Plant Archives **Vol. 25, Special Issue (ICTPAIRS-JAU, Junagadh) Jan. 2025 pp. 825-828**
e-ISSN:2581-6063 (online), ISSN:0972-5210

Plant Archives

Journal homepage: http://www.plantarchives.org
DOI Url : https://doi.org/10.51470/PLANTARCHIVES.2025.v25.SP.ICTPAIRS-119

APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE-RESILIENT PRECISION AGRICULTURE USING CONVOLUTION NEURAL NETWORK

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ABSTRACT

As climate change poses challenges to global agriculture and food security. The integration of artificial intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and remote sensing technologies offer promising solutions for sustainable and resilient agriculture. This article explores the synergistic application of AI algorithms such as Convolution Neural Network (CNN) and remote sensing data to enhance precision agriculture practices in the face of climate change.

The article explores machine learning models such as Transfer Learning (TL) and Reinforcement Learning (RL) to analyze multispectral satellite imagery, drone-captured data, and ground-based sensors, enabling real-time monitoring of crop health, soil conditions, and environmental stressors. By leveraging deep learning techniques, one can develop predictive models for crop yield estimation, disease detection, and resource optimization under various climate scenarios.

Findings demonstrate the potential of AI-driven decision support systems in improving water use efficiency, optimizing fertilizer application, and enhancing pest management strategies. The integration of climate data with crop models allows for adaptive planning and risk mitigation, fostering climate-resilient agricultural practices.

It is possible to use computer vision and IoT sensors for automated phenotyping and precision harvesting, reducing labor costs and minimizing post-harvest losses. The research also addresses the challenges of data integration, scalability, and accessibility for smallholder farmers.

This interdisciplinary approach not only can contribute to increased agricultural productivity but also promotes environmental sustainability by reducing resource consumption and minimizing the ecological footprint of farming practices. The study concludes by discussing the policy implications and potential barriers to widespread adoption of AI and remote sensing technologies in agriculture, paving the way for a more resilient and sustainable global food system in the face of climate change.

Key words**:** Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Convolution Neural Network, Resilient, Precision

Introduction

Climate change poses significant challenges to global agriculture, threatening food security and sustainable development. The increasing frequency of extreme weather events shifts in precipitation patterns, and rising temperatures have led to unpredictable crop yields and resource scarcity. Precision agriculture, which aims to optimize crop management practices through technology-driven approaches, has emerged as a promising solution to address these challenges.

However, the complexity of agricultural systems and the unpredictability of climate patterns necessitate advanced computational methods for effective decision-making. Traditional approaches to precision agriculture often fall short in adapting to rapidly changing environmental conditions and optimizing resource use in real-time.

This study proposes an integrated approach combining Convolution Neural Networks (CNNs) and Reinforcement Learning (RL) to create a robust system for sustainable and climate-resilient precision agriculture. The system aims to:

- Accurately assess crop health and predict yields using CNNs
- Optimize resource allocation (water, fertilizers) using RL
- Adapt to changing climate conditions and provide early warning for potential risks

By leveraging the power of deep learning and decision-making algorithms, this research seeks to develop a system that can not only respond to current agricultural challenges but also anticipate and mitigate future risks associated with climate change. (LeCun*et al.*, 2015; Kamilarisand Prenafeta-Boldú, 2018)

Materials and Methods

Data Collection and Pre-processing

Data was collected from 10 agricultural sites across diverse climatic regions, encompassing a variety of crop types and environmental conditions. The dataset includes:

- Multispectral satellite imagery (5-band, 10m resolution) collected bi-weekly over two growing seasons
- Ground-based sensor data (soil moisture, temperature, and pH) collected hourly
- Historical climate records (precipitation, temperature, humidity) spanning the past 30 years
- Crop yield data from previous harvests

Data pre-processing involved several steps to ensure the quality and consistency of the input:

- Image enhancement techniques were applied to the satellite imagery, including atmospheric correction and cloud masking
- Temporal alignment of sensor data with satellite imagery acquisition dates
- Normalization of all numerical data to a common scale
- Handling of missing values using multiple imputation techniques
- Augmentation of the image dataset through rotations, flips, and minor colour adjustments to increase the robustness of the CNN model

CNN Model for Crop Health Assessment and Yield Prediction

CNN architecture was developed to analyze multispectral imagery and assess crop health. (Lee and Park, 2023). The model was designed to perform two main tasks:

- Classify crop health status into multiple categories (e.g., healthy, water-stressed, nutrient-deficient, diseased)
- Predict potential yield based on current crop conditions

The CNN architecture consisted of multiple convolution layers followed by pooling layers to extract relevant features from the input images. The extracted features were then fed into fully connected layers for classification and regression tasks. Transfer learning techniques were employed, utilizing a pre-trained Res Net50 model as the base, which was then fine-tuned on our agricultural dataset.

The model was trained using a multi-task learning approach, optimizing for both classification accuracy and yield prediction simultaneously. This allowed the model to leverage shared features beneficial for both tasks, improving overall performance.

Reinforcement Learning for Resource Optimization

An RL agent was developed to optimize resource allocation, particularly focusing on irrigation and fertilization decisions (Johnson, A. and Brown, 2023). The problem was formulated as a Markov Decision Process (MDP) with:

- State space: Current crop health (as assessed by the CNN), soil conditions, weather forecast, and historical climate data
- Action space: Discrete decisions for irrigation levels and fertilizer application rates
- Reward function: A combination of crop yield, resource costs, and environmental impact scores

The Q-learning algorithm with function approximation was employed to handle the large state-action space. The Q-function was approximated using a neural network, allowing for better generalization across states (Sutton and Barto, 2018)

To balance exploration and exploitation, an epsilon-greedy policy was implemented, with the exploration rate decreasing over time as the agent gained more experience.

Application of Methods

CNN Application

The CNN model was applied to bi-weekly satellite imagery of the agricultural sites. Its primary applications included:

- Real-time crop health monitoring: The model provided regular updates on crop health status, allowing for early detection of stress factors such as water deficiency, nutrient imbalances, or disease outbreaks.
- Yield forecasting: By analyzing current crop conditions and historical data, the model generated yield predictions for each field, helping farmers and policymakers in production planning and food security assessments.
- Climate impact assessment: The model was used to analyze the effects of different climate scenarios on crop health and yield, providing insights into potential adaptation strategies.

RL Agent Applications

The RL agent was deployed to make daily decisions on resource allocation. Its key applications were:

- Irrigation scheduling: The agent determined optimal timing and amount of irrigation based on current soil moisture, crop health status, and weather forecasts.
- Fertilizer management: Decisions on the type, amount, and timing of fertilizer applications were made to maximize yield while minimizing environmental impact.
- Adaptive management: The agent continuously learned from the outcomes of its decisions, allowing it to adapt strategies based on changing climate conditions and crop responses.

Comparison of Methods

To evaluate the effectiveness of our integrated CNN-RL approach, we compared it with traditional precision agriculture methods and other machine learning techniques:

- Traditional precision agriculture: Based on fixed rules and thresholds for resource allocation.
- Support Vector Machine (SVM) for crop classification and Multiple Linear Regression (MLR) for yield prediction.
- Random Forest (RF) for both classification and regression tasks.
- Our integrated CNN-RL approach.

The comparison was conducted over two growing seasons across all 10 agricultural sites. Key performance metrics included:

- Crop health classification accuracy
- Yield prediction error (Mean Absolute Percentage Error, MAPE)
- Resource use efficiency (water and fertilizer)
- Adaptability to extreme weather events

Results of the comparison

1. Crop health classification accuracy

- Traditional: 75%
- SVM: 82%
- RF: 88%
- CNN-RL: 93%

2. Yield prediction error (MAPE)

- Traditional: 18%
- MLR: 15%
- RF: 12%
- CNN-RL: 8%

3. Water useefficiency (improvement over traditional methods)

- SVM+MLR: 8%
- RF: 12%
- CNN-RL: 22%

4. Fertilizer use efficiency (improvement over traditional methods)

- SVM+MLR: 6%
- RF: 10%
- CNN-RL: 18%

Adaptability to extreme weather events

The CNN-RL approach showed superior performance in maintaining crop health and yield during simulated drought and heat wave scenarios, with a 30% smaller yield reduction compared to traditional methods.

Results and Discussion

The integrated CNN-RL approach demonstrated significant improvements over both traditional precision agriculture methods and other machine learning techniques:

- Crop Health Assessment: The CNN model achieved a 93% accuracy in classifying crop health status, outperforming other methods. This high accuracy allowed for early detection of stress factors, enabling timely interventions.
- Yield Prediction: With a MAPE of 8%, our approach provided more reliable yield forecasts, crucial for agricultural planning and food security assessments.
- Resource Efficiency: The RL agent achieved a 22% reduction in water usage and an 18%

reduction in fertilizer use compared to traditional management practices. This not only reduced input costs but also minimized the environmental impact of agricultural activities.

- Adaptability: During simulated extreme weather events, the CNN-RL system demonstrated superior adaptability, maintaining higher crop health and yield compared to other methods. This resilience is crucial in the face of increasing climate variability.
- Scalability: The system showed consistent performance across diverse crop types and climatic regions, indicating its potential for wide-scale application.

The superior performance of the CNN-RL approach can be attributed to several factors

- The CNN's ability to extract complex spatial features from multispectral imagery, capturing subtle changes in crop health that might be missed by traditional methods or simpler machine learning models.
- The RL agent's capacity to learn and adapt its strategy based on the outcomes of its decisions, allowing for dynamic optimization of resource allocation.
- The integration of multiple data sources (satellite imagery, ground sensors, climate data) providing a comprehensive view of the agricultural system.

Conclusion and Future Work

This study demonstrates the potential of integrating CNNs and RL for sustainable and climate-resilient precision agriculture. The proposed system offers significant improvements in crop health assessment, yield prediction, and resource optimization, while also showing superior adaptability to changing climate conditions.

Key contributions of this work include:

- Development of a multi-task CNN model for simultaneous crop health classification and yield prediction.
- Implementation of an RL agent capable of optimizing complex agricultural decisions in real-time.
- Demonstration of the system's adaptability and resilience in the face of simulated extreme weather events.

While the results are promising, several areas for future work have been identified:

- Incorporation of more diverse data sources: Integrating data from drones, IoT sensor networks, and hyper spectral imaging could further enhance the system's accuracy and capabilities.
- Expansion of the RL framework: Developing multi-agent RL systems could allow for more sophisticated management of large-scale agricultural operations, considering inter-field dynamics and broader ecosystem impacts.
- Long-term impact assessment: Conducting extended field trials to evaluate the long-term effects of AI-driven agriculture on soil health, biodiversity, and overall ecosystem resilience.
- Integration with climate models: Incorporating regional and global climate models could improve the system's ability to anticipate and prepare for future climate scenarios.
- Explainable AI: Developing methods to interpret and explain the decisions made by the CNN and RL models, increasing trust and adoption among farmers and policymakers.
- Social and economic impact studies: Assessing the potential socio-economic impacts of widespread adoption of AI-driven precision agriculture, including effects on rural livelihoods and global food systems.

By continuing to advance these AI and ML techniques and addressing these future research directions, we can work towards more sustainable and resilient agricultural systems capable of meeting the challenges posed by climate change and ensuring global food security.

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