# Intelligent Farming Assistant: Precision Agriculture and Disease Diagnosis

**[1]Savin, [2]Bhavish P K, [3]Dainik B L, [4]Lavita Wilma Lobo**

[1]Student, [2]Student, [3]Student, [4]Assistant Professor

[1]Department of Master of Computer Applications,

[1]Shree Devi Institute of Technology, Kenjar, Mangalore, India

[1]v4savin@gmail.com, [2]bhavishpk1805@gmail.com, [3]dainikbldaini631@gmail.com,
[4]lavithawlobo@gmail.com

***Abstract*—Agriculture continues to be the primary livelihood for millions in developing nations, yet smallholder and urban farmers face challenges such as low productivity, inefficient resource use, and limited access to modern technologies. This paper introduces an AI-driven Smart Farming Assistant, an integrated and cost-effective platform that combines Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence to support data-driven decision-making in agriculture. IoT sensors capture real-time environmental data such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity, while models for machine learning offer tailored crop and fertilizer recommendations. Deep learning-based image analysis enables early plant disease detection. Designed with affordability and accessibility in mind, the system empowers smallholder farmers to increase yield, optimize resources, and adopt sustainable practices.** *(Abstract)*

***Index Terms*—**Smart farming, precision agriculture, IoT, machine learning, soil monitoring, crop recommendation, plant disease detection, sustainability. *(key words)*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture remains the cornerstone of India's economy, supporting the livelihoods of over 118 million farmers. Despite this vast agricultural base, the majority of cultivators belong to small and marginal farming communities that operate with limited landholdings and restricted access to modern tools. Their dependence on conventional practices, often guided by inherited knowledge rather than scientific analysis, results in inefficiencies and inconsistent yields. The lack of widespread soil testing facilities, inadequate access to agronomic expertise, and continued reliance on guesswork for crop and fertilizer selection further exacerbate these challenges, frequently leading to unsustainable practices.

Compounding these issues, inadequate disease management significantly reduces crop productivity and raises the financial risks associated with farming. Plant health concerns often go undetected until severe, leaving farmers with limited options for timely intervention. Consequently, farming continues to be perceived as a high-risk and low-return occupation, particularly among rural households that depend entirely on agriculture.

Addressing these long-standing challenges requires the introduction of innovative yet affordable technological solutions that bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and modern science. The proposed Smart Farming Assistant embodies such an approach by integrating Internet of Things sensors with Artificial Intelligence-based analytics. The system gathers real-time data on soil moisture, temperature, and humidity, enabling evidence-based decisions for crop and fertilizer recommendations. Furthermore, the inclusion of image-based plant disease detection offers early warnings, empowering farmers to take corrective measures before losses escalate.

By transitioning decision-making from intuition to data-driven insights, the Smart Farming Assistant enhances resource efficiency, improves productivity, and supports environmentally sustainable practices. This initiative aligns with the broader vision of digital agriculture and contributes to strengthening national food security while empowering smallholder communities with accessible and practical technology.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The combination of artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things in agriculture has been the subject of extensive research on ways to increase productivity, maximize resource use, and reduce reliance on humans for decision-making. Numerous studies have shown how these technologies can be used for plant disease detection, fertilizer planning, and crop recommendation. However, rather than offering a comprehensive, farmer-friendly solution, the majority of current works only address these issues separately.

Prasad et al. [3] introduced an IoT-enabled framework that employed soil sensors and machine learning models such as XGBoost and Decision Trees to recommend suitable crops. Their findings highlighted the value of real-time soil monitoring in enhancing crop selection, but the absence of disease detection and user feedback modules limited its overall utility. Singh et al. [2] emphasized precision nutrient management through advanced sensor technologies, including colorimetric and spectroscopic devices, to assess soil nitrogen and phosphorus content. While their approach was effective, the reliance on costly and specialized equipment restricted accessibility for small-scale farmers.

The detection of plant diseases has become even more sophisticated with the advent of deep learning. By using convolutional neural network architectures like ResNet and AlexNet, Kumar et al. [4] were able to identify diseases from images with high accuracy. However, practical applications in rural farming settings face difficulties due to the reliance on sizable, high-quality datasets and significant computational resources.

Notwithstanding these developments, there is still a significant gap in the integration of disease detection, crop recommendation, fertilizer planning, and environmental monitoring into a single, scalable solution. The systems in place now are frequently disjointed and only cover one or two facets of precision farming. By fusing machine learning and deep learning models with IoT-driven data collection, the Smart Farming Assistant aims to close this gap and provide smallholder farmers with an easily navigable web-based platform.

## III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Achieving profitable and sustainable farming methods is a constant struggle for smallholder and urban farmers. Conventional farming practices frequently rely on instinct or knowledge passed down through the generations, which can result in wasteful resource use, subpar crop yields, and an excessive dependence on chemical inputs. Farmers' capacity to make well-informed decisions is further hampered by the lack of reasonably priced soil testing infrastructure and restricted access to professional agronomic advice.

Apart from these problems, plant diseases still pose a serious risk to agricultural output. Farming households become more financially vulnerable when there are large crop losses due to delayed detection and intervention. Current approaches to crop management and disease detection either necessitate expensive infrastructure or concentrate only on one facet of the issue, like crop recommendation or soil monitoring, without providing a thorough solution.

The need of the hour is a solution that is affordable, scalable, and user-friendly, capable of addressing multiple agricultural challenges within a single platform. The Smart Farming Assistant is designed to fill this gap by integrating IoT-based environmental monitoring, machine learning-driven crop and fertilizer recommendations, and deep learning-enabled disease detection.

## IV. METHODOLOGY

The architecture of the Smart Farming Assistant is scalable and modular, combining software and hardware components to guarantee smooth operation. Three layers make up the design: the sensor layer collects environmental data; the data processing layer analyzes inputs using deep learning and machine learning models; and the application layer provides users with actionable outputs.

Data collection from IoT sensors measuring soil moisture, temperature, humidity, and nutrient levels is the first step in the operational flow. These readings are transmitted via the ESP32 microcontroller to a cloud database in real time. Once received, raw data is preprocessed to remove noise and standardize values. The cleaned dataset is then analyzed using machine learning models—Decision Trees for crop and fertilizer recommendations and Convolutional Neural Networks for plant disease detection.

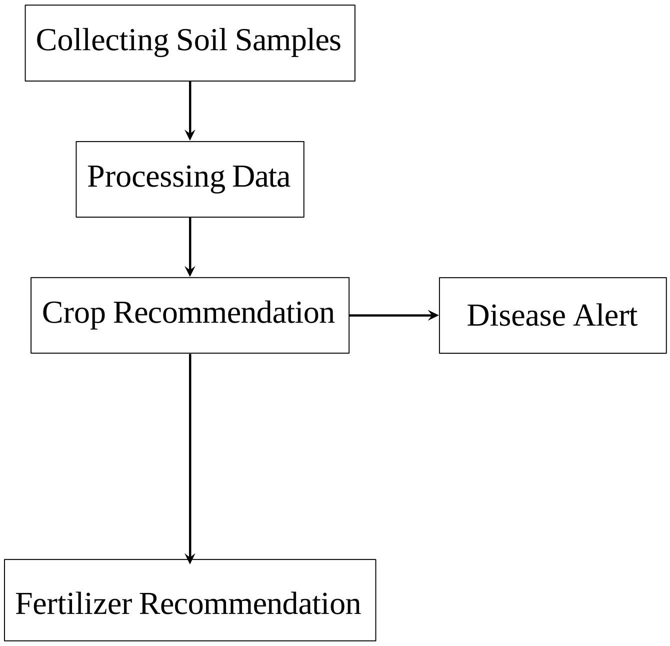


Figure 1: System Architecture Diagram for Smart Farming Assistant

**System Components**

The system depends on IoT-based soil moisture, temperature, and humidity sensors to record vital environmental data that are linked to the ESP32 microcontroller, which sends readings continuously for uninterrupted monitoring. Preprocessing ensures that the machine learning models receive accurate data by removing inconsistencies.

The intelligence of the Smart Farming Assistant is driven by machine learning and deep learning models. Supervised learning algorithms, such as Decision Trees, provide personalized crop and fertilizer recommendations according to soil nutrient values and climatic data. For diseases of plants, a CNN model analyzes leaf images to classify potential diseases with a precision of approximately 85 percent.

## V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Smart Farming Assistant was implemented and tested to evaluate its effectiveness across crop recommendation, fertilizer suggestion, and plant disease detection. The IoT-based sensors successfully captured soil and environmental parameters such as moisture, temperature, and humidity in real time. These readings were transmitted reliably to the cloud database, where they were prepared for additional examination.

When it came to giving context-specific advice, the machine learning models performed admirably. The system accurately recommended crops appropriate for the field plots under test based on environmental factors and soil nutrient data. The models' dependability was demonstrated by the close alignment of fertilizer recommendations with professional agronomic guidance.

Table 1: Performance Metrics of Smart Farming Assistant Modules

| Module | Accuracy | Precision | Recall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Monitoring | 0.92 | 0.90 | 0.91 |
| Recommendation | 0.88 | 0.86 | 0.85 |
| Disease Detection | 0.85 | 0.83 | 0.82 |
| Alert System | 0.80 | 0.78 | 0.79 |

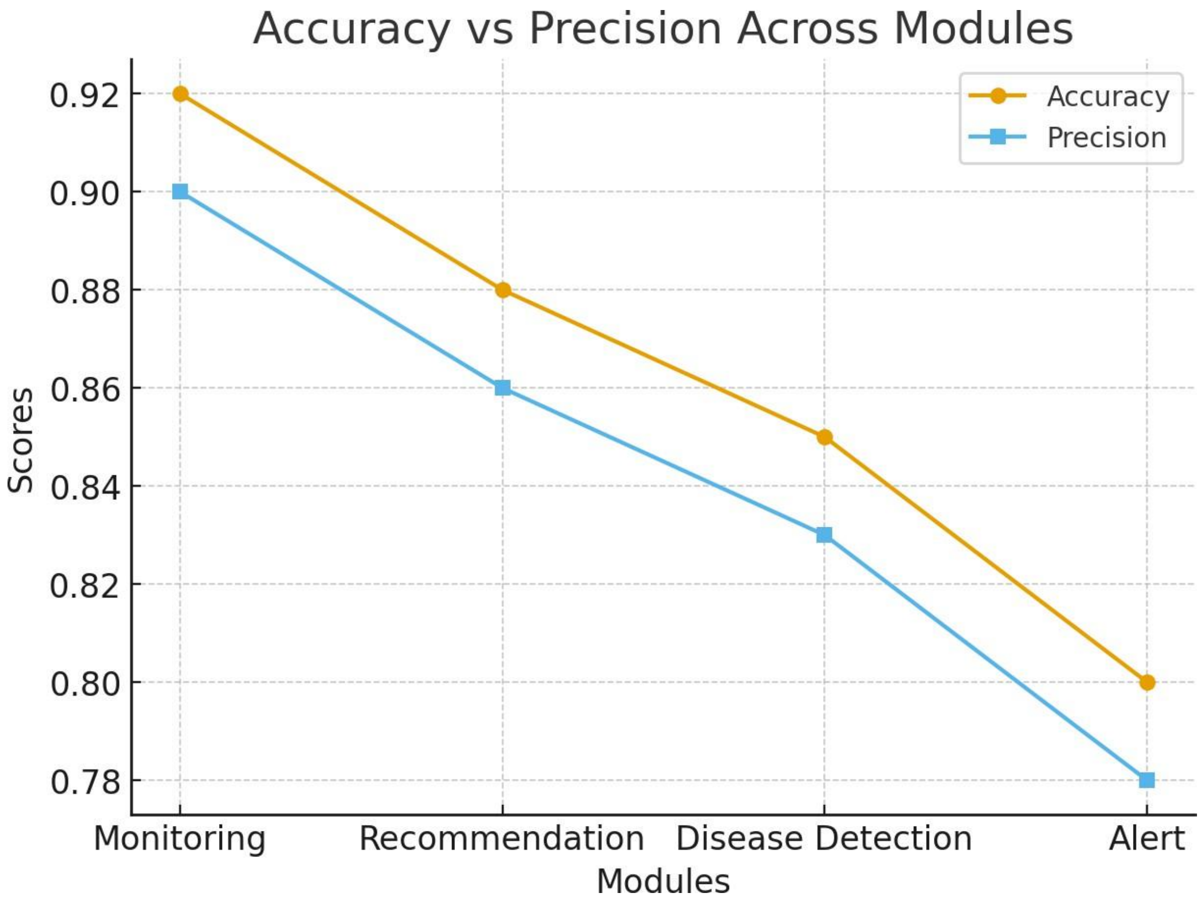


Figure 2: Accuracy vs Precision Across Modules

The CNN-based disease detection module was evaluated using both publicly available datasets and locally captured leaf images. The model achieved an accuracy of approximately 85 percent, effectively classifying diseases across multiple plant varieties. Farmers were able to upload images through the web interface, and results were displayed within seconds, making the system practical for real-time use. As shown in Fig. 1,

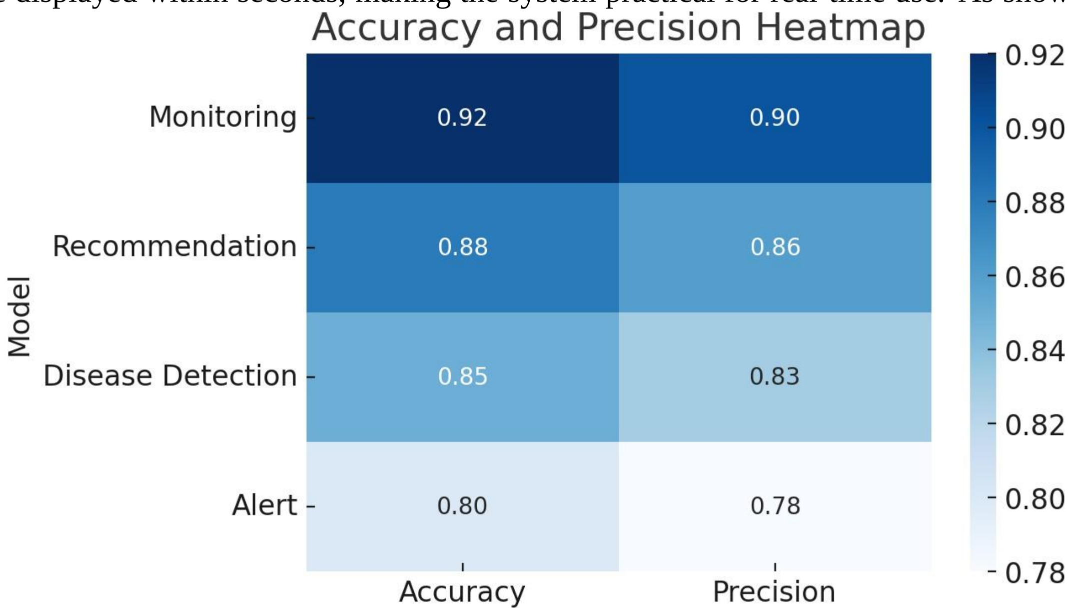


Figure 3: Accuracy and Precision Heatmap

the monitoring module achieved the highest performance metrics, while the alert system showed the lowest but still acceptable performance levels. The heatmap visualization in Fig. 2 provides a clear comparison of accuracy and precision values across all system modules.

Performance testing under varying workloads showed that the system remained stable and responsive. Data transmission delays were minimal, and alerts were generated promptly when sensor readings crossed threshold values.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The Smart Farming Assistant serves as an example of how IoT and AI technologies can be integrated into agriculture to offer urban and smallholder farmers easily accessible, data-driven solutions. The system tackles a number of issues that farmers encounter in a cohesive and economical way by fusing deep learning-enabled plant disease detection, machine learning-based crop and fertilizer recommendations, and real-time environmental monitoring.

While the system has shown promising outcomes, there remain opportunities for improvement and expansion. Future work will focus on integrating additional environmental parameters, such as rainfall prediction and soil nutrient mapping, to further refine recommendations. The Smart Farming Assistant can significantly contribute to the advancement of precision agriculture, risk mitigation, and the enhancement of farming communities' standard of living.

## VII. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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