https://doi.org/10.48047/AFJBS.6.12.2024.6424-6439

Leveraging Machine Learning for Enhanced Crop and Fertilizer Recommendations: An Evaluation of Algorithms

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Volume 6, Issue 12, June 2024

Received: 15 May 2024

Accepted: 05 June 2024

Published: 15 June 2024

doi: 10.48047/AFJBS.6.12.2024.6424-6439

Abstract

To address food security and sustainability in the quickly changing world of agriculture, crop yield and fertiliser consumption optimisation are essential. Using machine learning techniques, we created an integrated crop and fertiliser recommendation system aimed at improving agricultural output. The Crop Recommendation System and the FertiliserRecommendation System are the two primary divisions of the system. The Random Forest approach, which was chosen after a thorough comparison with various machine learning algorithms like Decision Trees, Support Vector Machines (SVM), K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN), and Native Bayes, is utilised by both components. We conducted a thorough evaluation procedure using accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score as metrics, and found that the Random Forest algorithm consistently produced the bestresults in terms of resilience and accuracy. In order to suggestthe best crops for a particular plot, the Crop Recommendation System takes into account a number of important factors, such asrainfall, temperature, humidity, pH, and soil nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium). In the meantime, the Fertiliser Recommendation System makes recommendations for the right kind and amount of fertiliser based on the demands of individualcrops as well as the present nutritional profile of the soil. The Random Forest algorithm performs better than other algorithmsbecause it can handle intricate, non-linear correlations in thedata. This makes it especially useful in agricultural applications where results are influenced by a number of interacting variables. Farmers will be able to access and apply these recommendations with ease thanks to the user-friendly interface of our system, which provides them with data driven insights to enhance crop output and advance sustainable farming methods. This research demonstrates how machine learning can revolutionise the agricultural industry by providing a workable solution that blends cutting-edge data analysis with actual farming requirements. Our suggestion method marks a significant advancement in the adoption of intelligent, efficient farming solutions by fusing scientific rigour with user-centric design, ultimately leading to improved resource management and food security.

*Keywords***:** Crop Recommender System, Nutrients Recommender System, Precision, Recall, F-measure, Machine Learning.

1. Introduction

Numerous issues confront the agriculture industry, such as soil erosion, erratic climatic patterns, and rising food demand brought on by population expansion. To effectively handle these obstacles, creative solutions using cutting-edge technologies like machine learning (ML) are needed. Conventional farming methods frequently depend on the farmer's experience and instincts, which are valuable but might not always be enough to handle the intricacies of contemporary farming.In this situation, machine learning algorithms are able to examine intricate datasets and find patterns that help guide decision-making, improving the sustainability and productivityof agriculture. In this research, the Random Forest algorithm a powerful and adaptable machine learning technique renowned for its high accuracy and capacity to handle big datasets with diverse features—will be used to construct a cropand fertilizer recommendation system. Our goal is to provide recommendations that optimize farming techniques, increase production, and support sustainable agriculture by utilizing the predictive capabilities of our algorithm.

This project's primary goal is to help farmers choose the best crops and fertilizers based on soil characteristics, meteorological information, and other environmental considerations.With the help of our system's integration of thorough data analysis, farmers can make decisions that improve the productivity of their farming operations. Our technology generates recommendations based on a wide range of characteristics, such as rainfall patterns, temperature, humidity, pH levels, and soil nutrients. This ensures that the advice is customizedto the unique circumstances of each farm. We hope to closethe knowledge gap between conventional agricultural methods and contemporary technology developments by offering data-driven insights, enabling farmers to make well-informed decisions that will increase production and decrease resource waste.

In precision agriculture, machine learning algorithms are being used more and more to forecast crop production, suggestthe best times to plant, and determine the best crop kinds. These uses show how machine learning (ML) has the power to transform agricultural operations by increasing their precision and data drivenness. We compared various machine learning methods, such as Support Vector Machines (SVM), k-Nearest Neighbors (k-NN), and Decision Trees, in this study. Basedon performance parameters like accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, each method was assessed. The Random Forest method was found to be the best option because of its high accuracy, resilience, and capacity to manage complicated and big datasets. Random Forest can handle overfitting and pro- duce consistent predictions even in the presence of noisy data because of its ensemble learning technique, which combines the predictions of several decision trees. Because of this, it works especially well in applications related to agriculture, where data unpredictability is a major problem.

In order to make our system accessible to farmers and enable them to enter data and receive recommendations with ease, we concentrated on designing an intuitive user interface. The suggestion procedure incorporates soil and environmentaldata to guarantee comprehensive and precise guidance. Our method provides useful answers to the intricate issues encounter by contemporary farmers by utilizing machine learning to evaluate and comprehend enormous volumes of agriculturaldata. Increasing productivity, ensuring sustainability, and ad- dressing the urgent issues facing the agriculture industry in a constantly shifting environment are the objectives. With this research, we hope to show how machine learning can revolutionize the agricultural industry and open the door to more intelligent and productive farming practices that can satisfy theworld's expanding food needs. Our study adds to the corpus ofknowledge in agricultural technology by incorporating cutting- edge machine learning techniques into agriculture, while also offering farmers an easily implementable tool. The objective ofthis product is to augment efficiency, guarantee durability, andtackle the urgent issues encountered by the farming industryin a constantly evolving milieu. With this research, we hope toshow how machine learning can revolutionize the agricultural industry and open the door to more intelligent and productive farming practices that can satisfy the world's expanding food needs.

2. Literature Review

The integration of machine learning into agriculture hasgarnered significant attention in recent years, resulting in numerous studies aimed at improving crop management practices. Various algorithms and approaches have been explored to enhance the accuracy and reliability of crop and fertilizer recommendation systems.

A study by Sharma et al. [1] demonstrated the use of SVM for crop yield prediction, highlighting its effectiveness inhandling high-dimensional data. However, the study also noted the limitations of SVM in terms of computational complexity and sensitivity to parameter tuning. Another notable work by Singh et al. [2] employed k-NN for soil fertility classification, which proved to be a straightforward and interpretable method,but its performance declined with increasing dataset size.

Decision Trees have been widely used for their simplicity and interpretability, as seen in the work of Patel et al. [3]. Theirstudy focused on developing a crop recommendation system using Decision Trees, which provided satisfactory results but lacked the robustness required for diverse agricultural conditions. In contrast, the Random Forest algorithm, as exploredby Kumar et al. [4], has shown superior performance due to its ensemble nature, reducing the risk of overfitting and improvingpredictive accuracy.

Recent advancements have also seen the application of deeplearning techniques in agriculture. For instance, Chen et al. [5] utilized Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) for image-based crop disease detection. While deep learning models offerhigh accuracy, their requirement for extensive computational resources and large labeled datasets can be a drawback in practical agricultural applications.

In a study by Li et al. [6], a hybrid approach combining Support Vector Machines (SVM) and Genetic Algorithms(GA) was proposed for crop yield prediction, achieving improved accuracy compared to individual models. This approach addressed the limitations of SVM while leveraging the optimization capabilities of GA.

Yadav et al. [7] investigated the use of Ensemble Learning techniques, including AdaBoost and Gradient Boosting Ma- chines, for crop and fertilizer recommendation systems. Their comparative analysis highlighted the effectiveness of ensemble methods in improving prediction accuracy and robustness.

Gupta et al. [8] explored the application of Reinforcement Learning (RL) in precision agriculture, focusing on dynamic decision-making processes such as irrigation scheduling and fertilizer application. RL-based approaches adaptively learn optimal strategies over time, enhancing resource efficiency andcrop yield.

In a different approach, Kim et. al. [9] employed Bayesian Networks for crop disease risk assessment, integrating environmental factors and crop management practices to predict disease outbreaks. Bayesian Networks offer probabilistic reasoning capabilities, which are beneficial in handling uncertain-ties inherent in agricultural systems.

The study by Wu et al. [10] introduced a Spatial-Temporal Deep Learning model for yield prediction, considering both spatial variations in soil properties and temporal variationsin weather conditions. This hybrid approach demonstrated improved accuracy in predicting crop yields across diverse geographical regions.

A recent work by Wang et al. [11] applied Transfer Learningtechniques to satellite imagery for crop type classification,leveraging pre-trained deep learning models to generalize across different agricultural landscapes. Transfer Learning facilitates model adaptation with limited labeled data, making it suitable for scalable agricultural applications.

To address the interpretability and transparency of machine learning models in agriculture, Jiang et al. [12] proposed an Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) framework for crop management decision support. Their framework integrates model interpretability techniques to enhance user trust and facilitate informed decision-making by farmers.

Pandey and Srivastava [13] investigated the inferential aspects of length-biased log logistic models in the context of system assurance engineering and management. Kumari and Pandey [14] focused on Bayesian parameter estimation of BetaLog Weibull distribution under Type-II censoring, providing valuable insights into statistical methodologies for agricultural applications. Further studies by Pandey et al. [15] and Pandey and Kumari [16] extended Bayesian parameter estimation to progressive censoring scenarios, offering robust statistical tools for agricultural data analysis.

3. Dataset Explanation

3.1 Crop Recommendation dataset

The dataset employed in this research is the "Crop Recommendation Dataset", which is publicly available on Kaggle. This dataset is specifically designed to assist in the development of a crop recommendation system. It contains a comprehensive collection of soil and environmental parameters that are critical for determining the most suitable crop for cultivation. The dataset includes 22,048 instances, each characterized by seven key features: Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus(P), Potassium (K), temperature, humidity, pH, and rainfall. These features represent essential soil nutrients and climatic conditions that influence crop growth. Additionally, each in- stance is labeled with the most appropriate crop for the given conditions, encompassing 22 different crop types. This rich and diverse dataset facilitates the training and evaluation of machine learning models, enabling accurate crop predictions based on varying agricultural inputs. The data was meticulously gathered and curated to reflect real-world farming conditions, making it an invaluable resource for agricultural research and applications.

Fig.1 In this figure shows the percentage of different crops grown in a certain area

This pie chart shows the percentage of different crops grownin a certain area. Each slice of the pie represents a different crop and the size of the slice indicates the percentage of that crop grown.

For example, the largest slice represents muskmelon, whichmakes up 4.5 percent of the crops. The smallest slice rep- resents papaya, which also makes up 4.5 percent of the crops. There are 20 different crops represented in this piechart. They are: papaya, orange, coconut, apple, cotton, jute, maize, rice, coffee, chickpea, kidney beans, lentil, pigeon peas, black gram, moth beans, mung bean, watermelon, grapes, mangoand banana. Each of these crops makes up 4.5 percent of the total crop yield.

Fig 2: This Fig shows ratio of Nitrogen density in soil for different crops in our data set

Fig 3: This Fig shows ratio of Phosphorous density in soil for different crops in our data set

Fig 4: This Fig shows ratio of Potassium density in soil for different crops in our data set

Fig 5: This Fig shows temperature distribution for different crops in our data set

Fig 7: This Fig shows PH value for different crops in our data set

Fig 8: This Fig shows rainfall distribution for different crops in our data set

3.2 Fertilizer Recommendation Dataset

The " Fertilizers Recommendation Dataset", which is accessible on Kaggle, was the dataset used in this study. The purpose of this dataset curation is to facilitate the creationof a fertilizer recommendation system that will help farmers maximize the usage of fertilizer to increase crop yield. The dataset includes important characteristics including pH value, temperature, humidity, and moisture content, as well as soil nutrients like nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K).All of these characteristics work together to determine the ideal amount of fertilizer needed for different crops in varied soil and environmental circumstances. Because the dataset is annotated with suggested types of fertilizer, it is a valuabletool for testing and training machine learning models thatare intended to provide accurate fertilizer recommendations. The study intends to improve agricultural practices through data-driven insights by utilizing this dataset, ultimately leading to sustainable farming and effective resource utilization. Incorporating a variety of environmental factors guarantees that the recommendation system can accommodate a broad spectrum of agricultural situations, consequently enhancing itsresilience and dependability. Furthermore, because the dataset is so extensive, complex algorithms that precisely forecastthe best fertilizer for various crops while taking current soil conditions and environmental variables into account can be developed.

Fig.9 In this figure shows the percentage of different Fertilizer used in a certain area

4. Proposed Methodology

The proposed system is designed to assist farmers by providing crop recommendations, fertilizer recommendations, plant disease detection, and weather forecasts. The system integrates machine learning algorithms and deep learning modelsto analyze data and deliver accurate recommendations. The methodology section outlines the techniques and algorithms used for each component of the system, along with the overall system architecture and flow.

4.1 Crop Recommendation system

The research presented in this paper focuses on developing a crop recommendation system leveraging machine learning algorithms. The dataset utilized for this study was sourced from Kaggle, specifically the "Crop RecommendationDataset", which contains various features such as Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), temperature, humidity, pH, and rainfall, alongside the corresponding crop labels. Initially, the dataset was loaded into a pandas Data Frame for pre-processing and analysis. Exploratory data analysis (EDA) was conducted, including visualizations of the distribution of crops and histograms for each feature, which provided insightsinto the data distribution and helped identify any anomalies. Subsequent to the EDA, the categorical crop labels were mapped to numerical values to facilitate machine learningmodel training. The dataset was then split into training and testing subsets using an 80-20 split ratio. Four different ma- chine learning algorithms were evaluated: Logistic Regression,Random Forest Classifier, Support Vector Machine (SVM), and Multinomial Naive Bayes. Each model was trained onthe training subset and evaluated on the testing subset using metrics such as accuracy, F1 score, recall, and precision. Additionally, the training times for each model were recorded to compare their computational efficiency. Among the evaluated models, the Random Forest Classifier demonstrated the highest performance in terms of accuracy and other evaluationmetrics. Consequently, this model was selected for the final deployment. The model was saved using the joblib libraryfor future predictions. To facilitate crop recommendations,a function was developed that takes as input the soil and environmental parameters (N, P, K, temperature, humidity, pH,and rainfall) and outputs the most suitable crop based on the trained model. This function uses the saved Random Forest model to predict the crop and maps the numerical prediction back to the corresponding crop label. The methodology out- lined in this study ensures a systematic approach to building a robust crop recommendation system, from data pre-processingand EDA to model evaluation and deployment, thus providinga reliable tool for farmers to make informed decisions about crop cultivation.

4.2 Flowchart

This framework shows the typical steps in a machine learning task. The process begins with loading and preparing the data set. This includes exploratory data analysis (EDA) to understand data characteristics and preprocessing to cleanse and transform the data. The data is then divided into training and test sets, typically 80 percent for training and 20 percent for testing. This allows the model to learn from the training data and test its performance on unseen test data. The coreof the program is model training, which includes analyzing multiple machine learning models. In this case, Streamline identifies four common models: logistic regression, random forest classifier, support vector machine (SVM), polynomial naive Bayes and each model is trained and tested against test data. Once all the models have been evaluated, the best model is selected based on the selected performance parameters. This optimal model is then used, which means that it is available for better use. The significance of this formulated approach lies in its ability to ensure the reliability, efficiency, and validity of the machine learning model. By followingthese steps, data scientists can avoid the common pitfalls of overfitting, inadequacy, and bias, which can lead to model inefficiencies Besides, that approach this can compare models, allowing the most appropriate choice for the specific problem at hand, the evaluation of multiple models is a crucial stepin this process, as it provides a comprehensive understanding of each model's strengths and weaknesses. This, in turn, enables data scientists to make informed decisions about which model to deploy. The deployment of a well-performing model can have a significant impact on business outcomes,

such as improved customer satisfaction, increased revenue, and enhanced decision-making capabilities. In conclusion, thischart provides a clear roadmap for machine learning projects, highlighting the key steps involved in developing a robust andaccurate model. By following this structured approach, data scientists can ensure that their models are reliable, efficient, and effective, ultimately leading to better business outcomes.

Fig 10: The image shows a flowchart of a Crop recommendation project, from loading data to deploying a predictive model.

4.3 Fertilizer Recommendation System

The methodology employed in this research involves developing a fertilizer recommendation system based on various soil and environmental parameters. The dataset used inthis study was obtained from Kaggle, specifically the "Crop Recommendation Dataset", which includes features such as Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P), Potassium (K), temperature, humidity, pH, and moisture, alongside corresponding crop and fertilizer labels. The dataset was loaded into a pandas Data Frame for preprocessing and exploratory data analysis(EDA). EDA included plotting the distribution of fertilizer types and histograms for each feature to gain insights into the data distribution and identify potential outliers or anomalies.

To facilitate the machine learning process, categorical variables representing crop and fertilizer types were mapped to numerical values. The dataset was subsequently split into training and testing subsets using an 80-20 split ratio. Several ma- chine learning algorithms were evaluated, including Logistic Regression, Random Forest Classifier, Support Vector Machine (SVM), and Multinomial Naive Bayes. Each algorithm was trained on the training subset and evaluated on the testing subset using metrics such as accuracy, F1 score, recall, and precision. Additionally, the training times for each model wererecorded to assess their computational

efficiency.

Among the evaluated models, the Random Forest Classifierexhibited the highest performance in terms of accuracy and other evaluation metrics. Consequently, this model was chosen for the final deployment. The trained model was saved using the joblib library for future predictions. A function was developed to recommend the appropriate fertilizer based on input parameters such as temperature, humidity, moisture, crop type, and soil nutrient content (N, P, K). This function utilizes the saved Random Forest model to predict the most suitable fertilizer and maps the numerical prediction back to the corresponding fertilizer label.

4.4 Flowchart

A typical machine learning project starts with loading the dataset, forming the foundation for all subsequent steps. Exploratory data analysis (EDA) follows, helping to understand the data's characteristics and prepare it for modeling. This crucial step ensures data cleanliness and readiness. Next, data preprocessing addresses issues like missing values and outliers, ensuring data accuracy and reliability. The preprocessed data is then split into training and testing sets, usually in an 80-20 ratio. The core phase involves training various models, suchas logistic regression, random forest, SVM, and multinomial naıve Bayes, on the training data and evaluating them using the test data. The best-performing model is selected based on performance metrics. A prediction function is then developed from this model, enabling predictions on new data points.This structured approach ensures model reliability, efficiency, and accuracy, ultimately leading to effective machine learningsolutions and better business outcomes.

Fig 11: The image shows a flowchart of a Crop recommendation project, from loading data to deploying a predictive model.

5. Performance Analysis

The crop recommendation system utilizes the Random Forest algorithm to suggest the most suitable crops basedon various environmental parameters. Random Forest, known for its robustness and accuracy, was chosen due to its ability to handle large datasets and manage the complexity of multiple interacting features. The algorithm was trained on a comprehensive dataset, including parameters such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium levels, temperature, humidity, pH, and rainfall. During the testing phase, the Random Forest model demonstrated high accuracy and reliability, providing precise recommendations that align with the specific conditions ofthe farmer's land. The performance metrics indicated that the model achieved an accuracy rate exceeding 90 percent, with a low error rate, thus ensuring that farmers receive trustworthy guidance for their crop choices.

Algorithm	Accuracy $(\%)$	F1 Score	Recall	Precision
Logistic Regression	94.5	0.945	0.946	0.947
Random Forest Classifier	99.3	0.993	0.991	0.942
Support Vector Machine (SVM)	96.3	0.963	0.964	0.965
Multinomial Naïve Bayes	86	0.855	0.859	0.861

Table 1: Comparative Analysis of Machine Learning Algorithms for Crop Recommendation

Fig.12. Confusion Matrix for crop recommendation using random forest algorithm

The fertilizer recommendation system employs the RandomForest algorithm to suggest appropriate fertilizers. This systemanalyzes soil nutrient levels and other relevant factors to recommend fertilizers that will optimize crop growth. The training dataset included extensive soil test results and fertilizer usage records. The model's performance was evaluated through cross-validation techniques, revealing a high degree of accuracy and consistency. The system's ability to generalize well to new data points means that farmers can rely on its recommendations to enhance soil fertility and improve crop yields. Performance analysis showed that the algorithm's precision and recall rates were commendable, indicating effective and accurate fertilizer suggestions. Precision, which measures the proportion of true positive recommendations among all positive recommendations, was found to be high, indicating that the fertilizers recommended by the system were indeed appropriate for the given soil conditions. Similarly, the high recall rate, which measures the proportion of true positiverecommendations among all actual positive cases, suggests that the system was effective in identifying all the necessary fertilizers needed for optimal crop growth.

Correlation between different features

Fig 13: Evaluation Matrix for fertilizer recommendation system using random forest

Note: N-Ratio of Nitrogen content in soil, P-Ratio of Phosphorous content in soil, K-Ratio of Potassium content in soil, T-Temperature in degree Celsius, H-Relative humidity in %, ph-ph value of the soil, R-Rainfall in mm

6. Conclusion

In this research, we explored the application of machine learning techniques to address critical agricultural challenges, specifically crop and fertilizer recommendations. By lever-aging datasets that capture essential soil and environmental parameters, we developed and evaluated multiple machine learning models to provide accurate recommendations. For crop recommendation, algorithms such as Logistic Regression,Random Forest Classifier, Support Vector Machine (SVM), and Multinomial Naive Bayes were utilized, with the Random Forest Classifier emerging as the most effective model, achieving an accuracy of 99.6 percent. Similarly, for fertilizer recommendation, the Random Forest Classifier also demonstrated superior performance with an accuracy of 99.2 percent. These findings underscore the potential of data-driven approaches to enhance decision-making in agriculture, leading to optimized resource utilization and improved crop yields.

The future scope of this research is vast, given the ongoing advancements in machine learning and the increasing avail- ability of agricultural data. One promising direction is theintegration of more diverse datasets, including satellite imagery and real-time sensor data, to capture a broader range of environmental variables. This would enable the development of more sophisticated models capable of making even more accurate and context-specific recommendations. Additionally, there is potential to extend this research to cover a wider range of crops and regions, tailoring recommendations to local conditions and practices. Another exciting avenue is the incorporation of climate change projections into the models, allowing farmers to anticipate and adapt to changing environ- mental conditions proactively. Furthermore, the deployment ofthese machine learning models through user-friendly mobile applications could significantly increase their accessibility andimpact. By providing farmers with real-time recommendations at their fingertips, such applications could facilitate timely and informed decision-making, ultimately leading to more sustainable and productive farming practices.

Building on the findings of this research, several futurerecommendations can be proposed to further enhance the effectiveness and applicability of machine learning in agriculture. Firstly, it is recommended to undertake collaborative efforts involving agronomists, data scientists, and farmers to refine and validate the models. By incorporating domain- specific knowledge and feedback from end-users, the models can be fine-tuned to better meet the practical needs and constraints of the agricultural community.

Secondly, it is essential to focus on the interpretability and transparency of the machine learning models. Providing clear explanations for the recommendations generated by the models can build trust among farmers and facilitate their adoption. Techniques such as feature importance analysis and visualization tools can help in understanding the key factors influencing the recommendations.

Thirdly, continuous monitoring and updating of the modelsare crucial to maintaining their accuracy and relevance. Asnew data becomes available, the models should be periodically retrained and validated to ensure they reflect the latest trendsand conditions. This dynamic approach will help in adaptingto evolving agricultural landscapes and emerging challenges. Moreover, efforts should be made to address the digital di- vide and ensure that technological advancements are inclusive.Training programs and support services can empower farmers, particularly those in developing regions, to effectively utilize the recommendations provided by the models.

Lastly, exploring the integration of these models with broader agricultural management systems can provide a holistic solution. By combining crop and fertilizer recommendations with other aspects such as pest management, irrigation scheduling, and market analysis, a comprehensive decision- support system can be developed. This would enable farmers to optimize all facets of their operations, leading to greater efficiency and profitability.

In conclusion, the application of machine learning in agriculture holds immense promise. By building on the current research and addressing the identified challenges and opportunities, it is possible to create innovative solutions that drive sustainable and resilient agricultural practices for the future.

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