International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology (IRJET) e-ISSN: 2395-0056
Volume: 08 Issue: 05 | May 2021 www.irjet.net p-ISSN: 2395-0072

AgroSys – A Crop Recommendation System

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Abstract - *The agricultural industry is one of the most essential industries in the world, yet it remains one of the least advanced when it comes to using data and intelligence for efficiency. With the growing population and ever-decreasing number of people getting into agriculture and farming it has become vital to increase the output of farming sustainably. Growing the right crop at the right place at the right time will be the most important factor in the coming years for sustainable development. Identifying this gap, we have defined the objective of creating a recommendation model with the use of deep learning algorithms and sufficient data that would analyze the given conditions of soil and considering other parameters would give us a recommendation of a crop that would be suitable and best to grow in those given conditions. This research paper presents the method, design, and implementation of neural networks for crop recommendation. In this paper, we have defined an end-to-end system for recommending a crop from 9 different types based on the inputs received from the users. We have designed a neural network model namely "AgroSysNN" based on fully connected MLP architecture. The paper discusses the performance of our model compared to other traditional machine learning models.*

***Key Words*: Neural Networks, Machine Learning, Agriculture, Crop Recommendation System, Multilayer Perceptron, Deep Learning, KNN, SVM, Random Forest, Decision Tree, Naïve Bayes**

1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is one of the most important domains for the growth and development of humankind. Various problems in this domain persist which are yet to be solved. One such problem is efficient growth of crops. With so much knowledge and understanding of technology and abundance of data available, the application of this knowledge and technology in the field of agriculture is found to be very few and limited. So, with the use of knowledge and technology available we focus on solving this problem through this project.

The project focuses on using deep learning technology to build a neural network model namely 'AgroSysNN', which will be used to recommend the crops that are ideal to be grown to the users. In this project we use this model as our core of the whole project and build a web interface around it for users to interact with seamlessly. The Goal of this project is to make such a system which will be giving the performance that is not only viable but also better than available methods, designs and systems out there.

1.1 Aim and Objectives

In order to maximize the crop growth and the profitability of the yield we aim to provide a web-based solution which would recommend the crop that should be produced using the Multilayer Perceptron Neural Network. The objective of this project is to define an effective Neural Network design and architecture with acceptable accuracy and recommend the crop to be yielded to the users. Using the Data obtained we will train the Neural Network model to classify the crops. A Deep Fully Connected Neural Network architecture is used to build the system.

1.2 Scope

The scope of the project is to get the input from users like pH value, soil type, temperature, humidity, rainfall, depth of soil, availability of water storage, etc. and recommend the best crop to be grown in those given conditions. Multilayer Perceptron Neural Network works best and its performance increases by increasing the amount of data provided, so the future lies by providing more data and retraining the model and increasing its accuracy and reliability. The system could be used by farmers for an insight to what to grow as well as other researchers to understand the system and improvise it wherever valid.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

There is quite a lot of research being done in crop classification, but the Gap found in them where a very few architectures that have been proposed are implemented, so our goal is to come up with our own architecture and implement it. Another major drawback in this field of research that has been identified is that there is almost no well-documented, reproducible Neural network model or a pre-trained model available that could be used as a base model for transfer learning. And that is what we are looking to achieve through this project.

Table -1: Existing Systems

Sr No.	Title	Findings
[1]	Improving Crop Productivity Through A Crop Recommendation	The crop recommendation system classifies the input soil dataset into the recommendable crop type,

	System Using Ensemble Technique	Kharif and Rabi using the majority voting technique. The paper uses ensemble model to predict crops using Random Forest, Naive Bayes, and Linear SVM as its base learners
[2]	Crop Recommendation System Using Neural Network	A crop recommender system, takes in consideration the various parameters like soil moisture content, humidity and temperature.
[3]	Crop Recommendation System for Precision Agriculture	The paper is proposing a recommendation system through an ensemble model with majority voting technique using Random tree, CHAID, K-Nearest Neighbor and Naive Bayes as base learners.
[4]	Identifying key crop performance traits using data mining	The model uses data mining techniques to explain crop performance variability. It is also useful for farmers to identify high performing varieties according to the location and conditions. The model defines correlation between the traits and varieties.
[5]	Demand based crop recommender system for farmers	This paper suggests use of a sliding window non-linear regression technique to predict crops based on different factors affecting agricultural production such as rainfall, temperature, market prices, area of land and past yield of a crop.
[6]	AgroConsultant: Intelligent Crop Recommendation System Using Machine Learning Algorithms	The paper takes into consideration all the appropriate parameters, including temperature, rainfall, location and soil condition, to predict crop suitability. This system would assist the farmers in making an informed decision about which crop to grow depending on a variety of environmental and geographical factors.
[7]	Crop Recommendation System to Maximize Crop Yield using Machine Learning Technique.	The paper is proposing a recommendation system through an ensemble model with majority voting technique using Random Forest, SVM and Naive Bayes as base learners.
[8]	Implementation of Machine Learning Algorithms for Crop Recommendation Using Precision Agriculture.	The paper is proposing a recommendation system through an ensemble model with majority voting technique using K-Nearest neighbors and Naive Bayes as base learners.

3. DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Project Architecture

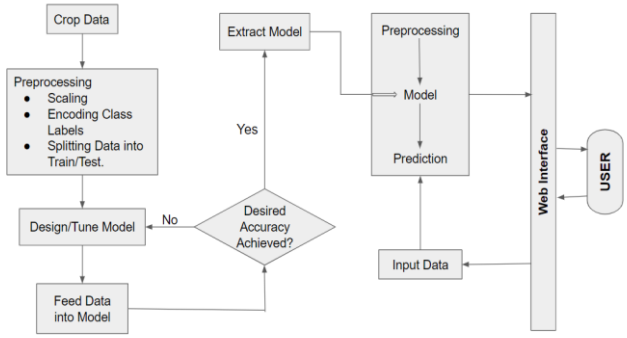

Fig -1: Project Architecture

The above figure exhibits the project architecture and working of the whole system. There are two parts to the architecture; first is model building and model extraction, second is using the extracted model in backend and using it to interact with users.

In the first part, initially data is acquired from a required source, in this case from agriculture website of Maharashtra [9]. The acquired data is then preprocessed, the preprocess involves steps like 'Scaling' which standardizes the independent features present in the data in a fixed range so there is not weightage bias within different features due to difference in unit of measurements. Then 'Encoding' step encodes the target column, that is the crop column and converts the strings of crops into numbers ranging from 0 to 8. Last step in Preprocessing phase is splitting the data into training and testing sets, where training set will be used for training the model and testing set will be used to evaluate our model. After the data is prepared, the model is designed according to proposed neural network architecture. The model is then trained using the training dataset and evaluated on testing dataset. We check if we achieved the desired accuracy, if yes then we move on to further steps and if no then we go back to Designing and Tuning step and rework the model and continue the loop until desired accuracy is achieved. After the model being at certain accuracy, we extract the model by saving it into H5 file.

In the second part, we use the extracted model in backend server and deploy it on a website using Python and Flask. The users will interact with our model through the web interface where they will submit the inputs to the model through a form available on the website. These inputs are then retrieved in the server where the inputs are preprocessed same as in the first part. The processed data in passed into

the model and prediction is obtained. The obtained accuracy is then displayed back on the web interface to the users.

3.2 Resources Requirement

- Python 3.7
- TensorFlow 2.x
- Keras API
- Scikit Learn
- NumPy
- Pandas
- Matplotlib
- Jupyter Notebook
- HTML5 & CSS3
- JavaScript
- jQuery
- Flask
- Data

Columns	Data Type
pH Value	Numeric
N Value	Numeric
P Value	Numeric
K Value	Numeric
Depth	Numeric
Temperature	Numeric
Rainfall	Numeric
Soil Type	Numeric
Humidity	Numeric
Water Storage	1 or 0 (Yes or No)
Crop	0 to 8 (Each number associated to each crop)

Table -2: Data Information

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Proposed Methodology

We have proposed a MLP Neural Network. MLP neural networks perform better when increasing in data while traditional Machine Learning algorithms struggle to do so. We have 4 layers in our neural network, first one being the input layer followed by two hidden layers and one output layer. First layer holds 10 neurons as we have 10 input features, and 15 neurons in each hidden layer and finally 9 neurons in the output layer. We have used the Rectified Linear Unit activation function in the hidden layers and SoftMax Function in the output layer. 'Adam' algorithm is used as an optimizer and 'Sparse Categorical Cross Entropy' is used as a cost function.

4.2 Neural Network Architecture

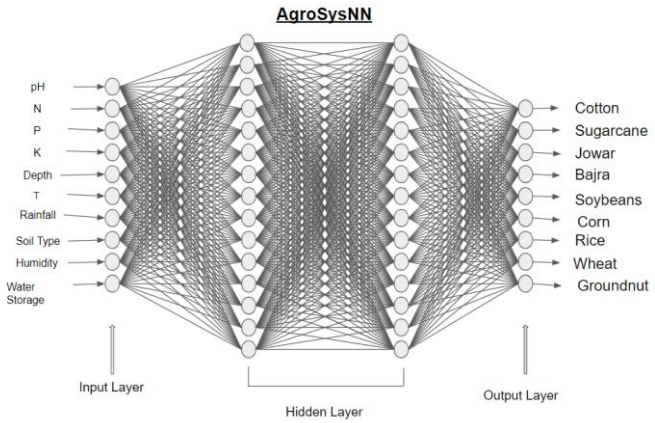

Fig -1: AgroSysNN Architecture

5. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Evaluation metrics explain the performance of a model. An important aspect of evaluation metrics is their capability to discriminate among model results. Evaluation metrics are used to measure the quality of the statistical or machine learning model. Evaluating machine learning models or algorithms is essential for any project. There are many different types of evaluation metrics available to test a model. These include classification accuracy, logarithmic loss, confusion matrix, et al. Classification accuracy is the ratio of the number of correct predictions to the total number of input samples, which is usually what we refer to when we use the term accuracy. Logarithmic loss, also called log loss, works by penalizing the false classifications. A confusion matrix gives us a matrix as output and describes the complete performance of the model. There are other evaluation metrics that can be used that have not been listed. Evaluation metrics involve using a combination of these individual evaluation metrics to test a model or algorithm.

In our project we have used the following evaluation metrics to evaluate our model:

- Precision
- Recall
- F1-score
- Accuracy

5.1 Project Results

We will be comparing our model with other traditional Machine Learning algorithms. Each model presented here was trained on the same dataset with 70-30 ratio, where 70% of data was used as training set and 30% of data was used as testing set. Further metric comparisons are evaluated on testing dataset.

Algorithms	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Accuracy
KNN Classifier	0.998	0.998	0.997	99.5%
Decision Tree Classifier	0.998	0.998	0.997	99.6%
Random	0.998	0.998	0.997	99.8%

Forest Classifier				
Support Vector Classifier	0.998	0.998	0.997	99.8%
Multinomial Naïve Bayes	0.985	0.982	0.982	98.1%
AgroSysNN	0.999	0.997	0.998	99.7%

Table -3: Performance metrics comparison

6. CONCLUSIONS

In this project, the purpose to solve the problem of lack of efficient farming has been solved by designing and implementing a recommendation system, giving suggestions on the type of crops to be grown. We evaluated the performance of our system using various metrics and concluded that our neural network model (AgroSysNN) performs better than the traditional machine learning algorithms available. We achieved the accuracy of 99.7% and loss of 0.003 which is one of the best. It is evident that this system proves to be very effective and can be deployed to be used in real world scenarios. The future scope project lies with training the model with large amount of data making it more reliable and deploying the system into real world use cases.

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