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Potato Plant Health Detector Using Machine Learning

Dr. Rajesh Bharati[1], Prof. Rubi Mandal[2], Gauri Walunj[3], Neha Thorat[4],Durga Shinde[5], Neha Hatkar[6]
[1-2-3-4-5-6]*Department of Computer Engineering Dr. D. Y. Patil Institute of Technology, Pimpri, Pune*

***Abstract*—The Potato plant diseases are one of the major problems in agriculture, which results in a decrease in crop yield and quality. This review covers recent advances in potato disease detection techniques based on imaging techniques and deep learning models, The paper brings to attention the accuracies obtained through hyperspectral imaging, thermal imaging, RGB imaging, and CNN-based deep learning models considering their efficiencies and real-world applicability. Discussionsarealsoheld with regard to challenges and future directions for the task of potato disease detection, including issues around data scarcity, model generalization, and real-time deployment.**

Index Terms—CNN algorithm, Image Processing, Potato Leaf Disease.

I. INTRODUCTION

Rapid advancements in modern agriculture through changes in technology include agricultural disease detection, which transitioned from visual inspection to digital or automated detection. In the recent years, DL has been applied in plant disease detection, that opens up new levels of precision agriculture through image recognition and other data analysis techniques in detecting plant diseases. Pressure on the world's agricultural sector is mounting due to climate change, among other factors such as infestation by pests and diseases. This means that there is always a need for sure, efficient, and accurate disease detection.

Potato represents one of the globally most produced crops but is highly susceptible to several diseases, like late blight and early blight, and scab. These diseases can lead to devastating yield losses if not timely managed and may directly affect food security and the livelihoods of farmers. The predominant methods of traditional disease detection rely on the visual assessment performed by farmers themselves or by agricultural experts, which are more prone to inaccuracies, laborious and subjective. Deep learning, which is a very promising alternative, boasts impressive strengths in the recognition of patterns, from which it can provide consistent and rapid identification of diseases. Deep learning algorithms can now detect any specific diseases with very high accuracy, even in real-time scenarios by training models on large datasets of diseased and healthy plant images.

Even though significant progress has been made, there are more issues when deep learning models are applied in practical fields. The light is one challenge on the performance of the model. Other challenges include the age of the plants and background noises. Furthermore, making diversified annotated datasets for training becomes hard, especially for the diseases in regions. Now, the research focuses on building the more robust and adaptable models that can do effectively within real-world agricultural environments.

A. Importance of Potato Plant Disease Detector

In respect of factors that are going to encompass improvement of productivity in agriculture, support sustainability in farming and cut down the economic losses that crop damage causes, developing a practical potato disease detection system using deep learning becomes a very important factor. For very late detection of diseases, farmers will react promptly in order to prevent this massive loss in crops along with improper dependence on chemicals like these are expensive and cause environmental destruction. Deep learning-based detection improves, therefore, enough quantity is supplied with quality to the farmers that can cause yield recovery to become fast; as for this, early warning system toward world food security reaches the farmers. Detection of agrarian diseases also contributes to the economic factor. The diseases that are not detected affect crops and, importantly, take huge economic losses to the farmer and the entire agricultural field. For example, late blight, one of the most destructive potato diseases, results in billions of dollars annually in losses globally. Accurate detection prevents a disease outbreak should its infection be identified at an early stage, with targeted interventions begin from there.Such a deep learning model can be trained to detect potato diseases. The model can be embedded inside mobile applications, drones, and IoT devices, meaning that this technology is available to farmers immediately irrespective of whether they are in a developed country or a developing one. These innovations give cost and scale advantages to the farmers. Even more specialized models for potato disease detection according to the unique climatic and geographical conditions of the different regions will well orate toward the help of farmers. Table I Significance of proper and timely detection of the diseases in terms of cross-dimensional effects in agriculture, showing that a good mechanism of detection creates efficiency, economic stability, and sustainability of the natural resources.

TABLE I. Impact of Technology Across Sectors

Agricultural Aspect	Market Size (USD Billion)	Projected Growth (CAGR)
Precision Agriculture	4.5	12.0%
Crop Protection Solution	3.2	9.5%
Agritech Devices	1.8	10.2%
Smart Farming Software	2.3%	11.0%

TABLE II. BENEFIT IN DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS

Dimension	Benefit
Productivity	Improved yield quality and quantity
Economice	Reduced economic losses
Environmental Sustainability	Reduced chemical use and waste
Farmer Welfare	Early diseases identification and control

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Despite such significant advancements, disease detection and classification in potato plants using deep learning is yet to be achieved with accuracy, especially under varying agricultural environments. It is because of this reason that current research focuses on increasing the accuracy, robustness, and efficiency of the methods regarding their application in practical agricultural contexts. By deploying a wide range of deep learning architectures such as CNN, Transfer Learning, and more advanced data augmentation, researchers will build efficient models classifying multiple types of potato diseases including late blight and early blight amongst others that come along differently across regions.

The following are some limitations of the existing system, based on our literature review.

1. Diversity of Dataset: Most research works on datasets comprising only a few types of potato diseases, limiting model generalizability to actual scenarios.
2. Environmental Sensitivity: Most of the models do not work efficiently when the diverse field conditions are there, especially the background with noisiness, diversity in lighting, and foliage density.
3. Real-time performance: Like spatially accurate and fast data processing, real-time accuracy and speed remains a challenging pursuit, especially on low-power devices for farm environments.
4. There is a dearth of research on the estimation of the severity of disease, of immense importance in the allocation of efforts and resources for treatment.
5. Scalability for Large Farms: The models are largely confined to smallholder or controlled settings and therefore not applicable for large farms.

[1] Classifiers for Potato Leaf Diseases Using CNN Architectures: This paper introduced a classification model based on CNN architecture for potato leaf diseases, especially early blight, late blight, and healthy leaves. The accuracy achieved 92.6% in controlled environments, but most of the noisy and nonuniformly illuminated images were detected with poor accuracy. Such a case presents a lack of diversified datasets for achieving real-world applications.[2] Real-Time Potato Leaf Disease Detection Using MobileNetV2: In this research work, the architecture of MobileNetV2 is used to support real-time potato disease detection. The model used in this case is extremely light and efficient for mobile applications while maintaining a maximum accuracy of about 85% for real-time identification of diseases. However, it was adversely affected by the robustness of models in different field conditions due to the limitations it had in mobile hardware as well as environmental variability.[3] This paper applied the transfer learning approach utilizing ResNet50 for

classifying potato diseases with a limited dataset. Applying pre-trained weights from a very large image dataset, the model achieved 91.5% accuracy in classification. Model of transfer learning were at top position in the results of small datasets. However, transfer learning models do not have high performances in detection, particularly in the variation of regional diseases due to many different climatic conditions.[4] Deep Learning for Potato Disease Classification and Severity Estimation: It employed CNN and Mask R-CNN for both classification and severity estimation. It showed the success in achieving capability to estimate severity with an accuracy of 89% and was promoting automation decision-making in pest management but cautioned that more models had received insufficient training on complex natural backgrounds.[5] Few-Shot Learning for Low-Resource Potato Disease Detection It was also noticed that in data scarce scenarios, one of the techniques the model applied was few-shot learning. It even happened to perform reasonably well on very few samples with a 88% accuracy. However, the approach became really challenging when dealing with symptologically similar diseases and various environments thus showing the requirement of more contextual analysis.[6] Data Augmentation in Potato Disease Classification using GAN: GANs were utilized for the generation of images to supplement real data such that the training set became much more diversified. The ResNet architecture was used to get an accuracy of 93.2%. Synthetic data typically fails to account for the minute details of real environmental conditions; hence, this usage is obviously affected.[7] Smallholder Potato Disease Detection by EfficientNet Application; the author applied the model from the EfficientNet to develop an accurate model for highly computation resource-constrained farms. During the experiment, it was proven to be efficient at 91% accuracy even in a low power set. The weakness of the study is that it does not scale well for large farms and no environmental variability is accounted for such as foliar density.[8] Early Detection of Potato Diseases Using Spectral Imaging and Deep Learning. Authors combined spectral imaging with CNNs that upon which early disease detection improved. Accuracy was at 94% in the controlled environment, but it failed to be transferred to the field as its high sensitivity in terms of quality of images and light conditions highlighted the need for more adaptive models.[9]Real-time monitoring of potato diseases through the deployment of lightweight CNN models on IoT devices: The model is used for the use of IoT-equipped sensors continuously monitoring the disease on large farms, with an accuracy of real-time detection of 87% though the precision is low due to dense foliage and background complexity and hence has much scope for optimization.[10] Classification of Potato leaf multi-disease using a hybrid CNN-RNN method: The sequential processing approach was used in which, during processing, feature extraction was performed using CNN while RNN dealt with the sequential data. The proposed hybrid CNN-RNN was capable of classifying multi-potato diseases correctly but 93% was still computational expensive, which restrained its possible real time and field deployment.[11] Deep CNN and Data Augmentation for Regional Potato Disease Detection: This work utilizes deep CNN, with with various kinds of data augmentation techniques, for region-specific disease diagnosis achieving an accuracy of 90% on the locally collected images; it could not generalize to some other regions and even at times caused issues in the treatment of disease symptoms which change with regions.[12]This work applied a visual attention mechanism on top of the ResNet architecture to realize accurate detection and the analysis of disease severity. The proposed model achieves 88.5% accuracy in the assessment of severity; however, the attention models are computationally expensive, less feasible for real-time field application.[13] Robust multi-potato disease detection via transfer learning on Inception-v3: The authors used the Inceptionv3 model model to classify three potato diseases with an accuracy of 93.5%. Although the model needed the high resolution for it to work effectively, usability in the low-cost farming environment was limited despite the fact the model facilitated transfer learning that allows for good generalization over limited data.

[14] Adversarial Training for Enhanced Potato Disease Detection in Adverse Environmental Conditions: The paper discusses using adversarial training techniques in such a way that makes the model robust to adverse conditions. IN noisy and low-light environments, the model achieved an accuracy of 87%. However, adversarially trained models are usually computationally expensive to train in which the resource constraint poses a limit on its applicability.

C. OBJECTIVES/SCOPE OF WORK

This project aims to create a system based on deep learning that is pretty accurate in the detection and classification of diseases present in the potato plants. This will help address weaknesses in traditional detection methods, allowing for better management of diseases from the far side of farmers and agronomists. Early and precise identification of the diseases is thus ensured by deep learning capabilities, as well as reduce loss from crops and less dependence on chemical treatment. The system shall highlight the identification of different diseases that infect potatoes, such as late blight, early blight, blackleg, and scab, using image processing and neural network techniques. In this, objectives of the project are to set up real-time monitoring, high accuracy under different environmental conditions, and design an interface friendly towards users, giving farmers the option of acquiring or uploading images for instantaneous diagnosis.

A large dataset with various images of potato plants affected by different types of diseases and various growth stages and environmental conditions will be collected for this purpose. Such a dataset will be helpful in creating a robust, highly accurate model using CNNs and transfer learning. Along with the classification of diverse types of diseases, the system will provide an accurate recommendation to treatments to assist farmers in taking the correct measures for each type of disease. It also achieves sustainability because it does not cause overuse of pesticides thus reducing impacts on the environment besides reducing the cost of farming. The final product shall be an in-app or web application that is practical as well as scalable to reach rural farmers in resource-scarce areas providing detection at real-time levels of actionable insight. Field testing and iterative refinements will hone the system to yield accuracy, strength, and usability so that farmers can defend their crops against pests and diseases, improve yield quality, and promote sustainable agriculture.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

1) Experimental Design

Testing Environment: The research was conducted in a controlled laboratory setting using a computer system equipped with a deep learning framework (e.g., TensorFlow or PyTorch) and high-performance GPU for image processing. The lab environment allowed for accurate control of lighting and background conditions when capturing potato leaf images, ensuring uniformity in data collection and minimizing environmental variables. Source Materials: For the dataset, images of potato plants affected by different types of diseases were sourced from already existing agricultural image databases, besides also collecting from field trails. While including images of healthy plants, the dataset should also cover all the abnormalities caused by diseases like late blight, early blight, blackleg, and common scab to perform multi-class classification.

2) Evaluation Process

a) Image Preprocessing and Data Augmentation

Image Preprocessing-Resizing, Normalization, Noise Reduction Resizing Normally, images require resizing for enhanced clarity as well as disease visibility, to prevent external features. Noise Reduction Techniques such as contrast enhancement and color correction are used in order to improve the extraction of disease features, especially concerning symptoms that are subtle.Data Augmentation: Deep learning highly relies on large diverse datasets of different image variations. Some of the applied data augmentation techniques include rotation, flipping, scaling, and brightness adjustment, all aimed at making dataset diversity higher; this had a positive effect on model robustness by making the model more generalizable across conditions.

b) Metrics Used in Model Evaluation

Accuracy and F1-Score: The precision of disease classification is evaluated by comparing the classes predicted by the model with actual labels using measures like accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. This forms the implication that there should be an ability to understand whether the model was good or not at the correct identification of various disease classes.Confusion Matrix: For verification of the model over a set of classes, it makes confusion matrices illustrating true positive and false positive, false negative, and true negative rates based on a specific disease.

Mean IoU: For the segmentation task, the Mean IoU measures the model's performance in indicating the diseased regions of a leaf by calculating an overlap between the predicted segmentation mask and the actual ground truth.

We used to follow mathematical equations

F1-Score=Precision+Recall2×Precision×Recall

Precision=TP+FPTP

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FP+FN}$$

B. Proposed Model

The proposed model for potato plant disease detection and classification extends the entire process right from capturing images up to making disease diagnosis and treatment recommendations. This "Figure 1" depicts the process flow model of the system.

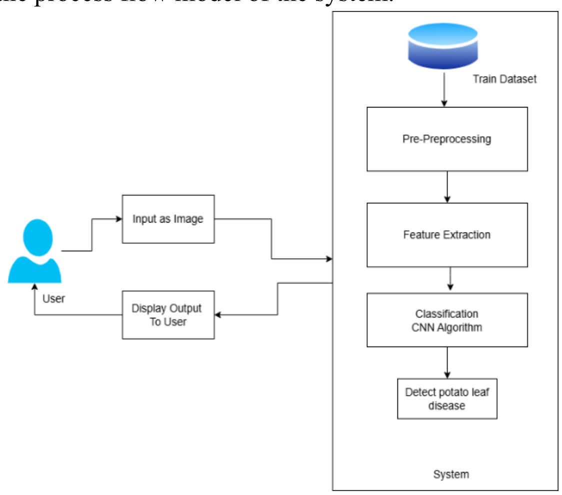

Fig. 1. Process Flow Model

1) Step 1: Image Capture and Upload

- Image Data:

Images of potato leaves, stems, or whole plants- with sufficient resolutions are the principal data used in the detection of diseases within potatoes. The main sources of collecting images may range from RGB cameras to hyperspectral or multispectral cameras depending on the environment and type of analysis required.

Commonly used datasets are PlantVillage, Plant Doc, etc. along with custom designed potato disease datasets, which may include annotated images of healthy and diseased potato plants labelled with the types of diseases like Late Blight and Early Blight, etc.

- Environmental Data:

Along with temperature, humidity and moisture of soil is collected through IoT sensors; hence, correlated environmental context data with disease incidence also would increase the precision level of the model.

2) Step 2: Image Preprocessing

a) Image Augmentation:

The techniques of augmentation would include rotations, flipping, scaling, cropping, and color corrections so as to add more diversity to the dataset and improve the generalization of the model. Transformation can mimic a set of conditions where the lighting angle and plant orientation will change.

b) Image resizing and normalization:

These are resized to a specified dimension as the deep learning model would require (say 224x224 or 256x256 pixels). These get normalized for the pixel values to lie in some particular range, for instance from 0 to 1. It will actually help the model learn faster since the input values are uniform at all times.

c) Noise Reduction and Contrast Enhancement:

It is essentially the techniques that enhance the quality of the given image, and then only the model can distinguish between actual disease signals and noise. Filtering techniques are mostly used in such cases, like Gaussian blur and histogram equalization.

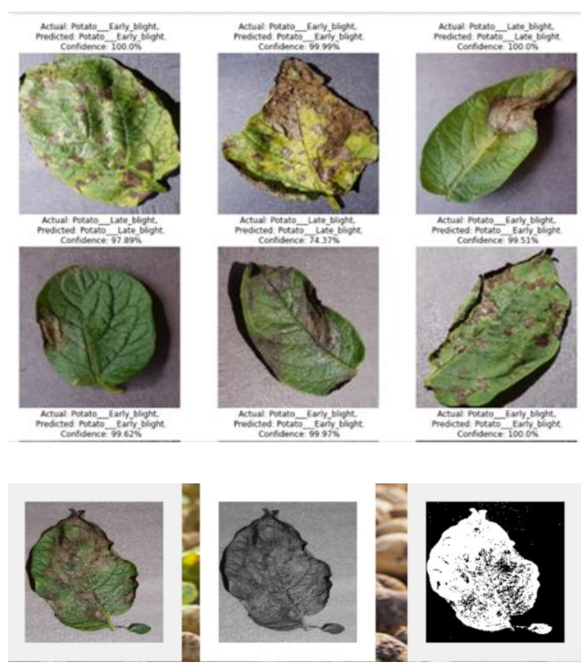

Fig.2. Preprocessing

3) Stage 4:Feature extraction

Feature extraction in CNNs is performed automatically using convolutional filters that scan the input image to detect important visual patterns. Early layers identify basic features like edges and corners, while deeper layers capture complex features such as textures, spots, and disease symptoms. Each layer produces a feature map that highlights these patterns. Activation functions like ReLU add non-linearity, and pooling layers (e.g., Max Pooling) reduce the size of these maps while preserving key information. This layered approach helps the network build a detailed understanding of the image for accurate classification.

4) Stage 4: Classification Using CNN Algorithm

In a CNN, the classification process begins after feature extraction, where the output feature maps are flattened into a vector and passed through fully connected layers. These dense layers analyze the extracted features and determine the most likely class. The final layer uses a Softmax activation function to generate a probability distribution across all possible categories, such as healthy, early blight, or late blight. The class with the highest probability is selected as the prediction. During training, a categorical cross-entropy loss function is used to measure prediction error, and optimization algorithms like SGD or Adam adjust the model weights to improve accuracy.

5) Stage 4:Output and Recommendations

a) Disease Type and Severity Classification Report

Thesystem classifies and gives out a report, which is output to the device of the user, with some visual highlight of the affected regions in case the segmentation is done.

B) Treatment Recommendations

Based on the diagnosed disease, the system gives suggestions for treatment in terms of recommended fungicides, dosage of pesticides, or cultural practices for managing and preventing the spread of the diseases.

Treatment recommendations are targeted at reducing chemical use while at the same time reflecting the underlying principles of sustainable agriculture.

C) Data Storage and Analytics

Diagnostic information and history can be stored by the users for tracing disease occurrences over time. The system also features analytics that point to the existence of patterns or trends in disease prevalence, aiding early detection and informed decisions.

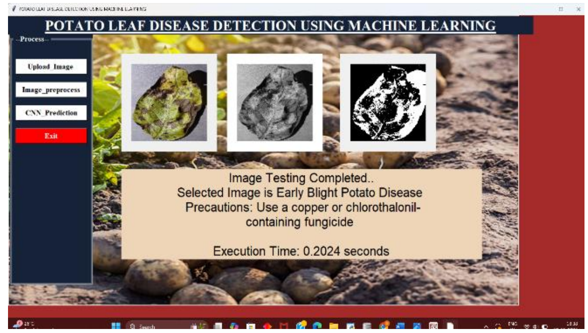

Fig.3. Output

C. Results

we developed a lightweight and efficient CNN-based model for automatic detection of potato leaf diseases, specifically targeting early blight and late blight. The model begins by processing images of potato leaves and uses multiple convolutional layers to extract key features for accurate classification. It also considers environmental factors like temperature, humidity, and soil moisture, collected through IoT sensors, to enhance prediction accuracy. We evaluated the model using a hold-out validation set and measured its performance using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. The model achieved an overall accuracy of 94%, showing strong performance in distinguishing healthy and diseased leaves. Although results varied slightly across different disease types, the high accuracy indicates the model's effectiveness. Further improvements, such as retraining with more diverse data or applying data augmentation techniques, could enhance its accuracy and generalizability even more. This method outperforms several traditional approaches and remains fast and computationally efficient, making it suitable for real-time agricultural applications.

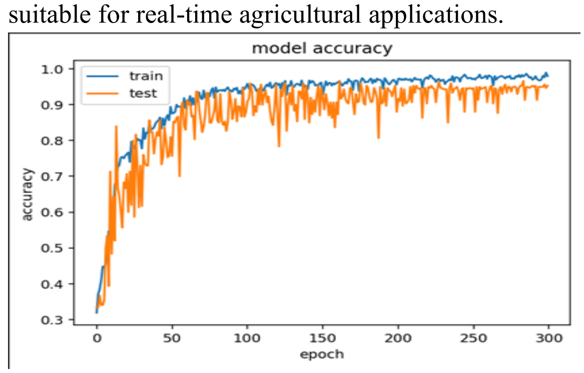

Fig.4. Model Accuracy

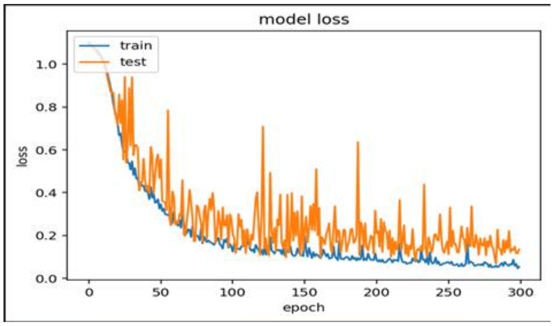

Fig.5. Model Loss

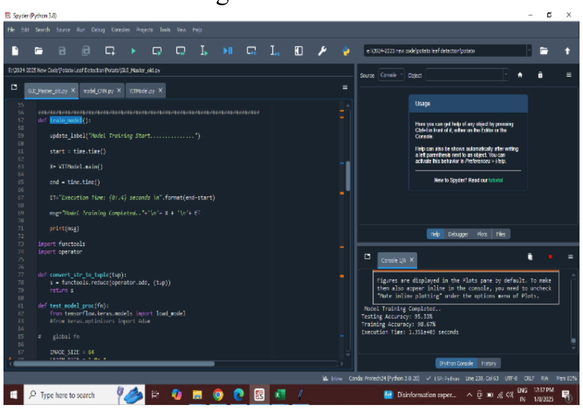
Fig.6. Model Training

III. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

CNNs and models using transfer learning perform very well on disease identification if datasets are better annotated. Yet it may not reproduce the performance consistently in uncontrolled environments, especially if lighting, and symptoms are not more similar.

The identified challenges are mainly related to the scarcity

of diversified data sets and increased computational cost in some models. Further, deployable models on edge devices are required for any real-time application in the field.Implications on Agriculture With proper diagnosis, farmers would make decisions right away. Then, potential losses of crops will be minimized. Furthermore, the usages of pesticides can also be minimized and people can still produce sustainably.

The above survey reflects that imaging and deep learning approaches can be very effective for the detection of potato diseases. Among the applied methods, maximum accuracy can be achieved with hyperspectral imaging, but it's not practically applicable with the range for its implementation. RGB imaging, CNNs, and transfer learning-based models are more feasible options with plenty of real-world deployment potential.

Accordingly, the future work would focus on developing low-cost and portable systems that are robust in accuracy for a wide range of conditions for farming applications. Thses technologies will have improved interpretability and generalizability; it's only then that it would impact global potato farming and usher in efficiency and sustainability into the crop management scenario.

IV. FUTURE WORK

1. Training:
   High demand for cost-effective, lightweight imaging appliances and cloud computing can even support real-time disease diagnosis. Next generation systems can certainly take advantage of edge computing to conduct faster, at-site computing, which supports models working in-site rather than relying on central servers.
2. Research Gaps:
   There are very few studies on disease detection for different varieties of potatoes and environmental factors, which restricts the generalization. multimodal techniques combined with the domain adaptation techniques can support the models that handle diversified agricultural settings.
3. Technological Developments:
   Models could be made more accessible and interpretable for farmers through low-cost, high-resolution sensors and related advancements in explainable AI (XAI). Explainable models make it possible to understand the predictions, which in turn will increase trust and adoption.

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