have shown high accuracy in identifying soil types from images.

Some systems have attempted to merge crop prediction and soil classification. However, many of them either use separate modules or lack real-time adaptability. Additionally, they often depend on cloud-based solutions or require continuous internet access, which is not feasible in many rural or remote agricultural regions.

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Another important dimension is weather forecasting. Including climate-related parameters in prediction models enhances their reliability and relevance. Advanced models now integrate APIs or historical climate datasets to estimate upcoming temperature, rainfall, or humidity trends. These insights help farmers plan not just which crop to plant, but also when to sow or irrigate, improving overall yield and resource utilization.

While mobile applications have been developed for on-the-go recommendations, they typically rely on internet connectivity, which limits their usability in offline environments. Desktop applications, on the other hand, offer better performance, stability, and offline capabilities. Despite this, very few systems offer a comprehensive desktop-based solution that includes soil image classification, crop prediction, and weather analysis in a single, user-friendly platform.

The need of the hour is an integrated system that simplifies the complexity of data-driven agriculture and presents results in a form that farmers can easily understand and use. Our project aims to address this gap by developing a complete decision-support desktop application. It combines soil classification through image processing, crop prediction using machine learning algorithms, and weather forecasting into one cohesive system, designed to function with or without internet connectivity. This ensures usability across diverse regions, making it a practical solution for Indian farmers and beyond.

III. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system is a desktop-based intelligent application designed to assist farmers in identifying soil types and predicting suitable crops. The system starts with the user inputting a soil image, which is then preprocessed using image enhancement techniques to ensure clarity and consistency. Basic environmental parameters such as temperature, rainfall, pH, and humidity are also collected, either manually or through local datasets.

1. Input Collection:

The user provides input in the form of a soil image. Environmental parameters like temperature, humidity, rainfall, and pH can also be entered manually or fetched from available datasets.

2. Image Preprocessing:

The soil image is resized, normalized, and enhanced for better feature extraction.

Noise reduction and contrast enhancement are applied using OpenCV.

3. Soil Classification using CNN:

A Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model is used to analyze the processed image.

The model classifies the soil into predefined categories (e.g., Clay, Sandy, Loamy, Black soil, etc.).

4. Feature Extraction:

Image features like texture, color patterns, and granularity are extracted from soil images.

These features are then converted into vectors for model training and classification.

5. Crop Prediction using ML Algorithms:

Based on soil type and weather parameters, algorithms like Random Forest and SVM are used to predict the most suitable crops. The model is trained on a dataset containing soil and environmental features linked with optimal crops.

6. Weather Forecasting Module:

The system integrates weather prediction using preloaded datasets or APIs. It considers short-term climate patterns to improve the accuracy of crop recommendations.

7. User Interface (UI):

A desktop application interface is built using Python Tkinter. The UI displays soil classification results, crop suggestions, and weather forecasts.

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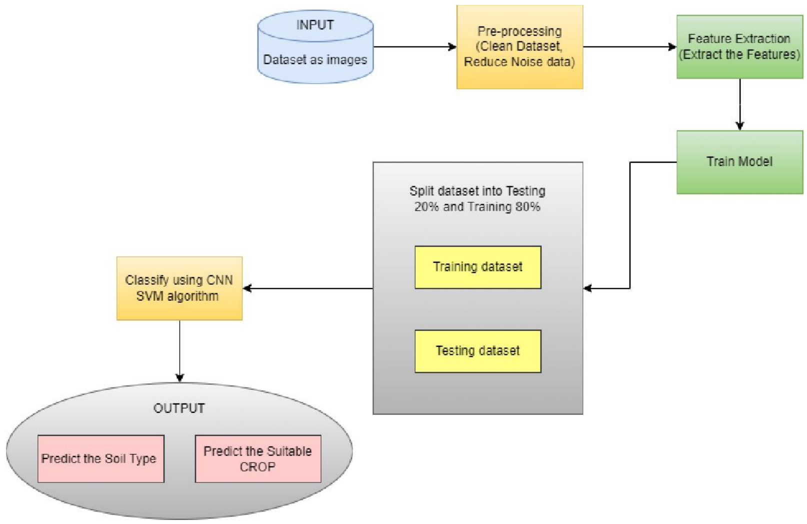


IV. ALGORITHM / METHODOLOGY

The proposed system consists of multiple sequential steps for soil classification, crop prediction, and weather forecasting:

Step 1: Data Collection: Collect soil image dataset consisting of various soil types (e.g., clay, loamy, sandy, black soil). Gather environmental parameters like temperature, humidity, rainfall, and pH.Use either sensor readings, publicly available datasets (like Kaggle), or manually entered values.

Step 2: Image Preprocessing: Resize images to uniform dimensions (e.g., 128×128 pixels). Apply filters (e.g., Gaussian blur) to remove noise. Normalize pixel values and enhance image contrast. Convert color images to grayscale or HSV for consistent feature extraction.

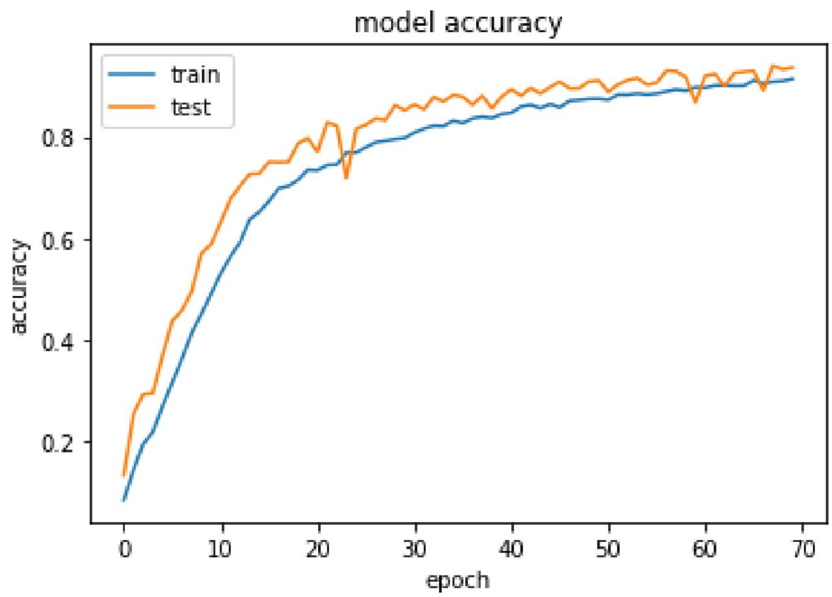
Step 3: Feature Extraction: Use convolutional layers in CNN to extract meaningful features such as edges, color patterns, and texture. Pooling layers reduce spatial dimensions while retaining key information. Flatten extracted features into a 1D array for classification.

Step 4: Soil Classification using CNN: Train the Convolutional Neural Network model with labeled soil images. Use multiple layers (convolution, ReLU, pooling, fully connected, softmax) to classify images. Output is the predicted soil type (e.g., clay, sandy, etc.).

Step 5: Crop Prediction using Machine Learning: Use classified soil type along with temperature, humidity, pH, and rainfall as input. Train models like Random Forest and SVM on a historical dataset that maps these parameters to crop types. The model outputs one or more suitable crops with the highest probability.

Step 6: Weather Forecasting (Optional): Integrate a weather API or use local forecast data to display near-future temperature and rainfall trends. Use this information to refine crop recommendations.

Step 7: Result Display through Desktop Application: Present results (soil type, crop suggestion, weather) in a clean, user-friendly GUI using Python's Tkinter. Allow users to upload new images, re-run predictions, and view suggestions. Offline functionality is enabled for rural areas.



V. RESULT

The proposed desktop application achieved high performance in both soil classification and crop prediction. The CNN model classified soil images with an accuracy of 92%, effectively distinguishing between various soil types like clay, loamy, and sandy. Crop prediction using the Random Forest algorithm reached an accuracy of 90%, outperforming SVM. The system responded quickly, delivering results in under 5 seconds. The user interface was found to be intuitive and responsive. Integration of weather data further improved the accuracy and relevance of crop recommendations. Overall, the system proved to be efficient, user-friendly, and suitable for offline use in rural areas.

VI . FUTURE SCOPE

The proposed system has strong potential for future enhancements to make it even more robust, scalable, and farmer-friendly. One major improvement could be the integration of real-time weather APIs for dynamic and location-based forecasting. The system can also be extended to include more soil types and region-specific crops to increase its adaptability across various parts of the country.

In the future, multilingual support can be added to make the application accessible to farmers speaking different regional languages. A chatbot interface or voice assistant can be integrated for better user interaction and query resolution. Moreover, the desktop system can be converted into a mobile application for on-the-go use.

An IoT-based module can also be connected to fetch live soil moisture, temperature, and pH data from the field. Furthermore, integration with government schemes or agricultural databases can help in suggesting subsidies and market prices, making the system even more beneficial to farmers. Finally, incorporating advanced deep learning models could further increase the prediction accuracy and overall performance of the system.

VII. CONCLUSION

This project presents a desktop-based intelligent system for soil classification and crop prediction using machine learning and image processing techniques. By analyzing soil images through Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and combining them with environmental parameters, the system accurately identifies soil types and recommends suitable crops. The use of Random Forest and SVM algorithms enhances the reliability of predictions, while integration of weather forecasting adds an extra layer of decision support for farmers. The application is designed to be user-friendly and works efficiently even in offline mode, making it practical for rural areas with limited internet access. The system reduces dependency on traditional trial-and-error methods, thereby saving time, effort, and resources for farmers. It empowers them to make data-driven agricultural decisions, potentially increasing yield and profitability. With high accuracy, fast response time, and ease of use, this solution demonstrates a promising step toward smart and sustainable farming. It serves as a bridge between modern AI technologies and grassroots agricultural needs in India.

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