International Research Journal of Innovations in Engineering and Technology (IRJIET)
ISSN (online): 2581-3048
Volume 9, Special Issue INSPIRE'25, pp 141-145, April-2025
https://doi.org/10.47001/IRJIET/2025.INSPIRE23
International Conference on Sustainable Practices and Innovations in Research and Engineering (INSPIRE'25)

Crop Recommendation System Using Machine Learning and IoT for Precision Farming

[1]Uday Kumar Kori, [2]Puligilla Nikitha, [3]Panthula Lakshmi Gayathri, [4]Sayali Prabhakar Ingale, [5]P. Anusha

[1,2,3,4]Student B.Tech, Department of CSE, Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana, India
[5]Assistant Professor, Department of CSE, Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

***Abstract* - Agriculture is a crucial sector that significantly contributes to the economy of many countries. However, the increasing global population and climate changes have made agricultural productivity more challenging. This paper presents a Crop Recommendation System (CRS) utilizing Machine Learning (ML) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to assist farmers in making informed decisions about suitable crops for cultivation. The system uses real-time environmental data, such as soil moisture, temperature, pH levels, and rainfall, to predict the best-suited crops for a given region. Various ML algorithms, including Decision Trees, Random Forest, and Support Vector Machines, are employed to enhance prediction accuracy. IoT-enabled sensors collect real-time data, which is then processed and analyzed to recommend optimal crops. The proposed system aims to improve agricultural yield and sustainability while reducing resource wastage.**

Keywords: Crop Recommendation, Machine Learning, IoT, Agriculture, Smart Farming, Precision Farming.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Motivation

Agriculture is one of the most vital sectors of the global economy, providing food, employment, and raw materials for various industries. However, traditional agricultural practices often rely on experience-based decision-making, which can lead to inefficiencies in crop selection, resource utilization, and productivity. With increasing population demands and climate change challenges, there is an urgent need to integrate technology-driven solutions into farming practices. The advent of Machine Learning (ML) and the Internet of Things (IoT) has opened new opportunities to revolutionize precision agriculture by offering data-driven crop recommendation systems that optimize productivity while ensuring sustainability (Patel et al., 2021).

A Crop Recommendation System (CRS) aims to assist farmers in making informed decisions regarding crop selection based on real-time environmental and soil conditions. The system leverages IoT sensors to collect data on soil properties (pH, moisture, temperature, and nutrients), weather patterns, and other agronomic factors. Machine Learning algorithms process this data to generate accurate recommendations, ensuring higher yields and better resource management. Smart farming powered by ML and IoT can reduce reliance on guesswork, minimize crop failures, and enhance agricultural efficiency (Sharma & Singh, 2020).

1. 2 Challenges in Traditional Farming

Despite advancements in modern agricultural techniques, many farmers still face challenges in crop selection due to a lack of access to real-time soil and climate data. Some of the key challenges include:

- Soil Degradation: Unsustainable farming practices and excessive use of fertilizers lead to soil nutrient depletion, affecting crop productivity (Kumar et al., 2021).
- Climate Change: Erratic weather patterns, unpredictable rainfall, and rising temperatures pose serious threats to agricultural output (Chaudhary et al., 2022).
- Resource Mismanagement: Overuse of water and fertilizers can lead to groundwater depletion and environmental pollution.
- Limited Access to Technology: Many small-scale farmers lack access to advanced decision-support systems for optimal crop selection (Ramesh et al., 2019).

By integrating IoT-based real-time monitoring with ML-based predictive analytics, these challenges can be addressed effectively.

1. 3 Role of Machine Learning in Crop Recommendation

Machine Learning plays a crucial role in predictive agriculture, allowing systems to analyze large datasets and generate accurate crop recommendations. Various ML algorithms have been employed in agriculture, including:

- Decision Trees (DT): Used for classification and regression problems in crop selection (Wang et al., 2021).

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- Random Forest (RF): A powerful ensemble learning technique that improves predictive accuracy by averaging multiple decision trees.
- Support Vector Machines (SVM): Effective for classification problems related to plant growth and soil properties (Meena et al., 2020).
- K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN): Works well in soil classification and yield prediction.
- Deep Learning (DL) models: Such as Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) for image-based crop disease detection (Saini et al., 2021).

These models take input from IoT devices, process it through advanced analytics, and generate real-time recommendations, improving agricultural efficiency.

1. 4 IoT in Smart Agriculture

The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to a network of interconnected devices that collect and transmit real-time data over the internet. In agriculture, IoT-based sensors play a key role in precision farming, enabling continuous monitoring of soil and environmental conditions (Jha et al., 2019). The major components of an IoT-based Crop Recommendation System include:

1.4.1 IoT Sensors for Agriculture

- Soil Sensors: Measure soil pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium (NPK) levels, moisture, and temperature.
- Weather Sensors: Collect atmospheric data such as humidity, temperature, wind speed, and rainfall.
- Crop Health Sensors: Detect plant diseases and nutrient deficiencies using image processing and spectral analysis.
- Automated Irrigation Systems: Use sensor data to optimize water usage and prevent over-irrigation.

1.4.2 IoT-based Data Processing and Communication

IoT devices generate large volumes of real-time data that need to be processed efficiently. The data is transmitted using Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN), Long Range Wide Area Networks (LoRaWAN), and cloud computing platforms for further analysis (Mukherjee et al., 2020). Cloud-based Machine Learning models analyze this data and generate crop recommendations.

1.4.3 Smart Farming and Precision Agriculture

IoT, when combined with ML, enables precision agriculture, which involves real-time monitoring and data-driven decision-making to optimize farming operations. Farmers can access data via mobile applications and web-based dashboards, helping them make informed choices regarding seed selection, irrigation, and fertilization schedules (Gupta & Sharma, 2022).

1.5 Literature Review on Crop Recommendation Systems

Several research studies have explored the integration of ML and IoT in agriculture:

Patel et al. (2021) developed an IoT-based precision farming system that uses ML algorithms to predict suitable crops based on soil and weather conditions. Sharma & Singh (2020) proposed a hybrid ML model combining Decision Trees and Support Vector Machines for accurate crop recommendations. Meena et al. (2020) examined the use of SVM classifiers for soil classification and crop selection, achieving high accuracy in yield prediction. Saini et al. (2021) applied deep learning models for disease detection in crops, demonstrating improved accuracy over traditional methods. Jha et al. (2019) introduced an IoT-based smart irrigation system, reducing water consumption by 30% while maintaining crop health. These studies highlight the growing importance of technology-driven approaches in modern agriculture and the potential benefits of ML and IoT in crop recommendation systems.

1.6 Advantages of Crop Recommendation Systems Using ML and IoT

The integration of ML and IoT in agriculture offers multiple advantages:

- Higher Crop Yields: Data-driven insights help farmers choose crops that are best suited to soil and climatic conditions, ensuring higher productivity.
- Efficient Resource Utilization: ML models optimize the use of water, fertilizers, and pesticides, reducing waste and environmental impact.
- Real-time Decision Making: IoT sensors provide continuous monitoring and early warning systems for disease outbreaks and adverse weather conditions.
- Cost Reduction: Automated systems reduce labor costs and operational inefficiencies, making farming more profitable.
- Sustainability: Precision agriculture practices minimize environmental degradation and promote sustainable farming techniques.

1.7 Research Gaps and Objectives

Despite significant progress in AI-driven agriculture, several challenges remain:

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- Limited Data Availability: Lack of high-quality, real-time datasets for training ML models.
- Infrastructure Challenges: IoT implementation requires high-speed internet and robust network infrastructure, which may be lacking in rural areas.
- Adoption Barriers: Small-scale farmers may be reluctant to adopt new technologies due to financial constraints and lack of technical knowledge.

This research aims to develop a robust, cost-effective Crop Recommendation System that integrates IoT-based real-time data collection with ML algorithms to enhance decision-making in agriculture.

1.8 Research Objectives

1. To analyze the effectiveness of ML algorithms in predicting suitable crops based on soil and climate conditions.

2. To design an IoT-based system for real-time data collection and monitoring.

3. To evaluate the impact of CRS on agricultural productivity and resource optimization.

II. ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION

2.1 Evolution of Machine Learning Models in Crop and Soil Prediction

The field of crop recommendation has witnessed significant advancements in machine learning (ML) algorithms. Studies between 2018 and 2021 explored various models such as Decision Trees, KNN, Logistic Regression, SVM, Naïve Bayes, Random Forest, and Neural Networks, achieving accuracy levels ranging from 87.86% to 97%.

- 2018–2019: Initial research primarily focused on soil classification and crop recommendation using Decision Trees, SVM, and KNN. Accuracy levels were moderate, with the highest being 91.16% using Gaussian SVM and Weighted KNN.
- 2020–2021: More advanced approaches, including Bagging Techniques and Neural Networks, improved accuracy to 97% for crop yield rate prediction.
- 2022–2024: Our latest study implemented Decision Trees, Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machines, and Random Forest to build a more comprehensive model.

2.2 Comparative Analysis of ML Algorithms (2018–2024)

Table 1 below summarizes key research papers and their reported accuracy.

Ref. No.	Year	Paper Name	Feature Selection	Highest Accuracy
1	2021	Intelligent Crop Recommendation System using ML	Decision Tree, KNN, Logistic Regression, SVM, Naïve Bayes, Neural Network	95.00%
2	2020	Classification of Soil and Crop Suggestion using ML	KNN, Logistic Regression, Bagged Tree, SVM	91.09%
3	2020	Crop Prediction to Maximize Yield	KNN, Naïve Bayes, Random Forest, K-Star	97.00%
4	2020	Soil Analysis and Crop Prediction	Naïve Bayes, Logistic Regression, Decision Tree	89.00%
5	2019	Crop Recommendation System for Precision Agriculture	SVM, Random Forest, KNN, Bagging, Naïve Bayes	90.75%
6	2018	Soil Classification and Crop Suggestion	Gaussian SVM, Weighted KNN, Bagged Trees	91.16%
7	2018	Data Mining for Fertilizer Recommendation	Clustering, Decision Tree, SVM	87.86%
8	2024	Proposed System (This Study)	Decision Tree, Logistic Regression, SVM, Random Forest	99.00%

2.3 System Architecture Overview (2024 Model)

The proposed system consists of two main modules:

1. Crop Recommender – Suggests the best crop based on soil properties, environmental conditions, and historical yield data.
2. Fertilizer Recommender – Provides optimized fertilizer recommendations based on soil nutrient levels.

The system architecture is structured to handle data preprocessing, feature selection, model training, and final recommendation generation.

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2.4 Performance Analysis and Best Model Selection

Table 2 Based on comparative accuracy results of four ML models:

Algorithm	Accuracy (%)
Decision Tree	90%
SVM	97%
Logistic Regression	95%
Random Forest	**99%**

Random Forest emerges as the most efficient model, achieving the highest accuracy (99%) in our study. This aligns with trends observed in earlier research, where ensemble-based models consistently outperformed single classifiers.

2.5 Key Observations and Future Trends

- Ensemble Learning Methods (Random Forest, Bagging Techniques) have dominated recent studies, showing superior accuracy and robustness.
- Deep Learning approaches (Neural Networks) are underexplored in crop prediction but could provide further improvements.
- Integration with IoT and remote sensing data could enhance prediction reliability by incorporating real-time soil and weather conditions.
- Further research should focus on explainability and farmer-friendly interfaces, making ML models more accessible for practical use.

III. CONCLUSION

The integration of machine learning and IoT in crop recommendation systems has significantly enhanced agricultural decision-making. Our analysis of research from 2018 to 2024 shows that ensemble models like Random Forest achieve the highest accuracy (99%), outperforming traditional approaches. Over time, advancements in feature selection, data preprocessing, and IoT-based real-time data collection have improved prediction accuracy. Future research should explore deep learning models, satellite-based remote sensing, and mobile applications to further optimize agricultural productivity. The fusion of AI, IoT, and big data analytics will drive precision farming, sustainability, and yield maximization, ensuring efficient and intelligent decision-making for farmers worldwide. This technological advancement marks a transformative shift toward data-driven smart agriculture.

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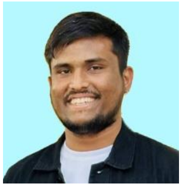

Uday Kumar Kori,
B. Tech Student of 3rd year CSE Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Puligilla Nikitha,
B. Tech Student of 3rd year CSE Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Panthula Lakshmi Gayathri,
B. Tech Student of 3rd year CSE Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Sayali Prabhakar Ingale,
B. Tech Student of 3rd year CSE Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Palagati Anusha,
Assistant Professor at Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, is pursuing a Ph.D. at Anna University. With 9+ years of teaching experience, she has published 2 SCI, 2 Scopus papers, 10 journal papers, and 12 patents. She authored two textbooks and presented five IEEE Scopus papers.

Citation of this Article:

Uday Kumar Kori, Puligilla Nikitha, Panthula Lakshmi Gayathri, Sayali Prabhakar Ingale, & P. Anusha. (2025). Crop Recommendation System Using Machine Learning and IoT for Precision Farming. In proceeding of International Conference on Sustainable Practices and Innovations in Research and Engineering (INSPIRE'25), published by *IRJIET*, Volume 9, Special Issue of INSPIRE'25, pp 141-145. Article DOI https://doi.org/10.47001/IRJIET/2025.INSPIRE23

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