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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the study's context and rationale. It describes data analytics in detail before highlighting the problem statement that prompted the study. The chapter then moves on to the purpose and objectives of the study before stating the scope and significance of the research. Finally, it concludes with a summary of this chapter.

1.1 Background of Study

The rising prevalence of diseases affecting apple fruits presents significant challenges for the agricultural sector, resulting in considerable economic losses due to reduced quality and safety. Traditional manual inspection methods are labor-intensive and often insufficient for early disease detection, which emphasizes the need for automated classification solutions. This study proposes a novel approach for the automatic classification and grading of apple fruit diseases, utilizing advanced image acquisition, feature extraction, and machine learning classifiers. The objective is to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of disease detection, thereby minimizing economic setbacks in agriculture and improving overall fruit quality management (Bhargava & Bansal, 2021).

Recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) have improved the classification of common apple diseases such as rot, scab, and blotch. Traditional methods are subjective and labor-intensive, while conventional machine learning techniques rely on hand-crafted features that may lack robustness. In contrast, Deep Convolutional Neural Networks (DCNNs) can automatically extract relevant features from raw images, improving classification accuracy. Research by Ayaz et al. (2021) demonstrates that their proposed DCNN model, utilizing deep generative images, outperforms traditional methods by achieving higher recognition accuracy. This framework aims to provide a reliable solution for detecting apple diseases, ultimately enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability.