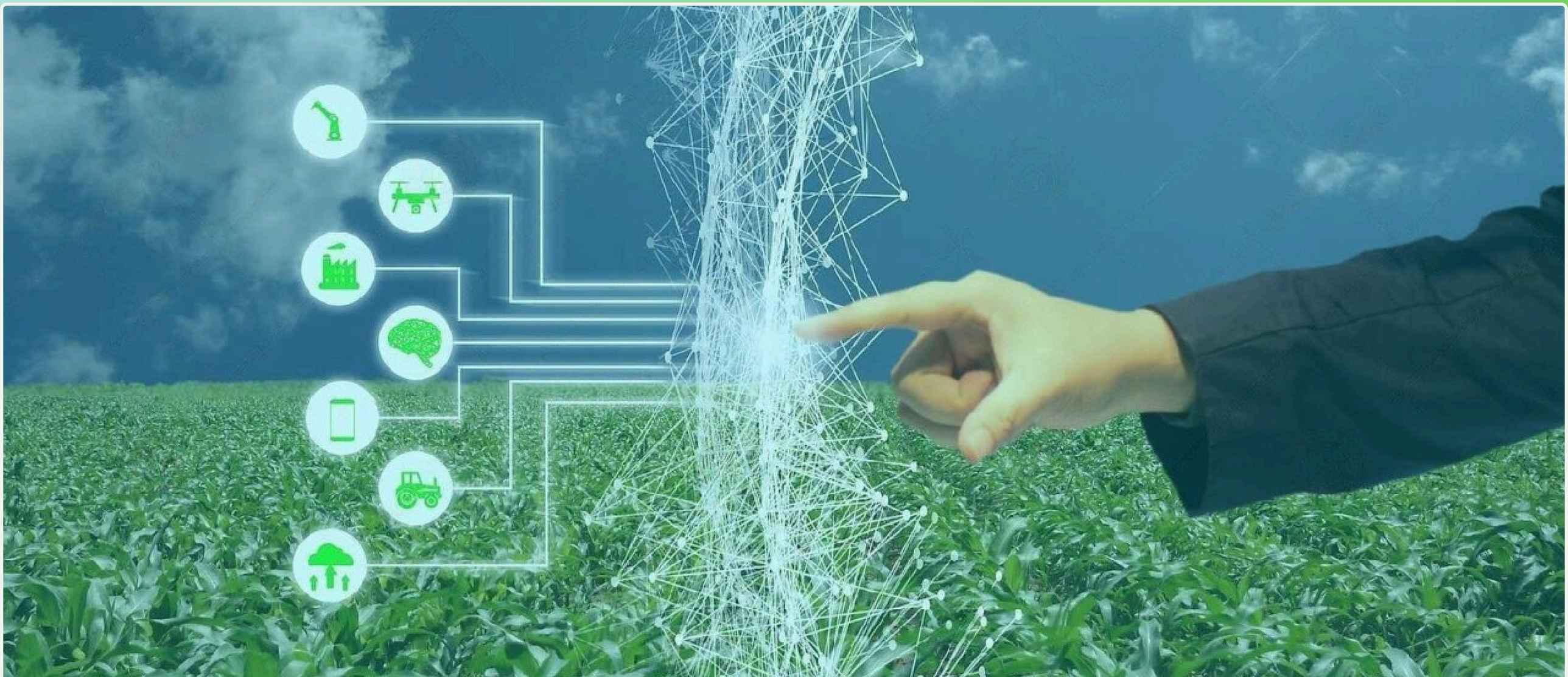
Advanced Soybean Yield Prediction

Optimizing Agricultural Practices with Data-Driven Models



Executive Summary of Soybean Yield Prediction Project

Objective: The objective of this project is to develop an accurate model for predicting soybean seed yield based on key agronomic traits such as **plant height, biological weight,** and **protein content.** The goal is to provide actionable insights that can optimize farming practices and improve soybean yield predictions.

Importance of the Study

Key Features: Focus on traits like plant height, biological weight, and protein content, all of which are critical in yield prediction.

Importance: Improving soybean yield is crucial for agricultural productivity. This study will help optimize farming practices and enhance food security by providing precise yield predictions.

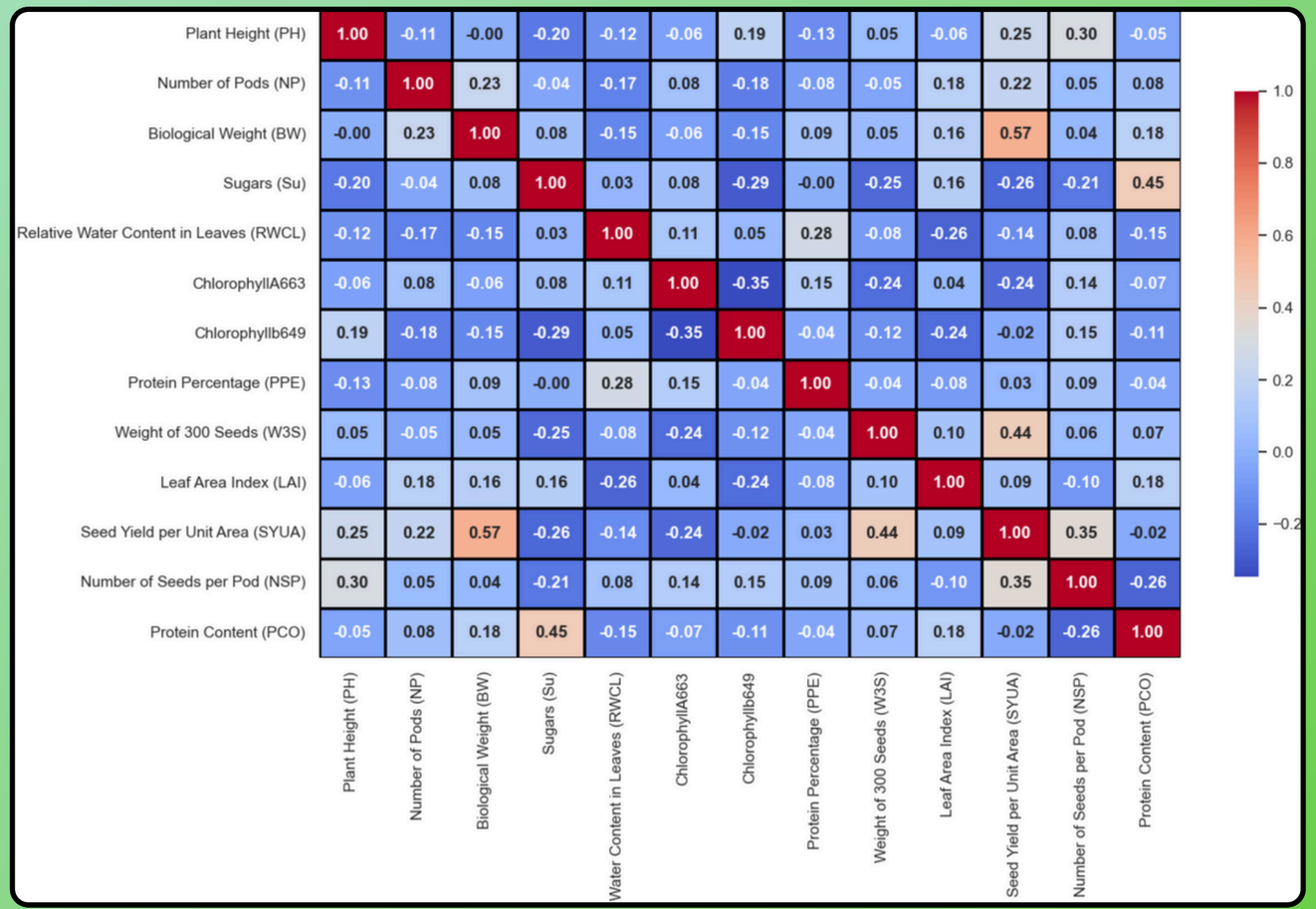
Impact: Farmers can make data driven decisions to improve productivity and sustainability in soybean farming.

Overview of Soybean Dataset & Features

- **Dataset Size:** 55,450 entries.
- **Features:** 15 columns representing agronomic characteristics of soybeans, including:
  - **Plant Height (PH)**
  - **Number of Pods (NP)**
  - **Biological Weight (BW)**
  - **Protein Content (PCO)**
  - **Seed Yield per Unit Area (SYUA) (target variable).**
- **Target Variable:** Seed Yield per Unit Area (SYUA), representing the total yield per unit area of the farm.

Key Insights from Feature Correlations

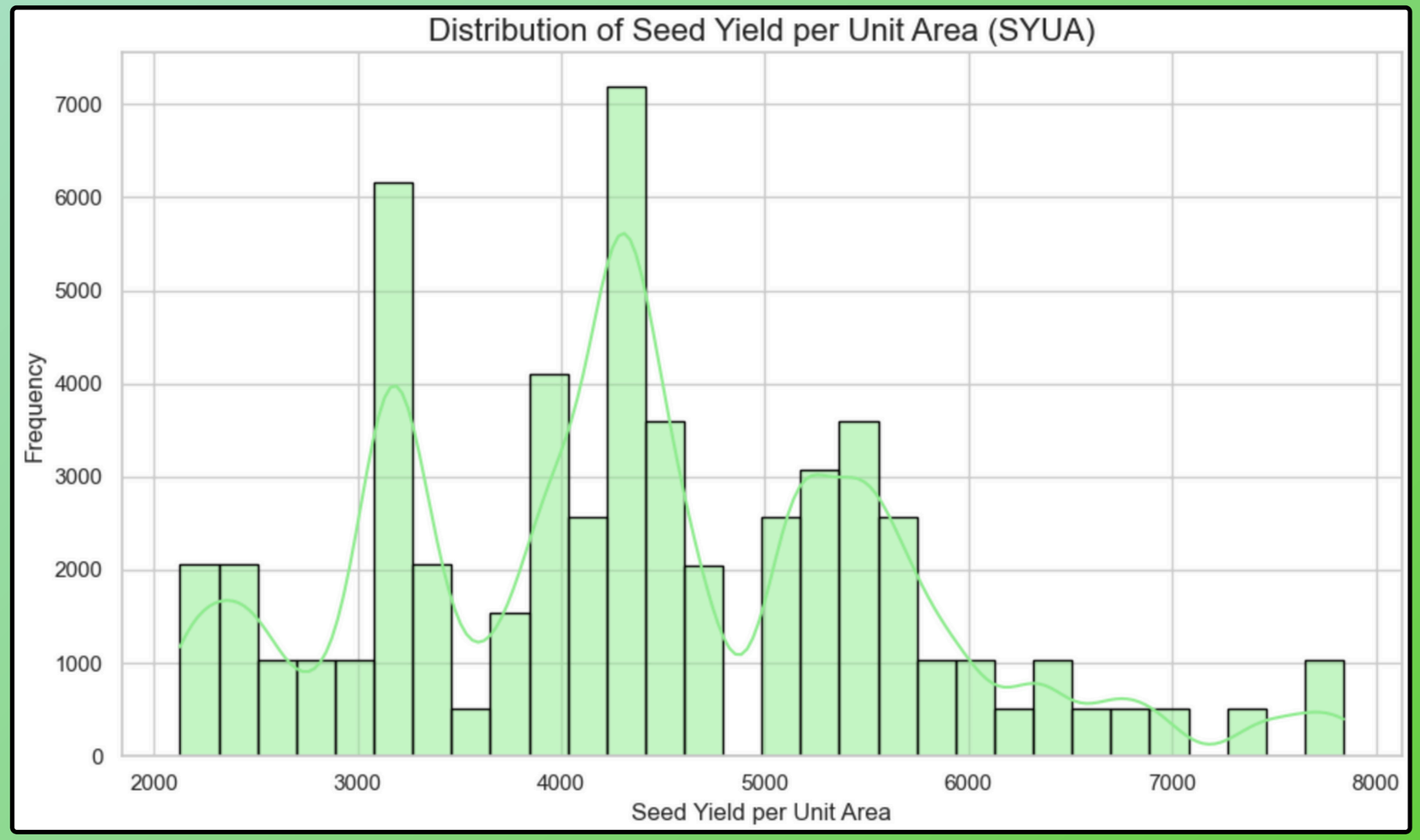
- **Biological Weight (BW)** and **Number of Seeds per Pod (NSP)** have strong correlations with **Seed Yield (SYUA)**, highlighting their importance as predictors.
- **Plant Height (PH)** and **Sugars (Su)** show weaker correlations, suggesting they are less significant for predicting yield.



Seed Yield Distribution and Key Insights

- **Seed Yield per Unit Area (SYUA)** varies significantly across the dataset, with values ranging from 2,000 to 8,000.

  Most seed yields fall within the 3,000 to 5,000 range, suggesting a concentrated yield zone.

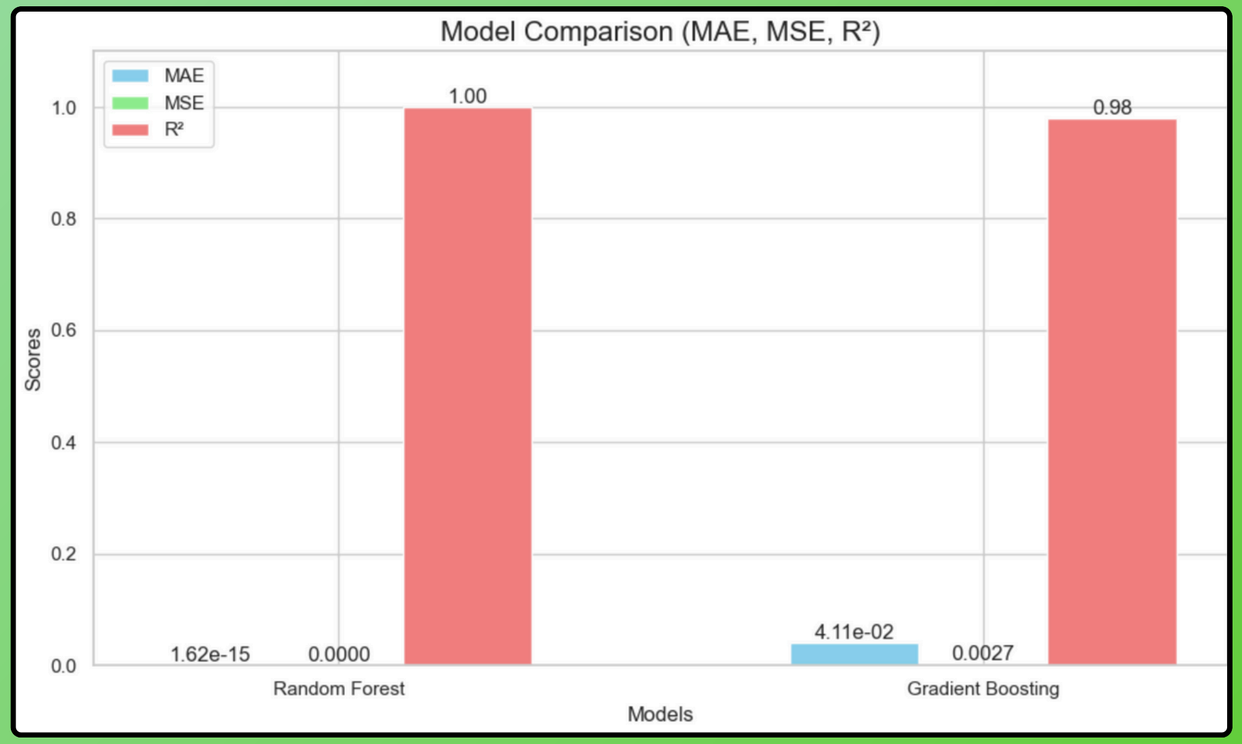


Model Performance Evaluation - Random Forest vs Gradient Boosting

Key Insights:

- **Random Forest shows near-perfect performance:**
  - **MAE (Mean Absolute Error):** 1.62e-15 (indicating almost no error).
  - **MSE (Mean Squared Error):** 6.66e-30 (effectively negligible).
  - **R^2 (Coefficient of Determination):** 1 (perfect prediction).

- **Gradient Boosting performs well but with slightly higher error metrics:**
  - **MAE**: 0.0411.
  - **MSE:** 0.0027.
  - **R^2:** 0.98 (indicating very strong predictive accuracy).



Key Findings & Actionable Recommendations

- **Actionable Insights for Farmers:** Farmers should prioritize Biological Weight and Protein Content.
- **Actionable Insights for Researchers:** Researchers should focus on genetic optimization of key traits like Biological Weight and Protein Content.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Policymakers can encourage research into more productive soybean varieties.

Conclusion & Future Work

- **Validation with Real-World Data:**
  - **Objective:** Test the model with real farm data to ensure its accuracy and applicability under varying environmental conditions.
  - **Action:** Collaborate with farms or agricultural organizations to gather real-world yield data for model validation.
- **Feature Expansion:**
  - **Objective:** Enhance prediction accuracy by incorporating additional factors like weather patterns, soil quality, and irrigation.
  - **Action:** Partner with meteorological and soil health agencies to integrate weather and soil data into the model.
- **Use of the Model for Other Crops:**
  - **Objective:** Extend the model to other crops like corn, wheat, and rice for broader agricultural applications.
  - **Action:** Gather data for different crops and adapt the model to account for crop-specific features, expanding its utility.

Let’s collaborate to use data and technology to improve crop yields and support sustainable farming.

Muhammad Jalal Khan
Data Analyst & BI Specialist