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# Plant Leaf Disease Detection and Automatic Pesticide Recommendation Using Deep Learning

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**Abstract:** Defoliating plant diseases are critical and still remains a significant threat on the world's agricultural production, food security and economies. The older models for disease detection and diagnosis are inefficient, error-prone, and labor extensive, allowing for delays in action and mistimed pesticide application. Recent improvements in deep learning (DL) and image processing technologies appear to allow the use of automated plant disease detection systems that can assist in recommending suitable and more effective pesticides. This work assesses various deep learning methods for their capabilities for plant leaf diseases detection, focusing on their functionality, accuracy and ease of use in real field setting. It also focuses on the methods for implementing the automatic recommendation systems interpolating between CNN and machine learning methodologies. It was shown that the most effective architectures are implemented on the basis of CNN, giving the best results in disease diagnosis precision. Also, the hybrid methods allow combining the recommendation for the use of pesticides. A number of possible avenues for research aimed at enhancing efficiency of the models in real time field application are outlined.

**Keywords:** Plant leaf disease detection, Deep learning, Pesticide recommendation, Convolutional neural network, Crop management, Agricultural productivity

## I. INTRODUCTION

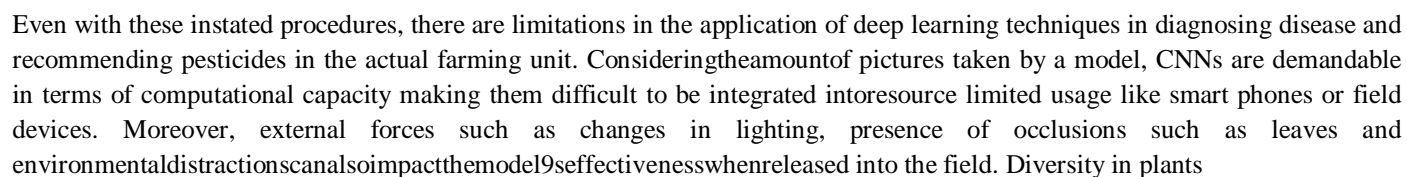
Agricultural productivity is vital for food security as well as economic sustainability of the global population. With the global population on the increased day in day out, it is becoming more and more critical to have a steady supply of food. This, however, begs the question how to deal with one of the most notorious factors reducing crop yield, quality and profitability plant diseases. The impact is devastating when compared to the losses in agricultural production across the globe. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) records more than 20-40% of annual global crop losses caused by plant diseases. Such problems not only decrease the quantities and quality of the goods produced, but also hinder prices and chances for selling products abroad, thus disrupting the chain of supply of food.

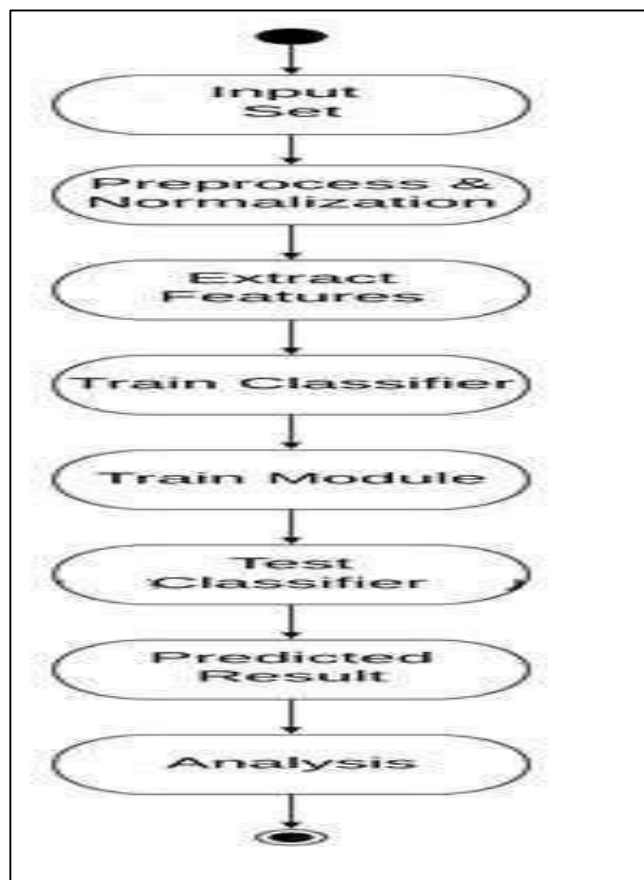
Leaves are a primary focus of disease detection strategies since plants' diseases appear prominently on leaves. The typical method for detecting plants' infections is the routine practice of plant specialists who scrutinize the affected leaf for abnormalities such as discoloration, spots, or other irregularities. However, this manual approach cut across agricultural practices, though being very painstaking, is time consuming and also susceptible to errors, especially in large-scale agricultural settings where rapid and precise diagnoses of diseases are essential. Some farmers can also misread the symptoms and apply wrong or too much pesticides which can be harmful to the crop, the soil and the ecosystem and the surrounding areas. Therefore, it is essential to develop efficient, dependable, and cost-effective systems for the early diagnosis of diseases and precise dosage of pesticides.

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools including machine learning algorithms notably deep learning techniques are fast revolutionizing the pace and the accuracy in which disease detection can be done. Among the many deep learning models that are available, convolutional neural networks (CNNs) have been shown to work exceptionally well for image classification tasks, proving their capabilities in handling leaf images. Different CNNs can learn diverse and complex patterns associated with a variety of diseases and classify disease from leaf images without human assistance or manual feature extraction. This has, as a consequence, resulted in growing interest in the application of CNNs for determining plant diseases in a variety of crops, for example, corn, mango and citrus plants. It is evident from these studies that, for example, certain CNN models achieved above 90% accuracy in some instances and could prove useful in disease diagnosis.

It is not enough to detect plant diseases; disease management also involves taking active measures to protect the crops from potential threats. It is this aspect that calls for the recommendation of pesticides. So when a plant disease is detected, an integrated system could suggest suitable pesticides incorporated to the pathogen detected allowing farmers to know the appropriate one to apply and thus minimizing the chances of overuse. With that however, most of the pesticide recommendation systems are basic and are manual – expert knowledge and experience which at times is not available most particularly in the countryside areas.

Some of these studies have looked at enhancing integration of machine learning (ML) together with CNNs in undertaking disease detection and even carrying out recommending other tasks such as spraying pesticides. For instance, it has been noted that ML algorithms analyses the prevalent climate conditions and the severity of the diseases so as to suggest the most suitable pesticides for plants which have been infected with diseases that have already been identified with CNN-based treatment. Such hybrid systems combine ML and DL and enhance both accuracy and efficiency allowing crop disease management to be multi-dimensional.





diseases is another challenge because that varies across crops, areas, and the time of the year. There are often limited or no available datasets that include these variations for a model to generalize across several targets.

These framings of the problem allow us to formulate research goals in three directions: what are, and which current deep learning models are the most promising for plant leaf disease detection and how could they be integrated into an automated pesticide recommendation system? We concentrate on the effectiveness of CNN-based systems; their accuracy, computational resource consumption, and possibilities for scaling. Additionally, we evaluate hybrid models which also incorporate machine learning algorithms for pesticide recommendation enhancements. This paper enhances research into the creation of actionable, cost-effective methods capable of wide scale automated detection and management of crop diseases in contemporary agriculture.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Research on plant disease detection and automated pesticide recommendation systems has grown significantly in recent years. This literature review covers several relevant studies, categorized into the key areas of deep learning techniques, CNN-based architectures, hybrid ML- DL approaches, and the application of these technologies in real-world agriculture.

### 1) Image Processing Techniques in Disease Detection

- Early studies laid the groundwork by using traditional image processing techniques for detecting diseases in plant leaves. While not as accurate as deep learning methods, these techniques are computationally simpler and have been foundational in developing automated systems:
- **Banana Plant Disease Detection Using Image Processing**– This study investigates thresholding and segmentation methods to detect disease symptoms on banana leaves, laying the foundation for automated detection in other crops.
- **Detection of Defected Maize Leaf Using Image Processing Techniques** – Explores edge detection and color feature analysis for identifying defects, demonstrating the applicability of image processing in maize disease detection.
- **Disease Detection in Pomegranate Plant Using Image Processing Techniques** – Utilizes color and texture analysis to identify disease symptoms on pomegranate leaves, showcasing image processing as a cost-effective approach for disease detection.



## 2) *Deep Learning and CNN-Based Disease Detection*

With the advent of CNNs, disease detection accuracy has improved significantly due to the deep networks' ability to learn complex features from images without manual feature engineering: accuracy and indicating CNNs' effectiveness for disease prediction.

- **Grape Leaf Disease Recognition: A Deep Learning and Machine Learning Techniques Overview** – Compares different CNN architectures for grape leaf disease detection, identifying the most suitable models for grape leaf disease classification.
- **Identification of Various Diseases in Plant Leaves Using Image Processing and CNN Approach** – Employs CNNs for high-accuracy classification of plant diseases across multiple crops, illustrating the potential of deep learning in agricultural applications.

## 3) *CNN Architectures for Improved Accuracy and Efficiency*

Different CNN architectures have been explored to optimize model performance and computational efficiency, especially for deployment in resource-constrained environments:

- **An Automated and Fine-Tuned Image Detection and Classification System for Plant Leaf Diseases** – Investigates fine-tuning CNNs like VGG16 and ResNet to improve classification accuracy while reducing computation time.
- **Field Plant: A Dataset of Field Plant Images for Plant Disease Detection and Classification With Deep Learning** – Highlights the importance of dataset diversity in improving model robustness in real-world conditions.
- **Advanced Citrus Disease Analysis Integrating ML and DL for Improved Identification and Classification** – Compares CNNs like InceptionV3 and ResNet for identifying citrus diseases, with a focus on improving generalization to diverse field conditions.
- **A Survey on Automated Disease Diagnosis and Classification of Herbal Plants Using Digital Image Processing** – Provides a comparative analysis of CNN models, showing that deep networks like EfficientNet yield higher accuracy for herbal plant diseases.
- **Machine Learning-Based Plant Disease Detection for Agricultural Applications: A Review** – Reviews the effectiveness of CNN architectures in agricultural applications, especially focusing on MobileNet for its computational efficiency.

## 4) *Hybrid Models Integrating ML and DL for Disease Detection and Pesticide Recommendation*

Several studies combine CNN-based detection with traditional machine learning algorithms to enhance pesticide recommendations and disease management capabilities:

### 5) *Comparative Analysis of Smart Pesticide*

- **Application of Deep CNN for Image-Based Recommendation System Using ML & AI** – Explores integrating
- **Identification and Classification of Plant Diseases** – Demonstrates that CNNs achieve over 90% accuracy in distinguishing between different types of plant diseases. CNNs for disease detection with ML for pesticide recommendation, demonstrating improved accuracy in providing tailored pesticide options.
- **Development of Plant-Leaf Disease Classification**
- **Leaf Diseases Prediction, Pest Detection, and Pesticides**
- **Model Using Convolutional Neural Network** – Studies the use of CNNs for classification in various crops, showing promising results in model adaptability across different types.
- **Recommendation Using Deep Learning Techniques** – Investigates a system that combines CNN-based disease detection with decision tree-based pesticide recommendation, yielding high accuracy and relevant recommendations.
- **Accurate Prediction of Leaf Disease in Pepper Bell**
- **Effective Classification of Plant Disease Using Image Processing**
- **Using Deep Learning Algorithm** – Applies CNNs to identify diseases in pepper leaves, achieving high accuracy. Combines image processing and machine learning to improve the classification accuracy of plant diseases, focusing on efficient and targeted pesticide use.
- **Earlier Detection of Plant Disease and Recommending Pesticides Using Convolutional Neural Network** – Proposes an end-to-end system that combines disease detection and pesticide recommendation, enhancing early intervention.
- **A Web-Based Agriculture Recommendation System Using Deep Learning for Crops, Fertilizers, and Pesticides** – Develops a comprehensive recommendation system, incorporating CNN for disease detection with other ML algorithms for making tailored crop and pesticide suggestions.

- **Pesticide Recommender System for Detecting the Paddy Crop Diseases Through SVM** – This system uses SVM for disease classification followed by a pesticide recommendation module, showcasing the utility of ML in disease management.

#### 6) *Real-Time Disease Detection and Field Applications*

- **Real-time detection systems are essential for practical deployment in the field**, where timely intervention can prevent diseases spread. These studies emphasize optimizing models for real-time performance and robustness in diverse environments:
- **A Combined Architecture of Image Processing Techniques and Deep Neural Network for the Classification of Corn Plant Diseases** – Uses a hybrid approach to increase model robustness in field conditions, allowing for real-time disease detection.
- **A Mango Disease Prediction for Smart Agriculture Using Machine Learning Algorithms** – Demonstrates a real-time detection and prediction system for mango diseases, supporting practical application in agriculture.
- **Disease Detection of Citrus Plants Using Image Processing Techniques** – This study highlights the use of fast-processing CNN models optimized for field deployment in citrus farms.
- **Detection of Diseases in Cardamom Leaves Using Digital Image Feature Selection Techniques** – Optimizes feature selection for real-time disease classification in cardamom, illustrating potential for field applications.
- **Cotton Leaf Disease Classification and Pesticide Recommendation** – Integrates CNN with optimized image preprocessing for real-time classification and recommendation in cotton fields.

#### 7) *Comprehensive Reviews and Survey on Plant Disease Detection*

The following papers provide an overview of the advances in plant disease detection, summarizing and analyzing various techniques:

- **A Review of Plant Disease Detection Methods Using Image Processing Approaches** – Covers different image processing techniques, from traditional methods to CNNs, for plant disease detection.
- **A Survey: Machine Learning and Deep Learning in Wheat Disease Detection and Classification** – Provides a detailed survey of ML and DL methods in wheat disease detection, emphasizing CNN architectures for high accuracy.
- **A Review on Various Plant Disease Detection Using Image Processing** – Reviews numerous disease detection techniques, highlighting the strengths and limitations of CNN-based approaches.
- **A Review on Coconut Tree and Plant Disease Detection Using Various Deep Learning and Convolutional Neural Network Models** – Summarizes CNN models' applicability to disease detection in coconut and other plants.
- **e-Farmer: A Study of How Image Processing Tools May Be Used to Detect Plant Disease** – Reviews image processing tools used in digital agriculture, focusing on CNN and ML applications in plant disease detection.

### III. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS OF EXISTING SYSTEMS

#### 1) *Effectiveness for Diagnosing Disease*

- **Models based on CNN**: Convolutional neural network (CNN) architecture is the most standard and extensively used architecture in disease identification via images with some crops exceeding 90 % accuracy. For example, 8 **Detection of Banana Plant Diseases using Artificial Intelligence and Delimited Leaf Section** 9 applies a CNN based analysis for classification of banana plant 9 diseases from leaf discolorations and other visible symptoms. It is well known that a large amount of images would enhance the accuracy of the convolutional neural network as the task of recognizing pattern is inherent to CNNs.
- **Hybrid ML-DL Models**: Integrated models or multi-thematic models will have added advantage by incorporating image features and additional data related to the disease or sites such as Marked features. The study 8 **Comparative Analysis of Smart Pesticide Recommendation System using ML & AI** 9 confirms the findings, stating that ML enhances the ability of the models trained already with the CNN enhancing specificity of the recommended pesticides to the disease classified.

#### 2) *Computational Efficiency and Model Complexity*

- **Deeper layered architecture** such as ResNet and EfficientNet are considered complex and computationally costly but yield high accuracy in detection methods. < **Automatic Diagnosis of Plant Leaf Diseases Based on Deep Learning Approach** = this sentence can be omitted the construction is for more accurate models obtained higher performance in terms of operational efficiency, still sites the challenge of making these models deployable in field situations. MobileNet and SqueezeNet are lightweight architectures but they are less accurate models. They can, however, provide a useful solution.

- Image Processing Techniques: More typically, such systems involve matrix-based processes, such as thresholding and edge detection, which are less computationally intensive. Fadila et al. in <Detection of Defected Maize Leaf using Image Processing Techniques=also focus on these approaches and report that such systems are not as accurate as CNN based but the computational requirements are lower making them suitable for low resource real time application.

### 3) Field Applicability and Real-time Performance

- Robustness to Field Conditions: This is critical as most of the times of the year, the conditions are mostly not optimal due to variability in lighting, weather and stages of plant development all influencing the clarity of images. The necessity of exposing CNN models to a wide variety of images or set of significant variables is noted in research like "Field Plant: A Dataset of Field Plant Images for Plant Disease Detection and Classification With Deep Learning".
- Timely Suggestion of Pesticides: In "Earlier Detection of Plant Disease and Recommending Pesticides Using Convolutional Neural Network," an automatic full loop is offered, where CNN detects and recommends for use in diseased crops in optimal timing to provide efficiency towards crop diseases. CNN is able to deliver and recommend to farmers in a timely way suitable for pesticides that may suit specific types of infected disease based on the model and synthesis encountered together with a pre-processing stage that is real time or near time.

## IV. CONCLUSION

As a result of this research, existing frameworks have been evaluated and analyzed that focus on plant leaf microbial disease detection and automatic pesticide recommendation through deep learning, their essential changes, strengths, and weaknesses. Deep learning-based new generation systems, including convolutional neural networks (CNN), have drastically increased the accuracy of disease diagnosis, improving even the existing image processing techniques. Efficient and lightweight structures for MobileNet and EfficientNet have shown their potential for field applications which require real-time operation of resource-constrained systems. It can be noted that hybrid models of CNN-based disease diagnosis and machine learning algorithms for recommendation systems are more versatile in nature, however, they are still a work in progress with regards to their applicability on new diseases and varied agricultural practices.

In as much as the advances have been achieved, actual implementation in practical scenarios is still a daunting task. Many models exhibit reduced efficiency in field settings due to the presence of lighting differences, obstruction and the diversity of the leaves alone. Also, dataset diversity must be emphasized as a very important aspect when seeking to develop intelligent models because a system designed using a small set of conditions will not be able to work over many crops, diseases and environments. These are the two factors which if incorporated will help create an umbrella model that will ultimately improve performance, reliability and increase usability in real world settings.

Going forward there is a clear demand for systems that can improve on the existing limitations and that will make use of low operational resources to detect diseases at high efficiency standards.

The advancement of plant protection measures will be facilitated by extending the research on hybrid and multi-model strategies, developing extensive agricultural databases, and enhancing the ability to cope with changes in real time. Such advancements may be beneficial for decreasing crop losses, reducing the dependency on pesticides, and promoting agriculture's sustainable development. The integration of these systems, therefore, can revolutionize agricultural disease management through deep learning for plant disease detection and pest control, ultimately transforming agricultural productivity and the global environment for the better.

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