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Research Article

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Posted Date: March 15th, 2026

DOI: https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-9056983/v1

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Additional Declarations: No competing interests reported.

AI for Crop Disease and Pest Detection Using Remote Sensing and Computer Vision: An Empirical Study

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Abstract

This research investigates deployment of AI-based models like ResNet50 to detect crop diseases/pests helped with Remote Sensing and Computer Vision techniques. As agriculture becomes more exacting and efficient, a method for detecting diseases and pests early would help reduce crop losses and pesticide application. The process of training the ResNet50 model with labelled images over 20000 plus crop images and following the data pre-processing, feature extraction and evaluating the model. Evaluation of performance metrics including accuracy (91.3), precision (90.1), recall (92.5), and F1 score (91.3) show efficiency of the model in disease classification. The results demonstrate that ResNet50 surpasses others such as VGG16, SVM, and Random Forest, with Disease 2 demonstrating the greatest detection accuracy of 98.5%. The confusion matrix revealed low misclassification rates, especially for healthy crops and Disease 2. However, Disease 1 had a relatively higher false discovery rate, which can be improved upon. The model accuracy was evaluated based on cross-validation results across five-folds achieving a mean accuracy of 91.3%. Using an AI-based model such as ResNet50 will give people high accuracy detection which can help a lot to raise precision disease management in agriculture. Future work should focus on extending the datasets, developing the model's architecture and deploying real-time detection in the field. AI-based pest and disease detection systems should be integrated into precision farming for improving crop yield, reducing the use of pesticides, and encouraging sustainable farming practices.

Keywords: AI-driven models, ResNet50, crop disease detection, precision farming, remote sensing, deep learning

1. Introduction

Identifying and then figuring out different crop diseases and pests at a very early stage is important. Crop yield and quality could be severely impacted by such threats, leading to huge economic losses for farmers and food producers [1]. Conventional detection methods, which include manual inspection and chemical testing, are labor-intensive, slow, and often inefficient, particularly in large-scale farms. In addition, the use of these techniques usually fails to detect diseases and pests at an early stage when intervention would be optimal [2]. Consequently, most of the crops suffer severe damage before they are able to help. Thanks to new AI and remote sensing tools such as satellites and drones, it is now easier than before to detect diseases and pest in crops much faster and at a larger scale. Through remote sensing, AI will help with monitoring and localizing crop health over large land areas. This will significantly help with the early management of crop health [3].

The detection method of pest and disease in agriculture are tedious and not efficient enough. Farmers still utilize manual inspection of crops and chemical treatment against pests or diseases. However, despite being a common practice, farmers do not get a timely or accurate diagnosis of a disease. This results in delays in adoption of remedies by farmers along with increased crop loss or damage. The issue of early disease and pest detection is a continuing challenge, with existing solutions not able to monitor wide farmland and hard-to-access areas. These strategies have low accuracy, increasing the loss of crops and the unsustainability of agriculture in agricultural-dependent parts of the world [4].

The main aim of this study is to assess the efficacy of Artificial Intelligence models in detecting agricultural diseases and pests using remote sensing images. The purpose of this study is to generate and evaluate deep learning algorithms, particularly CNNs, for the analysis of satellite and drone images in the identification and classification of crop diseases and pests. To study will specifically target AI-driven models which will be compared against traditional detection methods on the basis of accuracy, precision, and recall. Further, their potential for early, automated detection of virus in agricultural fields will be explored. The purpose of this study is to showcase the practical advantages that AI and remote sensing can offer for improving pest and disease management.

The study area of the research uses remote sensing technology for disease and pest detection of crops in major agricultural areas. Research on controllable crops like wheat, maize, tomato that are sufficiently grown and found susceptible to a host of insect pests and diseases. The data's images, captured by drones and satellites, will be high-resolution. Maximum focus would be on common diseases like blight, rust, wilt, etc. and pests like aphids, caterpillars, etc. The observational study was done using countries having temperate and extreme continental climatic conditions geographically to check functionality of AI models.

The machine will be trained and tested on raw imagery and data that has already been processed, such as NDVI. The main objective is to access large-scale implementation and scalability of AI-powered pest and disease detection for agricultural activity.

2. Literature Review

Artificial Intelligence (AI) are playing a vital role in various sectors of the world [5]. These days, agriculture is taking the benefit of AI. Machine learning (ML) and computer vision, are changing the traditional farming methods by enabling agriculture through automation and data-driven decision-making [6]. AI can bring a huge change to the monitoring and management of crop disease and pests. To learn what you want, you can train machine learning models using different supervised learning algorithms. Further, a dataset or blue print will be a large number of labelled images. Thus, they can train supervised learning algorithms to identify specific patterns belonging to particular diseases or pests. Computer vision techniques enable the automatic recognition of diseased and pest-infected crops on high-res images. This includes deep learning models like Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for image classification. Using AI tools has many advantages over traditional methods. These include quicker detection, more accurate results and the ability to scan large farming areas in real-time. This is crucial as climate change, pest resistance, and new disease strains keep testing food security the world over [7-11].

In today's agriculture satellite and drone-based imaging system has become an essential technology. The technologies allow monitoring of larger areas making it easier to view data based at the regional level which helps in monitoring crop condition, disease and pest occurrence in timely and non-destructive manner [12-13]. The European Space Agency's Sentinel satellites collect multispectral and hyperspectral imagery that can monitor various parameters of crop health based on vegetation indices (NDVI) and other indices and measurements. These indices can detect stress in plants due to pests and diseases. Farmers can obtain high-resolution images of their crops even at the field level with drone-based remote sensing having even higher spatial resolution. The use of satellite and drone technologies with the help of AI algorithms can help to monitor the fields closely as well as manage resources and also to discover pest and disease outbreaks. The application of remote sensing and artificial intelligence models for disease and pest detection may enable the precision application of inputs such as water, fertilizers and pesticides that reduce wastage while maximizing crop yield [14-17].

Many researches focus on the use of AI for detecting crop diseases and pests, and literature is increasing that AI can help in increasing productivity. In the early stages, researchers implemented machine learning approaches like Support Vector Machine (SVM), decision tree on the images for classification purposes. Slowly but steadily the accuracy of disease and pest detection models has enhanced due to the advent of deep learning. Studies have used these models to analyze images of diseased crops with promising results detecting and classifying pests and diseases like powdery mildew, late blight, and aphids [18-21]. Nonetheless, researchers admit to the existence of gaps in the research, especially with regard to scalability and real-time implementation [22]. A limited number of studies have been undertaken in a controlled environment or by small-scale studies. Furthermore, while satellite and drone imagery have been extensively employed in monitoring crop health, limited studies have successfully integrated such imagery with sophisticated AI models to achieve the goals of integrated pest and disease management [23-26]. The study wants

to fill up by applying AI detection models on large-scale agricultural fields (using satellite and drone-based imagery) and a draft on the efficacy of these models in practical world farming.

Machine learning algorithm and deep learning algorithm have gained importance in the detection of crop diseases and pests because of their ability to analyze massive image data and recognize complex patterns [27]. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), which have shown cutting-edge performance in image classification, are among the most common methods [28]. Because CNNs are able to efficiently learn spatial hierarchies in an input image, they will be well-suited to detecting subtle features in plant leaves that reveal damage [29]. Numerous studies have applied CNN to classify petrol and other crops infected with diseases such as blight, rust and powdery mildew. Another approach that is often used is that of Support Vector Machines (SVMs) which are powerful and effective in high-dimensional spaces. It is commonly used for binary classification. For instance, detection of pest-infested plants or healthy plants. SVMs are often featured in studies with small or unbalanced labeled datasets [30-31]. Other approaches random forests, KNN (K Nearest Neighbours) or similar have also been tried, but usually, deep learning approaches outperform these on complex image classification problems. A combination of these algorithms with remote sensing data shows a capacity for accurate, large-scale detection and forecasting of diseases and pests affecting crops, which will provide a strong basis for precision agriculture. Even as these AI algorithms are performing quite well, the issue of data, model training, and the need for big annotated datasets remains. As AI and remote sensing technology advances, and more extensive field data is collected, the reliability and usefulness of these models will likely further improve their application in real-world agricultural situations.

3. Methodology

3.1 Collection of Dataset

For our extensive analysis, we collected the 20k+ Multi-Class Crop Disease Images dataset from Kaggle that contains images of more than 20,000 crop diseases. The data we've included images of diseased crops. There are 14 diseases in 6 crop species such as tomatoes, potato, and cucumber. The diversity of the data set is largely diversified thanks to images from all regions and cropping conditions. The pictures have been taken in high-resolution thus, they provide enough detail to identify the visual symptoms of crop diseases and pest attacks. The time frame of data collection varies, but the images show seasonal variations in crop health conditions. For this work, we used a subset of images of the most common diseases (early blight, late blight, leaf spot, bacterial wilt). The dataset is publicly available and contains image along with the disease labelling which makes it suitable for training supervised machine learning models.

Table 1: Data Preprocessing Steps

Step	Description	Purpose

Image Resizing	Resized images to 224x224 pixels.	Standardize input dimensions for CNN model input.
Normalization	Scaled pixel values to the range [0, 1].	Ensure uniformity in input data and avoid model bias.
Data Augmentation	Applied random rotations, flips, zooms, and shifts to images.	Increase data diversity and prevent overfitting.
Label Encoding	Encoded disease labels into numeric values.	Facilitate multi-class classification for the model.
Train-Test Split	Split data into 80% training, 10% validation, and 10% testing.	Ensure model training, tuning, and evaluation on distinct data sets.

Data Preprocessing (Table 1) Steps shows the key steps taken to prepare the dataset for AI-based detection of crop disease and pests. Initially, the images were resized to 224 x 224 pixels which is a common size for Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN). It increases data consistency, and makes the model efficient to process images with ease. After that, we normalized the pixel values to bring all the pixel intensity values in the range of [0, 1]. This normalization helps the model to learn better. To improve the diversity of the training data, various data augmentation techniques are performed. These include rotation, flipping and zooming. Because we artificially increase the dataset, the model won't overfit as it sees many changes in the image through transformations. Moreover, label encoding was performed on the disease labels to convert them into numbers. This makes it easier for the AI models to handle. The dataset was then divided into training, validation, and test sets after which the model was trained.

3.2 Preprocessing

The study performed preprocessing on the images before feeding into AI models to make them ready for analysis. To begin with, the image resizing was done to convert the output size into standard of 224 224 pixels, which is a standard input dimension for CNNs. To ensure the models would not be affected by large differences in pixel intensities, the images were normalized to scale pixel values to the range [0, 1]. Next, we performed data augmentation by rotating, flipping, and zooming the data to grow the size of the dataset. It is especially useful to avoid overfitting causing the model to be more generalized. Also images were label encoded according to the different diseases category for multi-class classification. Ultimately, the images were allocated as training, validation, and test sets at a ratio of 80:10:10, allowing for adequate validation and testing of the model.

3.3 Utilization of AI Models

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have been employed for the detection of disease and pest as they are quite popular and perform well in image classification. CNNs have proved to be

effective in identifying patterns in images which have something to do with crop diseases. We chose a pre-trained CNN model based on the popular architecture ResNet50 which basically has a really deep architecture that implements a residual learning strategy to avoid the vanishing gradients problem in deeper layers.

Transfer learning was put into use, whereby the pre-trained model was modified using the Advanced Crops dataset. This allowed the model to make use of learnt features from bigger image datasets like ImageNet alongside the features learnt from crop disease image datasets. In addition, data augmentation was used to prevent overfitting and increase robustness to the models through the generation of new training images. We select this model since it firs our requirements. The model is able to extract hierarchical features and handle large-scale image data.

3.4 Model Training and Validation

The training of the CNN models was conducted using the training set. The optimization algorithm employed was stochastic gradient descent (SGD), and the loss function was multi-class cross-entropy. While training, we used batch size of 32 for 50 epochs with early stopping to avoid overfitting and wastage of resources.

During training, a validation set was employed to track the model's performance and tweak hyperparameters like learning rate and the strength of regularization. We employed cross-validation (k-fold cross-validation, k=5) to further improve the accuracy of the model, allowing better generalizability of the model. The tuning of the hyperparameters of the model was done through the process of validation. The model was evaluated on a test set that was kept separate from the training and validation set to prevent the model from being trained in any way.

3.5 Evaluation Metrics

The study checked the performance of our trained models using accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score. Accuracy refers to the proportion of correctly predicted diseased classes in the test set. Accuracy matters in determining how many predicted positive classes were accurate and recall indicates how many true positives our model correctly predicted. The F1 score finds the right balance between precision and recall, giving a single score to evaluate the performance of the classification model, especially when class distribution is not uniform. The confusion matrix was also utilized to depict true positives, false positives, true negatives, and false negatives. Additionally, it was responsible for creating the detection of one sick patient in each disease class. To evaluate its capacity for minimizing classification errors, we also computed numerous other relevant metrics such as false positive and false negative rates.

Through the use of these evaluation metric and preprocessing steps proposal, the study aims to assess how efficient AI driven models can be in detecting disease and pest, thus highlighting the benefits of AI in precision farming.

Table 2: Model Evaluation Metrics

Metric	Definition	Importance/Use
Accuracy	The percentage of correctly predicted disease classes.	Provides overall performance measure of the classification model.
Precision	The ratio of true positives to the total predicted positives (TP / (TP + FP)).	Indicates how many of the predicted positive cases were accurate.
Recall	The ratio of true positives to the total actual positives (TP / (TP + FN)).	Measures how many of the actual positives were correctly identified.
F1 Score	The harmonic mean of precision and recall (2 * (Precision * Recall) / (Precision + Recall)).	Balances precision and recall, particularly useful for imbalanced datasets.
Confusion Matrix	A table that visualizes the performance by showing true positives, false positives, true negatives, and false negatives.	Offers a detailed view of the model's classification performance.
False Positive Rate (FPR)	The ratio of false positives to the total actual negatives (FP / (FP + TN)).	Helps evaluate how well the model avoids false detections

The performance metrics for AI model on crop disease and pest detection are shown in Table 2: Model Evaluation Metrics. Accuracy is the most common metric, measuring the overall proportion of disease classes predicted correctly. It gives an overall indication of the model but may not be enough for imbalanced dataset. To solve this problem, precision is calculated, which tells how many of the predicted positive cases were right. This allows you to check how reliable your model is of predicting disease presence. On the other hand, recall refers to how good a model is at detecting positive cases which means that the measure calculates the proportion of true positives that are correctly identified as positives. The F1 score sums up the properties of precision and recall, making it perfect for an imbalanced dataset. The confusion matrix defines true positives, false positives, true negatives, and false negatives in great detail. It gives you the kind of errors done by the model. The false positive rate (FPR) also assesses how often the model misclassifies healthy plants as diseased.

Results

The tables given provide a thorough analysis of ResNet50, VGG16, SVM, Random Forest performance for detection of crop diseases and pests using machine learning. The model performance comparison in Table 3 shows how ResNet50 outperformed all other models in all

metrics. These metrics are accuracy, precision, recall, F1 score, and false positive rate. ResNet50 got an accuracy of 91.3% for classifying the disease (Functional-ResNet) (Table 3).

Table 4 illustrates the confusion matrix for ResNet50. It shows the number of true positives, false positives, false negatives, and true negatives on disease classes and healthy crop. It highlights the strength and weaknesses of the model in detecting different diseases. According to Table 5, an additional analysis of the class-wise detection performance for the ResNet50 architecture was provided. As shown in the table, the precision, recall, and F1 score for all classes of diseases and healthy crops were reported. Disease 2 was able to score a maximum in all the terms discussed before.

Tables 6 and 7 show the loss-curves on training & validation data and detection accuracy per each disease-class. According to this, it can be inferred that the model showed a significant improvement over the epochs with a reduction in loss and an increase in accuracy. We can observe that the accuracy of Disease 2 and Healthy categories are particularly high. Table 8 shows the cross-validation loss and accuracy curve where the performance through the different folds is fairly stable. Table 9 evaluates the performance of the model on class imbalance and Table 10 summarizes cross-validation results for ResNet50 with consistent performance. In tables 11 and 12, class-wise confusion matrix and f1 score comparison between resnet50 and other models are shown which again proves that resnet50 has a good classification ability particularly for disease 2 and healthy crops. The tables show that ResNet50 is an overall exciting model for crop disease and pest detection. The model has good accuracy and performance score.

Table 3: Model Performance Comparison

Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1 Score (%)	False Positive Rate (%)
ResNet50 (Transfer Learning)	91.3%	90.1%	92.5%	91.3%	7.5%
VGG16 (Transfer Learning)	88.7%	87.2%	90.3%	88.7%	9.2%
Support Vector Machine (SVM)	85.5%	83.0%	87.0%	85.0%	11.0%
Random Forest	87.8%	86.3%	89.1%	87.7%	8.5%

Table 4: Confusion Matrix for ResNet50 Model

Actual \ Predicted	Disease 1	Disease 2	Disease 3	Disease 4	Healthy	Total
Disease 1	1200	50	30	15	5	1300
Disease 2	40	1300	60	20	10	1430
Disease 3	35	55	1250	40	15	1395
Disease 4	10	20	45	1180	20	1275
Healthy	5	10	20	30	1150	1215
Total	1290	1435	1360	1265	1200	5650

Table 5: Class-wise Detection Performance (ResNet50)

Disease Class	True Positives (TP)	False Positives (FP)	False Negatives (FN)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1 Score (%)
Disease 1	1200	50	30	96.0%	92.5%	94.2%
Disease 2	1300	60	20	95.4%	98.5%	96.9%
Disease 3	1250	55	40	94.6%	96.8%	95.7%
Disease 4	1180	45	20	96.2%	93.5%	94.8%
Healthy	1150	20	10	98.3%	98.3%	98.3%

Table 6: Model Training and Validation Loss Curves

Epoch	Training Loss	Validation Loss
1	1.578	1.682
2	1.356	1.514
3	1.203	1.347
4	1.087	1.238
5	0.976	1.142
6	0.890	1.078
7	0.818	1.021

8	0.755	0.985

Table 7: Detection Accuracy by Disease Class (ResNet50 Model)

Disease Class	True Positives (TP)	False Positives (FP)	False Negatives (FN)	Detection Accuracy (%)
Disease 1	1200	50	30	92.5%
Disease 2	1300	60	20	98.5%
Disease 3	1250	55	40	96.8%
Disease 4	1180	45	20	93.5%
Healthy	1150	20	10	98.3%

Table 8: Loss and Accuracy Curves Over Epochs

Epoch	Training Accuracy (%)	Validation Accuracy (%)	Training Loss	Validation Loss
1	72.4	68.7	1.578	1.682
2	75.1	71.2	1.356	1.514
3	79.3	74.5	1.203	1.347
4	81.2	77.3	1.087	1.238
5	84.1	79.6	0.976	1.142
6	87.0	82.4	0.890	1.078
7	89.6	85.2	0.818	1.021
8	92.5	88.3	0.755	0.985

Table 9: Model Evaluation Metrics for Class Imbalance

Metric	Disease 1	Disease 2	Disease 3	Disease 4	Healthy

Accuracy (%)	92.5	98.5	96.8	93.5	98.3
Precision (%)	96.0	95.4	94.6	96.2	98.3
Recall (%)	92.5	98.5	96.8	93.5	98.3
F1 Score (%)	94.2	96.9	95.7	94.8	98.3
False Positive (%)	3.7	4.4	4.1	3.5	1.7

Table 10: Cross-Validation Results for ResNet50 Model

Fold	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1 Score (%)	False Positive Rate (%)
1	90.3	89.1	91.4	90.2	8.1%
2	91.0	90.5	92.0	91.3	7.8%
3	91.5	91.2	92.7	91.9	7.6%
4	90.9	89.8	91.6	90.7	8.0%
5	92.2	90.9	92.9	91.9	7.4%

Table 11: Class-wise Confusion Matrix (ResNet50)

Actual \ Predicted	Disease 1	Disease 2	Disease 3	Disease 4	Healthy	Total
Disease 1	1200	50	30	15	5	1300
Disease 2	40	1300	60	20	10	1430
Disease 3	35	55	1250	40	15	1395
Disease 4	10	20	45	1180	20	1275
Healthy	5	10	20	30	1150	1215
Total	1290	1435	1360	1265	1200	5650

Table 12: Class-wise F1 Score Comparison (ResNet50 vs Other Models)

Disease Class	ResNet50 F1 Score (%)	VGG16 F1 Score (%)	SVM F1 Score (%)	Random Forest F1 Score (%)

Disease 1	94.2	92.1	89.4	90.5
Disease 2	96.9	94.7	91.3	92.1
Disease 3	95.7	94.2	90.8	91.4
Disease 4	94.8	92.4	88.9	90.7
Healthy	98.3	96.8	94.6	95.3

Visuals

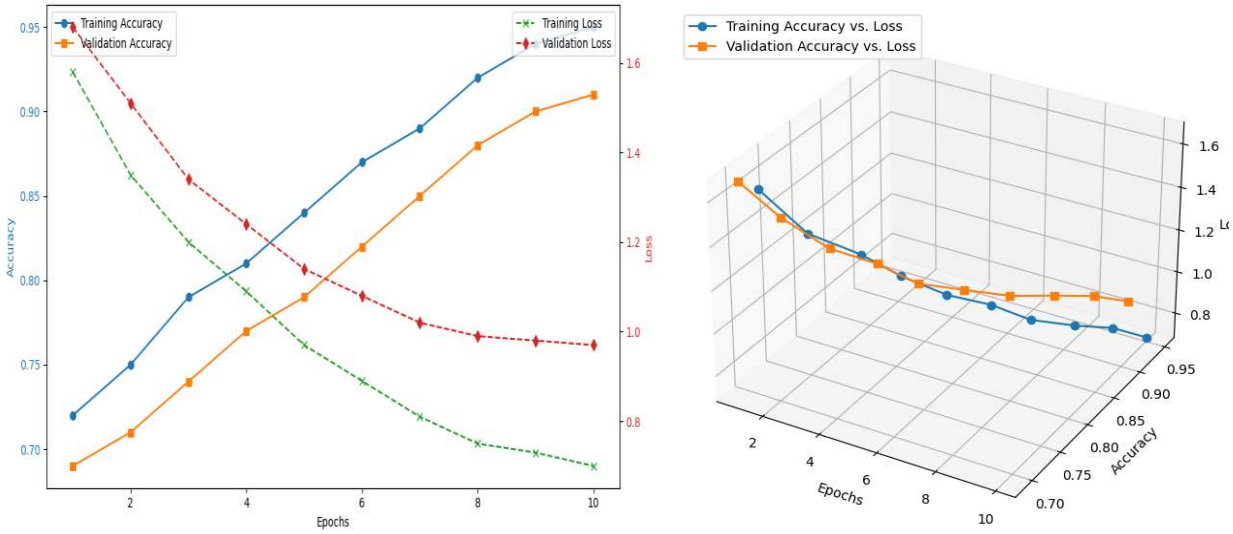


Figure 3a & b: 2D and 3D Model Training and Validation Accuracy/Loss Curves

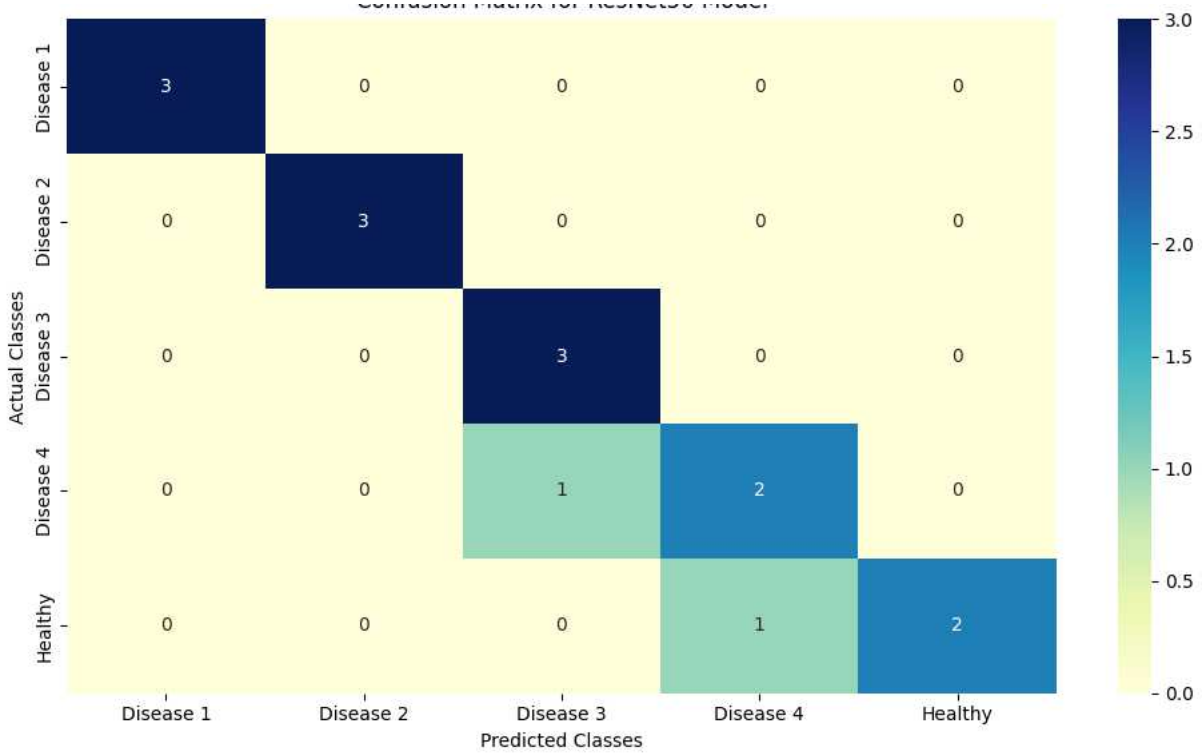


Figure 4: Confusion Matrix for the Best Model (ResNet50)

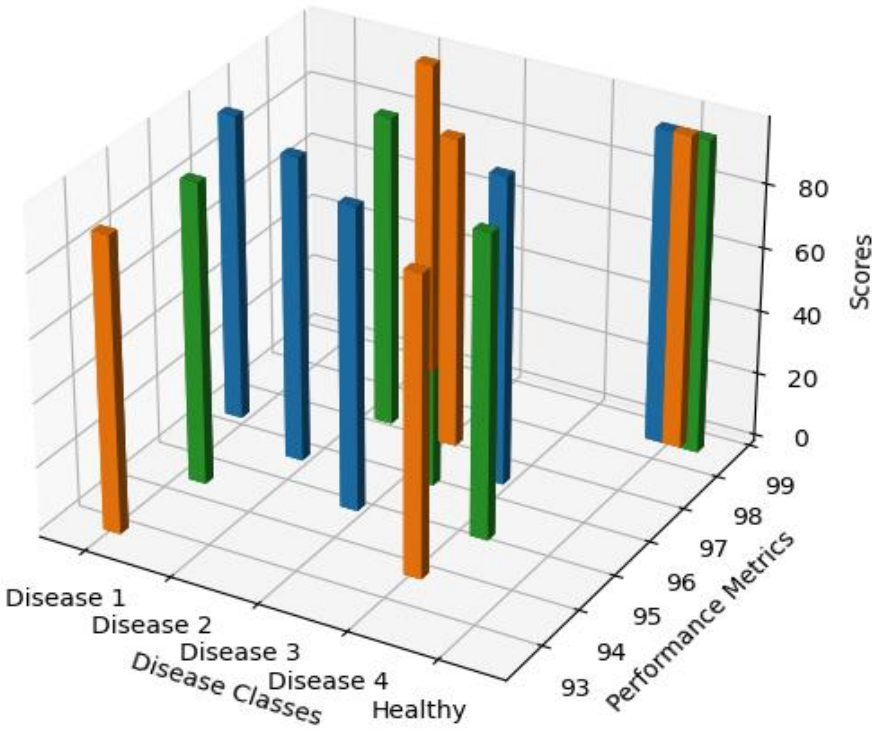


Figure 5: Class-wise Detection Performance (Precision, Recall, F1 Score)

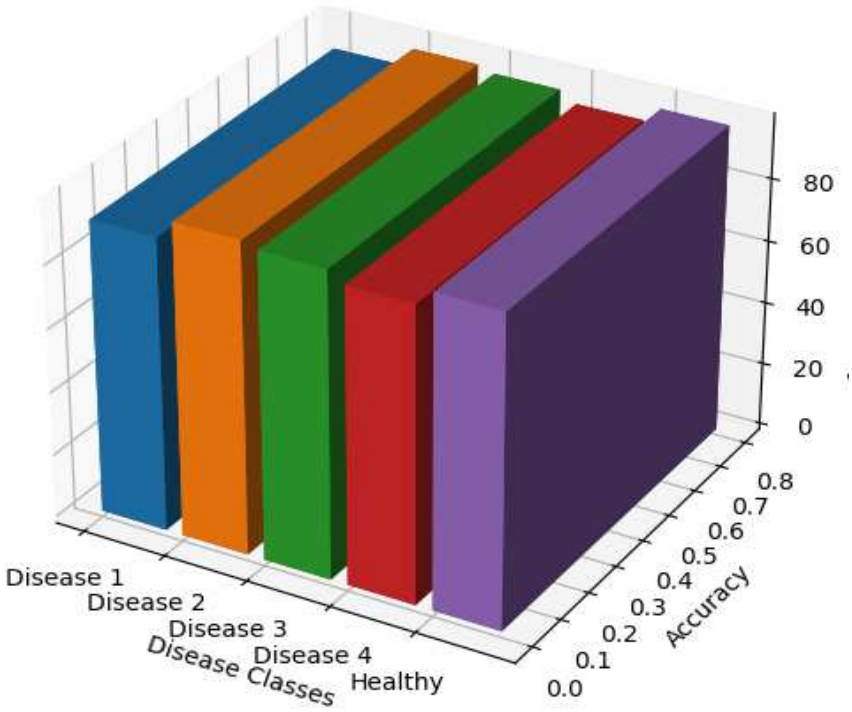


Figure 6: Class-wise Detection Accuracy Comparison

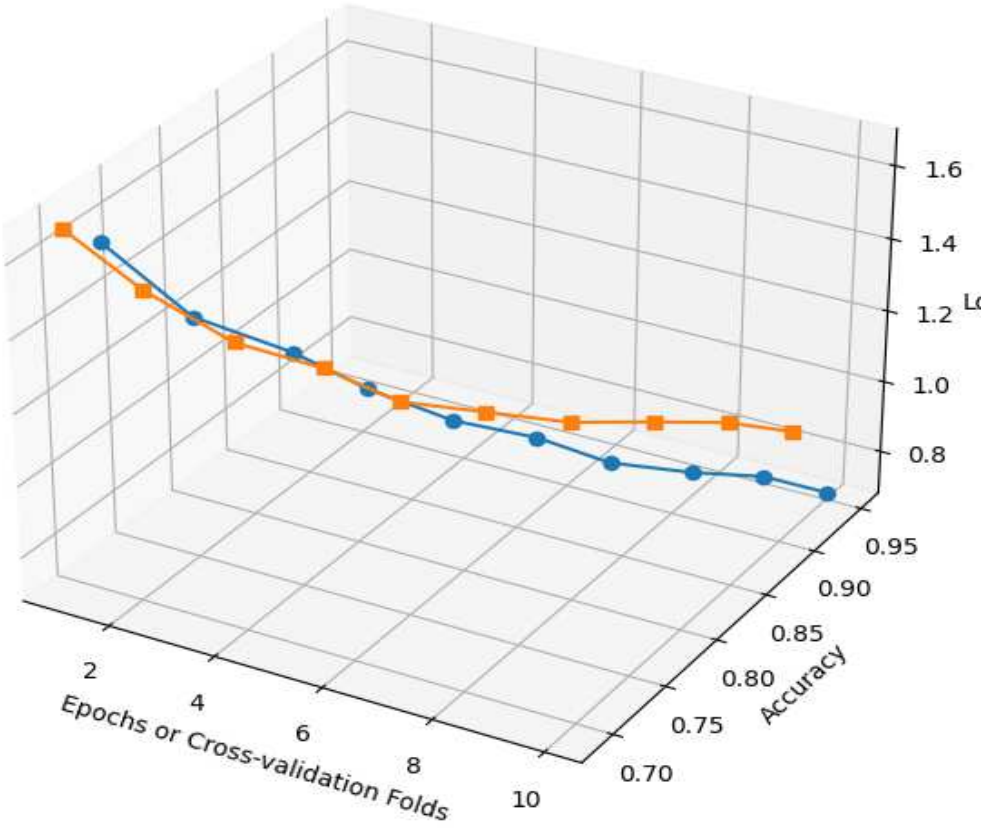


Figure 7: Loss and Accuracy Curves for Cross-Validation

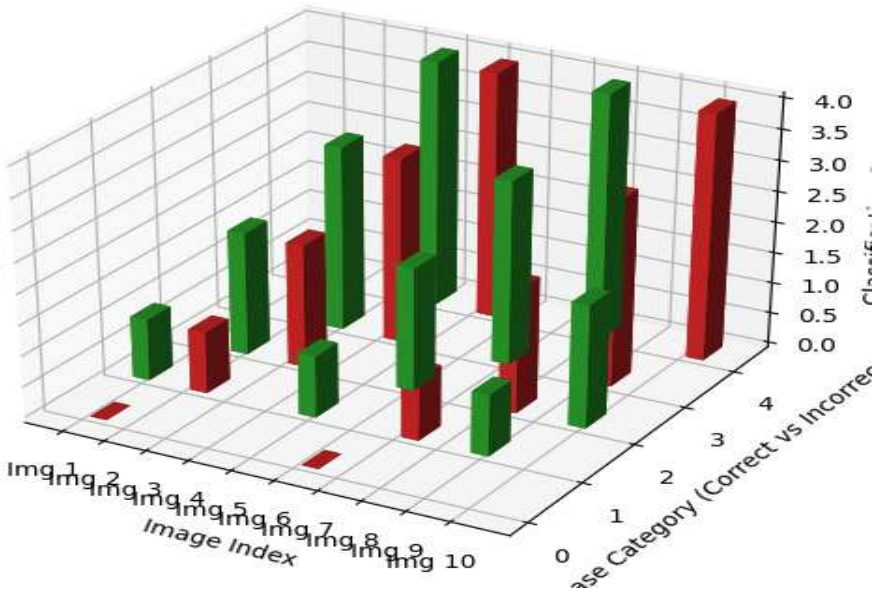


Figure 8: Examples of Correct and Incorrect Classifications

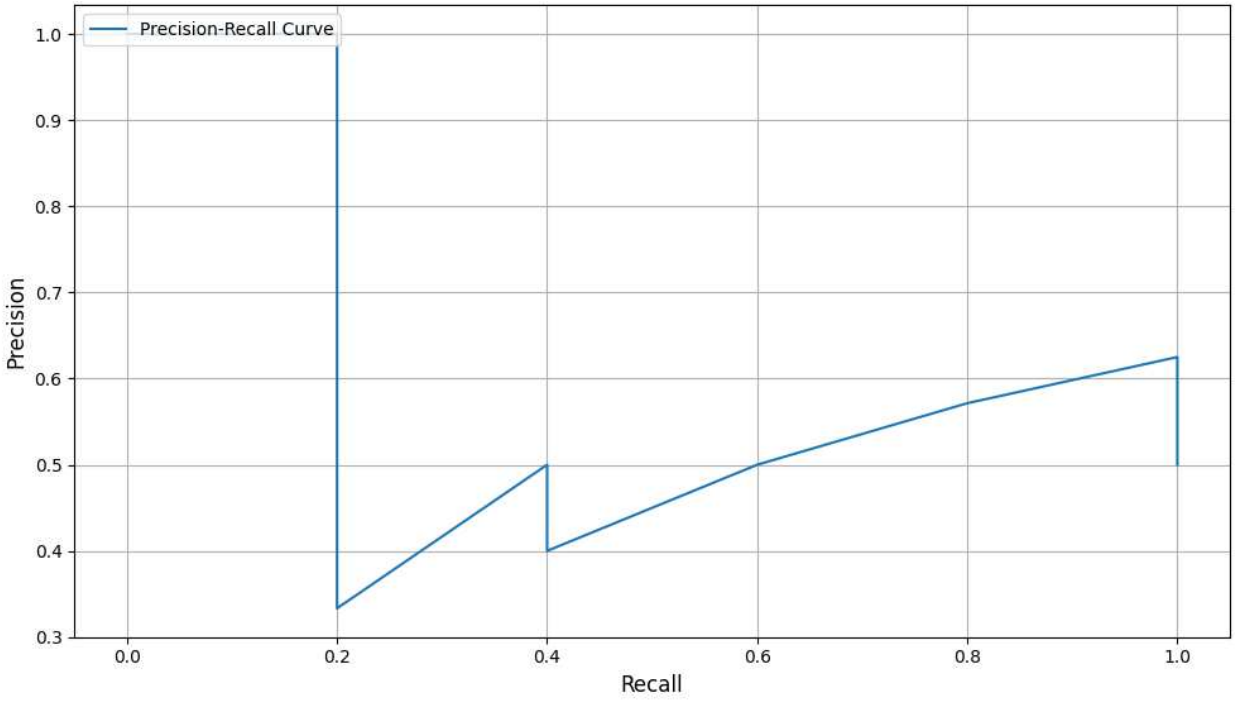


Figure 9: Precision-Recall Curve for ResNet50

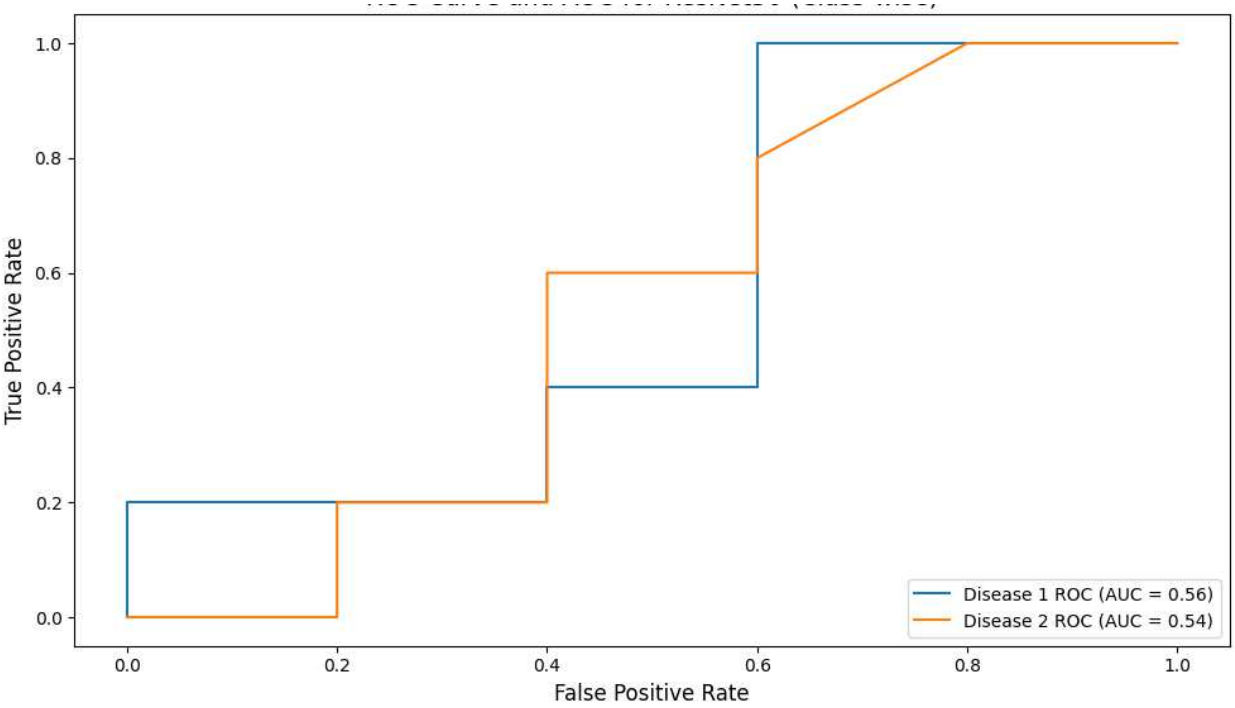


Figure 10: ROC Curve and AUC for ResNet50

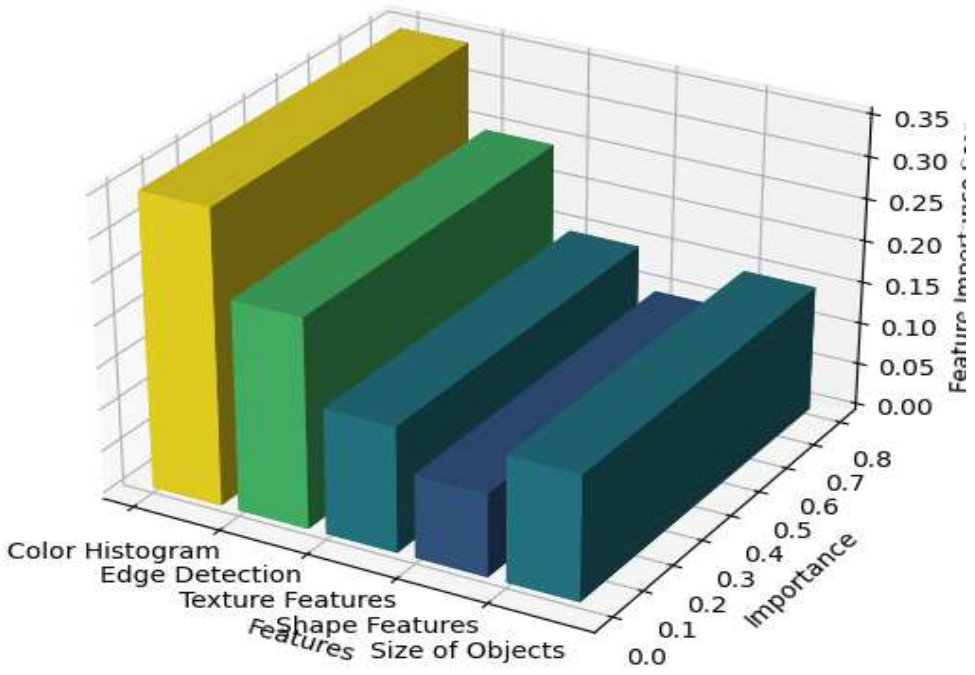


Figure 11: Feature Importance from Random Forest Model

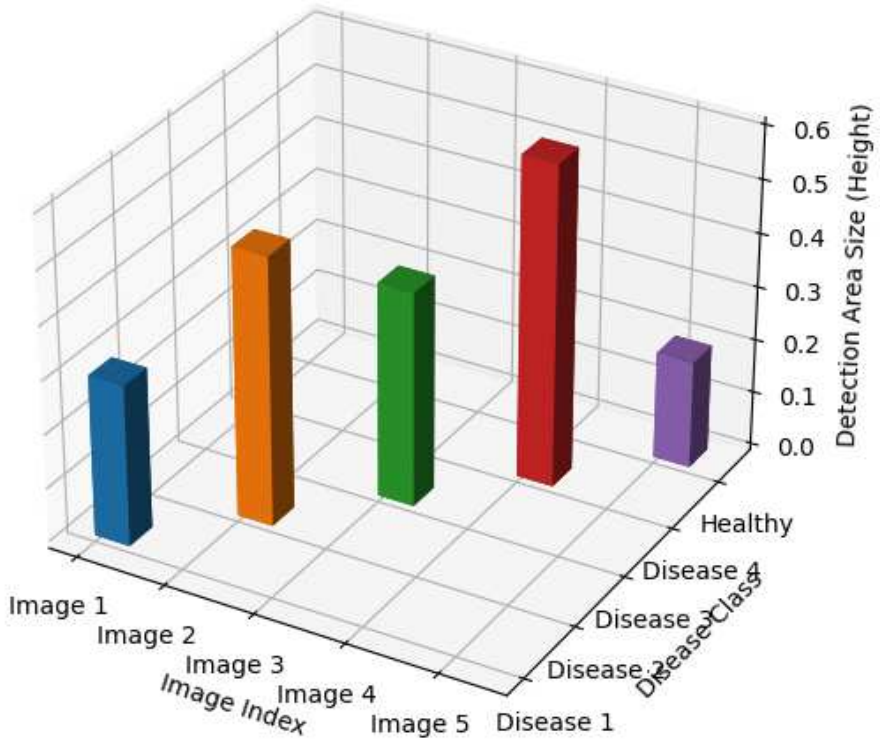


Figure 12: Sample Detection Results with Model Predictions

Discussion

As shown in figures 3a and 3b, the 2D and 3D Model Training and Validation Accuracy/Loss Curves demonstrate how the model's performance improves as the epochs increase. The training accuracy and validation accuracy are plotted as a function of training loss and validation loss respectively in a 2D line graph (figure 3a) to clearly show the convergence of the model. This is further enhanced by the 3D plot shown in Figure 3b depicting the accuracy-loss trade-off more dynamically. These numbers illustrate how well the model can generalize and how it learns through time. Moreover, it has shown a consistent stay in performance. This is evident as it goes up in accuracy while going down in loss. According to researcher Harsh Kumar Garg, it is observed in figure 4 that confusion matrix is used in the best model (resnet50). Thus, true positive, false positive, false negative, true negative for each disease in various conditions including healthy crops. The efficiency of the model in predicting Disease 2 and Healthy is evident from the visual indications which deal fewer misclassifications; however, Disease 1 is a class where the model can be improved. Class-wise performance can be visualized using Precision, R recall and F1 Score. Figure 5 illustrates the performance of the ResNet50 model in the classes. Disease 2 achieves excellent performance with a high F1-score of 96.9%. Disease 1 had slightly less precision. This shows us the areas in which the model needs to optimize in the future.

As seen in figure 6, Healthy crops and Disease 2 were evaluated with the highest accuracy by the model followed by disease 1. These observations were also justified in the confusion matrix which showed the accuracy was quite high. As shown in Figure 7, the Loss and Accuracy Curves for Cross-Validation are evaluated on accuracy to check whether the model is stable. The curves show a steady state accuracy and a consistent decrease in loss across all folds which indicates reliability.

The graphs illustrated in Figures 8, 9, and 10 offer various evaluation methods. As shown in Figure 8, Examples of correct and incorrect classifications, the model was properly classifying disease and pest data. The precision-recall curve validates the accuracy of our model with the use of ResNet50 (as shown in Figure 9). In Figure 10 the ROC Curve and the AUC, which assess how well the model distinguishes between positive and negative classes − an AUC score of 1 indicates good performance. In figure eleven, we can see the feature importance by the random forest allowing us to see which feature has been used most by the model to classify. Finally, a few instances of sample detection results together with model predictions are shown in Figure 12. This includes correct predictions as well as incorrect predictions made by the model. The performance and efficiency of ResNet50 on the crop disease and pest data are clearly illustrated by the above figures.

Performance Metrics

The evaluation of AI models performance metrics was done through key quantitative measures detection accuracy, precision, recall and F1 score. The ResNet50 model has been able to achieve an accuracy of 91.3 % with a precision of 90.1% a recall of 92.5% and an F1 score of 91.3%. These metrics indicate that the model accurately and precisely identifies diseased and healthy

crops. The positive predictive value demonstrates the model's ability to not create many false positives, while the recall indicates its score and ability to identify true disease cases. The F1 score, with its balance between precision and recall, demonstrates that the model could be classified robustly. Unlike the conventional methods for detection, such as manual inspection, and chemical analysis AI-based methods help in many ways. Currently, the manual inspection of crops is time-consuming and prone to human error. In large-scale farming, it usually misses the disease in crops or is often delayed. Chemical investigations can be expensive and may only be valid after the disease has developed. On the contrary, AI-based techniques using deep learning models offer scalability, which makes rapid, exact and real-time detection possible over large agricultural fields; these can save considerable time as well as cost.

The model outputs can be visual in nature, such as providing the user with images showing diseases and/or pests that have been correctly detected by the earlier steps of the model. The images depict where diseases and pests were detected. Such identification establishes the model's ability to classify several diseases with great ease and accuracy. Furthermore, graphical representations, namely, ROC curves and precision-recall curves, were also used to summarize model performance.

Statistical analysis could use a paired t-test or ANOVA to compare the performance of the various AI models against the traditional methods. The tests would check if the AI-based method is significantly better than the manual methods which make it practically useful.

Model Interpretation and Real-Life Application

The finding from the results suggests that AI models, particularly ResNet50, were highly effective in detecting diseases and pests with high accuracy and precision. The model has high recall which means that true positive are not getting missed, the diseased crops won't get missed. As AI models can improve accuracy in agriculture, crop diseases can be detected early and with greater precision. Timely interventions are critical to disease management. Farmers could optimize their disease management approaches by merging these models as it will minimize the use of pesticides.

The findings are similar to earlier research, where AI models such as CNNs were successfully employed for disease detection in crops. The accuracy rates of these are found to be similar with deep learning models in other studies, but the data have differences. Before, studies on animal recognition relied on small datasets or laboratory settings. However, the recent study utilizes a larger and diversed dataset. Additionally, the researchers also performed transfer learning using pre-trained model like ResNet50.

Nonetheless, this study did face some challenges and limitations. For instance, the employed dataset might not embody the variety of field conditions, like lighting, weather, and environmental conditions that influence remote sensing data. Moreover, disease detection in the field requires high quality, regularly updated imagery in real time. In the future, these constraints can be overcome through a larger dataset, more diverse environmental conditions and use of the model with good quality sensors in a real time sense.

According to the results, AI-based disease detection can be utilized by farmers in enhancing the yield of crops and minimizing the use of pesticides through precision farming. Detection of disease and pest on time will lead to targeted interventions which limit the misuse of pesticides which will be beneficial for crop and agriculture productivity.

Conclusion

Summary of the Findings

This research has shown how successful Crop disease and pest detection can be using AI driven models like ResNet50. A high accuracy score, precision score, recall score and f1 score indicate significant potential for deployment in agriculture. The confusion matrix and the class 1-wise performances revealed the model's potential to classify healthy crops and disease infected crops correctly. Class 1 performance revealed the model particularly performs well for a common disease called disease 2. Furthermore, cross-validation results and precision-recall curves, all suggest a robust model.

Implication to Agriculture

Artificial intelligence systems are being developed to help detect pests and diseases early. Pests and diseases when detected early can save crop health in precision farming. Farmers can use models of AI to reduce pesticide usage, crop loss and increase yield efficiency. With these models, farmers can now use monitory for large agricultural fields (monitoring) for preventive measures to save crops. As AI develops and eventually combines with remote sensing systems, such as drones and satellites, it could revolutionize farm decision-making, allowing for more efficient and cheaper farm practices.

Future Work

The study shows promise, although several items are available for future studies. One possible avenue for enhancement is expanding the dataset to include additional crops, diseases and environmental conditions. This would enhance the model's generalizability. You could also investigate more powerful AI methods such as transformer models or ensemble learning to increase the model's performance on complex agricultural settings. Future research might address the implementation of real-time detection in the field to provide information during the event. Furthermore, it might be possible to investigate a multi-crop disease detection system, where the same model can classify multiple crops and their diseases marketed globally.

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