

"LEAF DISEASE DETECTION USING DEEP LEARNING"

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Abstract Plant disease detection is a critical challenge in precision agriculture due to variability in environmental conditions and visual symptom complexity. This project proposes an automated leaf disease detection framework based on deep learning and image processing techniques. Input leaf images are preprocessed using resizing, normalization, and noise reduction to minimize illumination and background variations. The core detection module employs a deep learning vision model to learn discriminative spatial and color-based features directly from images, enabling multi-class disease classification. The system architecture follows a modular design, integrating a FastAPI-based backend for efficient inference handling and a Streamlit-based frontend for interactive visualization. Performance evaluation is carried out using standard metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score to validate classification effectiveness. The solution is optimized for real-time inference and supports scalable cloud deployment. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed system achieves reliable disease recognition under diverse imaging conditions, highlighting its applicability for real-world agricultural decision-support systems.

IndexTerms - Component, formatting, style, styling, insert.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, and the productivity of crops largely depends on their health. One of the major challenges faced by farmers is the timely identification of leaf diseases, which directly affect crop yield, quality, and overall production. Most farmers rely on manual visual inspection to detect diseases, which is often inaccurate, time-consuming, and requires expert knowledge. Delayed detection results in the rapid spread of infections, leading to significant losses. With the rapid growth of artificial intelligence and embedded systems, it has become possible to automate the process of monitoring plant health. Deep learning, especially Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), has shown excellent performance in identifying patterns and features in images. By combining these techniques with low-cost hardware like the DEEP LEARNING, an efficient real-time disease detection system can be developed. In this project, images of plant leaves are captured using a Pi Camera and processed using a trained deep learning model to classify diseases such as blight, bacterial spot, or healthy leaves. The deep learning performs on-device inference, making it portable, affordable, and suitable for field-level deployment. This system helps farmers detect diseases early, minimize crop losses, reduce excessive pesticide usage, and promote smart and sustainable agriculture

Problem Statement

In agriculture, plant diseases significantly affect crop quality and productivity, often leading to major economic losses for farmers. Traditionally, disease detection is carried out manually through visual inspection by agricultural experts. This process is time-consuming, costly, and often inaccurate due to human error and limited expertise in rural areas. With the increasing demand for precision farming, there is a strong need for an automated, low-cost, and reliable system that can identify plant leaf diseases quickly and accurately in real-time. The challenge lies in building a system that can run efficiently on low-power hardware such as the deep learning, handle real-time image processing, and classify leaf diseases using Deep Learning techniques. Therefore, this project aims to develop a deep learning-based smart detection system capable of identifying various leaf diseases automatically, helping farmers make timely decisions to protect their crops and improve agricultural productivity.

Literature Review

1. Overview Automatic plant-disease detection from leaf images has become a major research area in precision agriculture because it enables early intervention and reduces yield loss. Until the mid-2010s, most systems relied on hand-crafted image features (color, texture, shape) plus classical classifiers (SVM, K-NN). In the last 6–8 years deep learning — especially Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) — has dominated the field, giving much higher accuracy and robustness to intra-class variation. ScienceDirect+1
2. Key datasets (benchmarks) The most widely used public dataset is PlantVillage (~54k–61k images, many sources report 38–39 classes depending on split), which contains labeled images of healthy and diseased leaves across many crops. PlantVillage has become the de-facto benchmark for training and comparing models in academic work, though it has limitations for real-world field conditions (backgrounds, lighting). TensorFlow+1
3. Classical image-processing approaches Earlier works used segmentation to isolate leaf area, then extracted features (color histograms, GLCM texture, shape descriptors) and fed them to SVM or decision trees. These techniques work in controlled settings but fail when lighting, occlusion, or complex backgrounds occur. Many comparative reviews conclude that deep learning outperforms these classical pipelines on large datasets. EAI Endorsed Transactions
4. Deep learning and CNNs — accuracy gains CNNs (e.g., VGG, ResNet, DenseNet) trained from scratch or fine-tuned with transfer learning consistently achieve high classification accuracy (many reported results >90% on PlantVillage splits). Several papers demonstrate end-to-end CNN pipelines (preprocessing → augmentation → CNN) and obtain excellent performance for multi-class detection. Transfer learning (pretrained ImageNet models) is commonly used to reduce training time and improve generalization. ResearchGate+1
5. Lightweight / edge-friendly models & deep learning deployment For real-time, on-device inference (deep learn, other edge boards), researchers focus on lightweight architectures (MobileNetV1/V2, optimized MobileNet variants, pruning,

quantization, and TensorFlow Lite). Recent work specifically evaluates MobileNet and other compact models on deep learning and shows good tradeoffs between latency and

Existing System

In current agricultural practices, plant health and environmental monitoring are often carried out manually, where farmers rely on experience to decide irrigation schedules or detect plant diseases. While some sensor-based systems have been developed using microcontrollers like Arduino or ESP8266, they are typically limited to monitoring basic parameters such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity. These systems can automate irrigation but lack intelligent features such as image-based disease detection or remote decision-making. Although a few IoT-based solutions send sensor data to cloud platforms like ThingSpeak or Blynk, they often require continuous power supply, making them unsuitable for rural or off-grid areas. Some mobile applications and research projects have implemented machine learning models for plant disease detection, but these are usually standalone systems that require users to manually upload images, and they do not provide real-time, automated monitoring. Moreover, most of these existing systems are not powered by renewable energy and offer only partial solutions to the challenges faced in agriculture. Therefore, there is a need for a fully integrated, solar-powered, AI-enabled plant health monitoring system that can work independently in real-time and provide intelligent insights to support precision farming.

Software Requirements:

1. Python 3.8+
2. Windows 10 / 11
3. Uvicorn
4. Meta Llama Vision
5. Pip

Laser Distance Sensor:

- Uses laser light to detect plant diseases
 - Helps in early identification of diseases
 - Non-contact method (does not damage plants)
 - Used in smart and precision farming
- Useful for research and crop monitoring

Methodology

The proposed system for Leaf Disease Detection using deep learning is designed to automatically identify diseases in plant leaves using image processing and deep learning. The methodology involves several stages — from data collection to real-time prediction.

1. Data Collection: • A dataset of healthy and diseased plant leaf images is collected from open sources such as PlantVillage or captured manually using the deep learning. • The dataset includes various leaf diseases such as blight, rust, and mildew across different crops.
2. Image Preprocessing: • Collected images are resized and normalized for consistent input size. • Noise is removed using filters and image enhancement techniques. • Backgrounds are segmented to focus only on the leaf region. • Data augmentation (rotation, flipping, brightness change, etc.) is applied to improve model robustness.
3. Model Training (Deep Learning): • A Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) or a pre-trained model like MobileNetV2 / ResNet50 is used to classify diseases. • The model is trained using the preprocessed dataset in Python (TensorFlow/Keras). • The dataset is divided into training (80%) and testing (20%) sets to evaluate accuracy. • After training, the model is optimized for lightweight performance using TensorFlow Lite (TFLite) for Raspberry Pi deployment.
4. Deep Learning 11 • A Pi Camera Module captures live leaf images in real-time. • The Raspberry Pi runs a Python script to process the image and predict the disease using the trained model. • The result (disease name and accuracy) is displayed on the connected monitor or web interface.
5. Result & Output: • If a disease is detected, the system displays the disease name, confidence score, and possible remedial measures. • The output can be shown on-screen or through a simple Flask-based web interface for remote monitoring.
6. Evaluation: a. The model's accuracy, precision, and recall are measured. b. Performance is tested under real environmental conditions (light, shadow, background noise). c. The system is refined based on feedback and testing results.

Advantages

- Gives high accuracy in detecting leaf diseases
- Helps in early detection of plant diseases
- Saves time and manual effort
- Reduces the need for agriculture experts
- Can be used in mobile apps and smart farming.

Limitations

- Works only for trained crops and diseases
- Performance reduces due to poor lighting or background
- Some diseases look very similar, causing confusion
- Cannot detect diseases without visible symptoms

Applications

- Smart agriculture – automatic monitoring of crop health
- Mobile apps for farmers – disease detection using phone camera
- Early disease warning systems – prevents crop loss
- Precision farming – accurate use of pesticides and fertilizers

- Greenhouse monitoring – continuous plant health checking
- Research and crop improvement – helps agricultural scientists
- Drone-based crop analysis – large farm monitoring

Result

Here we will get the type of the disease effected from the given image. The following figures shows the ill ness of the plant and the given converted image after the process of the segmentation which is shown in the Fig 6 and the same image in form of gray scale. And the last image is the feature extracted image.

Conclusion

The Leaf Disease Detection using deep learning project successfully demonstrates the use of image processing and deep learning techniques to identify plant leaf diseases in realtime. By integrating a camera module with a deep learning, the system provides a portable, costeffective, and automated solution for farmers and agricultural experts. The project highlights the advantages of early disease detection, enabling timely intervention to reduce crop losses and improve yield. The use of a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) ensures accurate disease classification, while deployment on Raspberry Pi makes the system suitable for real-time field applications. Overall, this system can significantly aid precision agriculture, reduce dependency on manual inspection, and provide farmers with an efficient tool for monitoring and maintaining crop health. With further enhancements — such as expanded datasets, improved model optimization, and integration with mobile apps — the system has the potential to become a robust solution for smart farming.

Future Scope

- Improved accuracy using advanced deep learning models
- Integration with mobile apps for farmers
- Use of drones and IoT for large-scale monitoring
- Real-time early disease prediction systems
- Support for more crops and disease types

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