Intelligent Plant Health Insight System

Preeti Maruti Kardure[1] Prof. S. P. Ghorpade[2]
[1]Student [2]Guide
[1,2]Master of Computer Applications
[1,2]PDEA's College of Engineering, Manjari, Pune, India

Abstract — Plant diseases cause significant agricultural losses worldwide, yet traditional manual detection methods remain slow, inaccurate, and reliant on expert knowledge. This paper presents the Intelligent Plant Health Insight System (IPHIS), an automated solution that integrates Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)-based image classification for plant disease detection with a conversational chatbot module and a seasonal care recommendation engine. The system accepts plant leaf images as input, identifies diseases using a ResNet-based deep learning model trained on the PlantVillage dataset, and delivers treatment suggestions in real time. The chatbot provides interactive query resolution for farmers, while the seasonal care module offers crop-specific guidance based on environmental conditions. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed system achieves approximately 96.4% classification accuracy on the test dataset, outperforming several existing approaches. The integrated design makes IPHIS a practical and accessible tool for modern smart agriculture.

Keywords: Plant Disease Detection, Convolutional Neural Network, Image Processing, Chatbot, Seasonal Plant Care, Smart Agriculture

I. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, yet crop diseases account for an estimated 20–40% of annual yield loss globally [1]. Early and accurate identification of plant diseases is critical to minimizing these losses, but traditional diagnostic approaches depend heavily on manual visual inspection by trained agronomists, a resource that is scarce, costly, and time-consuming. Recent advances in deep learning and computer vision have opened new possibilities for automated plant disease diagnosis. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have proven particularly effective at extracting discriminative visual features from plant leaf images, enabling classification accuracies that match or exceed human expert performance [2].

However, most existing systems address disease detection in isolation, without providing actionable guidance, interactive support, or seasonal care recommendations. Farmers require a comprehensive, accessible solution that not only identifies disease but also tells them what to do about it.

This paper proposes the Intelligent Plant Health Insight System (IPHIS), which unifies three components: (1) a CNN-based disease detection module, (2) a chatbot for interactive query resolution, and (3) a seasonal care module for crop management guidance. The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section II reviews related work; Section III describes the proposed system; Section IV presents experimental results; Section V concludes the paper.

II. RELATED WORK

Numerous studies have explored machine learning and deep learning techniques for plant disease detection. This section categorizes these into three groups.

A. *CNN and Deep Learning Approaches*

Blessington (2023) applied ResNet-based CNN for leaf disease detection, reporting high accuracy and demonstrating that deep architectures effectively generalize across disease types. Chohan et al. (2020) achieved approximately 98% accuracy on the PlantVillage benchmark using CNN with data augmentation, though performance dropped to around 95% on real-world field images, highlighting the domain gap problem. Wang et al. (2021) employed Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) for disease prediction, obtaining competitive results but requiring substantial training time and high-quality labelled datasets.

B. *Image Processing and Segmentation Approaches*

Bharath et al. (2020) explored Pulse-Coupled Neural Networks (PCNN) for disease segmentation, achieving effective region isolation but requiring complex parameter tuning. Guo et al. combined CNN with Ear and Mouth Aspect Ratio (EAR+MAR) features, obtaining balanced performance across multiple disease classes. Hlaing et al. used SIFT features with statistical modelling for smart farming applications, while Pujari et al. applied feature extraction and texture analysis to identify fungal diseases.

C. *Comparative and Multi-Model Studies*

Demilie (2024) conducted an extensive comparative study of both classical ML methods (KNN, SVM, Naive Bayes, Random Forest, Decision Tree) and deep learning architectures (CNN, ANN, FFNN), concluding that CNN consistently outperforms classical ML but requires larger datasets and greater computational resources. Patel et al. (2023) demonstrated real-time detection using OpenCV and ML-based feature extraction, though accuracy degraded in uncontrolled field environments.

Despite these contributions, no prior system integrates disease detection with a conversational interface and seasonal care guidance in a single unified platform. IPHIS addresses this gap.

III. PROPOSED SYSTEM AND METHODOLOGY

The IPHIS architecture consists of three loosely coupled modules: the Disease Detection Module, the Chatbot Module, and the Seasonal Care Module. Figure 1 illustrates the overall system architecture.

A. *Disease Detection Module*

Plant leaf images submitted by the user are preprocessed using standard image processing operations: resizing to 224×224 pixels, normalization, and augmentation (random horizontal flip, rotation, and colour jitter) to improve generalization. The preprocessed images are passed to a fine-tuned ResNet-50 model pre-trained on ImageNet. The final fully connected layer is replaced with a softmax classifier over 38 disease classes from the PlantVillage dataset. The model is trained using cross-entropy loss and the Adam optimizer (learning rate = 0.001, batch size = 32) for 25 epochs. The predicted class label is mapped to a curated treatment recommendation database.

B. Chatbot Module

A rule-based conversational interface allows users to query plant care information in natural language. The chatbot maintains a structured knowledge base of frequently asked questions about diseases, treatments, fertilizers, and watering schedules. An intent classification layer routes complex queries to a retrieval-based response engine, ensuring relevant and accurate answers.

C. Seasonal Care Module

The seasonal care module provides crop-specific maintenance recommendations based on the current season (Kharif, Rabi, or Zaid) and detected plant type. Recommendations cover irrigation schedules, fertilizer application, and pest prevention. The module improves overall usability by going beyond disease detection to proactive plant health management.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The system was evaluated on a test split of the PlantVillage dataset (10,000 images across 38 classes). Performance metrics are reported in Table I. The ResNet-50 model was compared against baseline approaches drawn from the literature review.

Method	Dataset	Accuracy (%)	F1-Score	Limitations
Blessington (2023) – ResNet CNN	PlantVillage	97.3	0.96	High compute cost
Chohan et al. (2020) – CNN + Augmentation	PlantVillage	98.0	0.97	Drops to ~95% in field
Wang et al. (2021) – ANN	Custom dataset	93.5	0.92	Long training time
Patel et al. (2023) – OpenCV + ML	Custom dataset	89.2	0.88	Poor in wild conditions
Proposed IPHIS (ResNet-50)	PlantVillage	96.4	0.95	Integrated; web-based

Table I: Comparison With Existing Methods

As shown in Table I, IPHIS achieves 96.4% accuracy, competitive with state-of-the-art CNN-only systems, while uniquely incorporating chatbot and seasonal care functionality. The slight accuracy gap compared to Chohan et al. (98.0%) is attributable to additional generalization constraints introduced during training to improve real-world robustness.

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This paper presented IPHIS, an intelligent plant health monitoring system that integrates CNN-based disease detection, a conversational chatbot, and a seasonal care recommendation engine into a single accessible platform. The system achieved 96.4% classification accuracy on PlantVillage and provides a more complete solution than detection-only approaches in the existing literature.

Future work will focus on three directions: (1) expanding the dataset to include Indian regional crops not present in PlantVillage; (2) deploying the system as a lightweight mobile application for offline use in rural areas; and (3) integrating IoT-based soil and weather sensors to further personalize care recommendations.

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