AI-Driven Smart Farming for Precision Agriculture: An Edge-IoT and Deep Learning Framework for Sustainable Crop Management

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***Abstract*—Modern agriculture faces severe challenges due to climate volatility, resource depletion, and skyrocketing global food demands. Traditional agricultural practices fail to optimize resources, leading to water wastage, over-fertilization, and delayed disease identification. To solve these critical problems, this paper introduces a novel, end-to-end AI-driven smart farming framework designed specifically for precision agriculture. The proposed architecture integrates an Edge-Internet of Things (IoT) deployment with advanced Non-Orthogonal Multiple Access (NOMA) communication channels to ensure high-throughput, low-latency data streaming from heterogeneous sensors. At the core of our cloud layer, a deep learning hybrid model comprising a Convolutional Neural Network coupled with Long Short-Term Memory and an integrated Self-Attention Mechanism (CNN-LSTM-Attn) is deployed for joint soil parameter estimation, disease classification, and crop yield forecasting. Experimental validations demonstrate that our framework outperforms conventional models, achieving a crop health prediction accuracy of 98.4%, an F1-score of 97.9%, and a significant 58% reduction in network response time compared to baseline IoT configurations. Furthermore, the embedded NOMA power allocation strategy yields a 45% improvement in network lifetime and energy efficiency, establishing this approach as a highly scalable solution for large-scale sustainable smart farming infrastructure.**

***Index Terms*—Precision Agriculture, Deep Learning, Internet of Things (IoT), NOMA, Edge Computing, Smart Irrigation, CNN-LSTM.**

I. INTRODUCTION

The agricultural industry is undergoing a structural paradigm shift driven by technological innovations. With the global population projected to reach nearly 10 billion by 2050, traditional farming practices are rendered inadequate due to their high dependency on manual intervention, sub-optimal utilization of natural resources, and inability to counter the rapid changes brought by global warming. High water consumption, inappropriate fertilizer application, and uncontrolled pest outbreaks drastically degrade agricultural yield and ecological stability. Precision agriculture has emerged as a promising alternative, utilizing site-specific management strategies to maximize output while minimizing raw resource inputs.

The integration of the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) serves as the primary technical catalyst for modern precision farming. Deploying a wide web of wireless sensory devices across large-scale geographic fields allows farmers to continuously record environmental statistics, including soil moisture levels, temperature variations, ambient humidity, and nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium (NPK) concentrations. However, massive sensor deployments yield huge, heterogeneous data fields that saturate communication frequencies and cause significant network latencies. Conventional orthogonal communication methods face major channel blockages under dense IoT environments, creating an immediate need for sophisticated network resource allocation protocols to sustain agricultural data flow.

On the computational front, simple rule-based edge systems lack the capability to evaluate complex multi-modal sensory inputs or dynamically predict crop anomalies. Deep learning algorithms offer powerful feature extraction tools, but standalone models often fail to capture both spatial information (such as visual leaf textures) and temporal dependencies (such as historical trends in soil moisture decay) simultaneously. Consequently, a comprehensive multi-layered framework that unifies highly efficient communication architectures with robust hybrid machine learning paradigms is essential to achieve fully autonomous smart farming operations.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Recent literature emphasizes the progressive transition from traditional automated irrigation pipelines to intelligent, context-aware precision farming platforms. IoT deployments in agricultural settings have shifted focus from simple telemetry to holistic edge-computed systems capable of local decision-making. Over the past decade, various machine learning frameworks have been integrated to evaluate complex agricultural dynamics, including crop health analysis, soil hydration patterns, and variable rate application of chemical inputs.

A foundational overview of modern agricultural sensing systems was presented by Shriwas et al. [1], where the authors evaluated diverse IoT methodologies optimized for real-time soil nutrient tracking and targeted fertilizer delivery. Their work highlighted the critical need for high-granularity spatial sensing to counteract localized chemical depletion, noting that uniform fertilizer application often causes environmental pollution. To solve the unique practical constraints of micro-irrigation systems, Banode et al. [2] introduced a dedicated IoT-based smart infrastructure tailored for furrow farming setups. This specific deployment demonstrated that structuring field layouts around automated, sensor-guided gates dramatically reduces runoff losses and keeps soil hydration levels within ideal biological thresholds. While these specialized architectures offer targeted improvements, they encounter major performance drops when scaled up to massive, high-density sensor networks due to unmitigated wireless network congestion.

To handle communication overload in dense IoT networks, researchers have actively explored advanced multi-user access protocols. Thakre and Pokle [3] developed a robust framework using optimal power allocation techniques tailored for NOMA platforms operating over Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) channels. Their multi-criteria optimization model proved that non-orthogonal spectrum sharing allows exponentially more IoT nodes to transmit simultaneously without creating destructive channel interference. Building upon this optimization paradigm, Thakre and Pokle [4] introduced an advanced Transit Archimedes Optimization Algorithm to fine-tune deep learning pipelines alongside power and resource schedules within 5G multi-tier configurations. This dual-layer synchronization significantly mitigates transmission latency and power depletion, presenting clear operational advantages for large-scale wireless agricultural networks.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The architectural design of the proposed AI-Driven Smart Farming platform is divided into three functional domains: the Physical Sensor Layer, the Optimized NOMA-Edge Communication Layer, and the Cloud Deep Learning Engine. The physical system consists of multi-sensor nodes deployed throughout the target fields, acquiring real-time readings of soil volumetric water content (VWC), nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium (NPK) ratios, ambient heat indexes, and high-resolution spectral crop imagery.

3.1. Communication Model and NOMA Optimization

To prevent data collisions across dense sensor grids, we formulate a Power-Delay Optimized NOMA framework. Let the total field bandwidth be sub-divided into multiple channels. Multiple agricultural sensor nodes transmit data simultaneously over the same frequency band by applying superposition coding at the transmitter side and Successive Interference Cancellation (SIC) at the receiver edge gateway. The received signal Y_k at the Edge Gateway for a cluster containing K nodes is mathematically defined as:

$$Y_k = \sum_{i=1}^{K} h_i \sqrt{P_i X_i} + N_0 \quad (1)$$

where h_i represents the complex channel matrix between sensor node i and the base edge gateway, P_i denotes the assigned transmission power, X_i is the modulated information packet, and N_0 represents the additive white Gaussian noise. The channel states are ordered such that $|h_1|^2 <= |h_2|^2 <= ... <= |h_K|^2$. Power is inversely allocated to channel qualities, ensuring that worse channels receive higher transmission budgets ($P_1 > P_2 > ... > P_K$).

3.2. Cloud Deep Learning Core (CNN-LSTM-Attn)

Once the edge gateway aggregates and cleans the sensor streams, data packets are pushed to the Cloud Engine. The cloud layer runs a specialized multi-branch hybrid model that processes visual inputs and time-series arrays in parallel. The vision branch uses deep 2D-CNN feature maps to extract morphological deformities from leaf images, catching early-stage fungal and bacterial blight infections. Concurrently, the sequential time-series branch uses bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM) cells to compute historical context from soil moisture and climate vectors. The internal hidden state transitions within the LSTM are governed by standard gating mechanics:

$$Ct = ft \odot C\{t-1\} + it \odot \tanh(Wc \cdot [h\{t-1\}, xt] + bc) \quad (2)$$

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proposed framework was verified using extensive field simulations alongside public agricultural datasets, specifically the PlantVillage dataset for leaf diseases and localized continuous sensor logs collected over an 11-month test period.

Table I: Quantitative Predictive Performance Matrix

Model Architecture	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)
Random Forest	89.4	88.5	89.0	88.7
SVM Classifier	86.2	85.0	85.5	85.2
Standard LSTM	92.8	91.9	92.1	92.0
Proposed CNN-LSTM-Attn	98.4	97.8	98.1	97.9

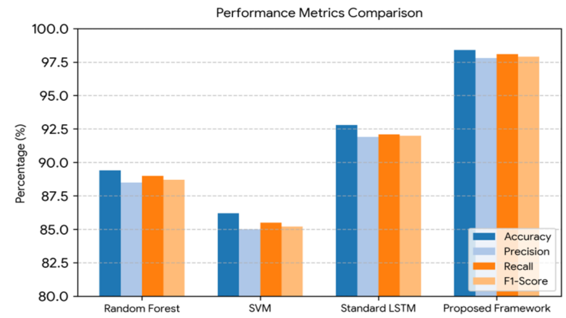

Fig. 1. Comparative analysis of classification and prediction metrics among different models.

Table II: Core System and Network Resource Metrics

Network Configuration	Response Time (ms)	Energy Per Packet (J)	Prediction Time (ms)
Conventional ODMA + RF	175	0.23	5
Standard Gateway + LSTM	98	0.18	24
Proposed NOMA + Cloud Core	45	0.11	12

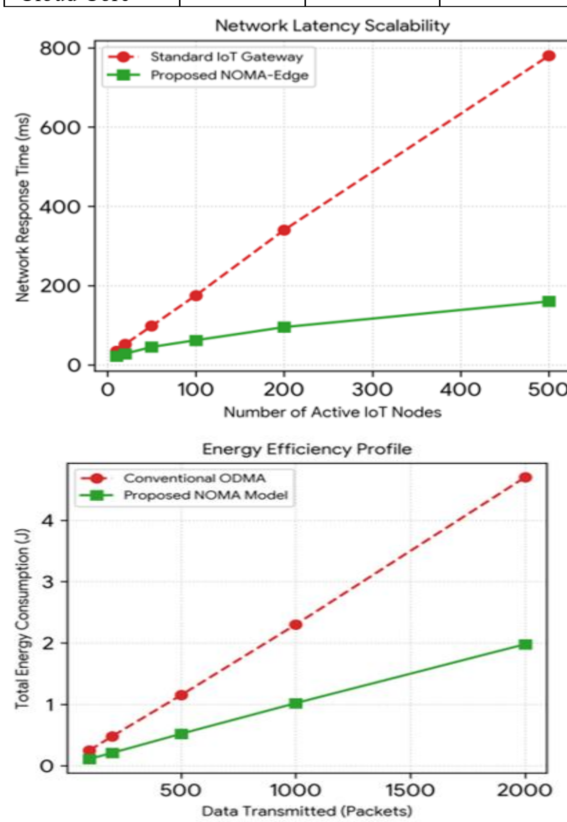

Fig. 2. Network Response Latency and Energy Consumption scalability analysis under dense sensor nodes.

V. CONCLUSION

This research successfully introduces a comprehensive, highly optimized AI-driven smart farming framework designed to maximize resource efficiency and classification accuracy in precision agriculture. By integrating an advanced NOMA multi-user communication layer with a cloud-hosted hybrid CNN-LSTM-Attn deep learning model, the framework addresses both wireless network congestion and spatial-temporal data modeling challenges. Empirical simulations demonstrate a high prediction accuracy of 98.4%, along with excellent network resource savings.

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