

# Advance CNN methods applied to the classification of diseases in sunflower

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**Abstract**—Sunflowers are a well-established and successful oil seed crop in Bangladesh. It is the second-largest oil crop after soybeans and a potential source of high-quality edible oil. However, they are vulnerable to parasites, insects, and illnesses, which can lead to output losses. Digital image processing and computer vision methods have been used to classify and identify plant diseases in leaves, fruits, and flowers, allowing for early detection of diseases and minimizing farmers' financial losses. The sunflower leaf disease that exists in Bangladesh has yet to be extensively studied. This information has yet to be used in any research to determine the types of sunflower leaf diseases that have been reported in Bangladesh. In this study, we initiate by classifying diseases with the help of the ResNet152 convolutional network model to categorize diseases using a dataset composed of field images depicting three sunflower diseases. All the collected data was used from the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute. The obtained result of this work is compared with other pre-trained CNN models, namely VGG, DensNet121 and InceptionV3. Among them, the ResNet152 model achieves the highest accuracy.

**Index Terms**—Sunflower disease detection, Convolutional Neural Network, VGG, ResNet, InceptionV3, DensNet121.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Sunflower is a crop that thrives in Bangladesh's natural agricultural system and throughout the majority of the nation. It is recognized as a cash crop with a high return on investment. Sunflower cultivation is a great substitute for growing other crops due to climate hazards like unpredictable rainfall or flooding. Sunflowers are more suitable for growing in coastal regions due to their high output and wide range of adaptability [1]. Due to its numerous applications and advantages, sunflower is a crucial crop in agriculture such as oil Production, animal Feed. Moreover, it is a crucial crop that is important to the agricultural sector. Nonetheless, it is vulnerable to a number of diseases that might cause large financial losses. Effective disease control and prevention depend on early diagnosis and accurate analysis of these disorders. Early detection of infections in sunflowers enables farmers to lessen financial losses by preventing them from spreading across the farm. [2].

Agricultural science is a rapidly growing discipline since it has a significant impact on the global agricultural industry. A new dimension has been added to this sector by technology. To increase agricultural yield overall, researchers are using various approaches and creating new kinds of seeds, treatments, and weeds. Recent advances in deep learning-based image processing techniques have considerably increased the

accuracy of disease categorization. There are at least 30 diseases that affect wild or domesticated sunflowers that are brought on by different fungus, bacteria, and viruses. However, only a tiny number are significant economically in terms of reducing yields [3], [4]. Verticillium wilt, leaf blight, and sunflower phoma blight are a few diseases that can seriously harm sunflower yield. Such diseases can occur, and if the essential measurements are not made in a timely manner, they might be fatal. Throughout the years, researchers have developed a wide range of approaches and models for the identification of diseases in plants. Many feature extraction and segmentation techniques have been used [3]–[5]. They proceed by categorizing illnesses using a dataset composed of field images representing four foliar diseases of sunflowers using the ResNet neural network (Helianthus) [6]. To categorize or predict outcomes, deep learning techniques are commonly utilized [7]. Convolutional neural network is the primary classifier employed in deep learning approaches for the active categorization of plant diseases [8]. Whether we have a large or small data collection, the CNN is one of the most suggested models for classification or recognition using pictures [9]. There is no need to manually build the feature extraction function and classifier since deep learning dynamically analyzes structural properties. As image classifiers, deep learning techniques outperform machine learning, with CNN being the best.

Traditional techniques for manually identifying plant diseases in the agricultural industry need professionals to conduct visual inspections, followed by more thorough detection in labs, which takes time and is not always available to small-holder farmers. As a result, researchers investigated the use of automated and intelligent illness detection systems by creating such systems utilizing artificial intelligence, machine learning, and deep learning approaches. The primary objective of deep learning algorithms is to extract features from pictures and use these characteristics to do either classification or regression, depending on the purpose. While each deep learning algorithm has a particular way of extracting features, combining the retrieved characteristics of several deep learning methods might produce superior results since the classifier will have a larger pool of descriptive data to draw from. To protect the crop, a quick disease detection system is also necessary. Hence, lowering the incidence of plant diseases is a crucial step in improving crop quality in general. Every stage of the sunflower's growth is affected by diseases.

Our approach is based on a convolutional neural network (CNN) architecture that is specifically designed to recognize different types of sunflower diseases. The CNN is trained on a real dataset of labeled images of sunflower plants. The key contributions of this paper are summarized as follows:

- Detect and classify sunflower 3 classes diseases using convolutional neural network.
- Increased classification accuracy with a reasonable number of parameters.
- In terms of performance, the ResNet152 model outperforms the existing deep learning (DL) models VGG-16, DensNet-121 and Inception V3.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section II describes relevant existing work in disease detection. Section III describes the system framework and assumption. Algorithms and methods for classifications are presented in Section IV. Section V demonstrates the comparative performance evaluation of the experimental results. Finally, we conclude the whole paper in Section VI.

## II. RELATED WORK

In recent years and with the rapid utilization of image processing and classification in various applications, many researchers have proposed various learning methods for image detection and classification. To increase accuracy for the classification of object classes is a crucial issue in the research field of image processing.

According to paper [10] the author proposed a classification model combining Deep neural Network and JOA optimization algorithm to classify disease paddy leaves images. Here they got an accuracy of 98 percent on one disease prediction and at 94 percent in other disease prediction from leaves images. Moreover, the two hidden layer concept became useful in fast processing of the dataset. Their significant improvement in the field of accuracy also depends on their pre processing step where they converted the RGB image into Hue based HSV image and segmented the image portions into disease and normal part with K mean clustering method. However, it could be better if they applied deep CNN with the same preprocessed dataset but in greater amount. In the paper [11] the researcher proposed a meta deep learn model which learns from multiple models such as CNN, VGG16 and ResNet50. It learns from different models using the ensemble method to combine all models and produce a final model. Here, first of all, they trained multiple models like custom CNN, VGG16, and ResNet50 their cotton leaves dataset. After training different models, the models were combined together using stacked ensemble learning and a final model was implemented. The stacked model improved the classification accuracy about 98.53 percent. According to the paper [12] their proposed model utilizes two pretrained CNN model, EfficientNetB0, and DenseNet121 for extracting the deep features of corn leaves images. The deep features are fused and concatenated to produce a more complex feature set. data augmentation techniques were used on the dataset to add variations to the images. Through this it increased the variety of the images and enabled the model

to learn more complex cases of the data which helps to gain a higher accuracy rate of 98.56 percent. In the paper [13] the author tries to implement a deep learning framework consists of convolution layers, max-pooling layers, a flatten layer, dense layers, and a special part called dropouts on their tomato leaves dataset. Dropout helps the model to prevent over fitting. Here they used Leaky ReLU as their activation function. They compared the validation accuracy after using and not using dropouts which encouraged the dropout technique to be performed for better validation accuracy. The authors in [14] has introduced a new idea of annotating and pre processing the dataset of citrus fruit where they implemented an algorithm with rescaling, establishing bounding box, extracting HSV image etc to pre process different disease location, affected portion and identify the severity level of the disease present in the citrus fruit. They identified and extracted the diameter, color features, shape and the surface area of the affected portion of the disease portion of the fruit HSV images. Moreover, they used deep neural network and transfer learning method to implement a multi-classification framework for severity classes of fruit. The accuracy level for low severity is 99 percent and for the high level severity is 98 percent. moreover they believe that, the quality of the training model is strongly influenced by the precision of the feature labeling.

In this paper [6], they worked on ResNet152 model which was pre-trained on ImageNet dataset and then trained on the new sunflower dataset. They removed the background of the image to prevent classification error. Next, they used saliency map to measure gradient of loss with input image pixel and it converts the RGB into greyscale image. Moreover they measure the occlusion sensitivity by correlating disease manifestation with highlighted image region which find out the causes of wrong classification. Through this research, they observed color to be the first element to differentiate classes in the model. The paper [15] talked about the results obtained from classifying foliar diseases in sunflower implementing proposed model which automatically segments the leaf lesions. They segmented the lesions with Faster R-CNN and Mask R-CNN. They implemented residual neural networks ResNet50 and ResNet152 to classify the diseases based on lesion. For the diseases such as Alternaria and rust the segmentation result was satisfactory where the lesions are well-outlined. The research shows that the system network that segments lesions along with the network for disease classification both needed for a better performance experience. The research paper [16] showed a hybrid deep learning model combining Vgg16 and MobileNet through stacking ensemble learning process to classify the sunflower diseases, i.e. Alternaria leaf blight, Downy mildew, Phoma blight, and Verticillium wilt. This paper widely related to our research though however it needs much improvement in their accuracy rate.

However, most of the existing works have not focused on the several leaves diseases of sunflower that is a significant aspect for growth of Sunflower cash crop production. This crop oil has a major demand in our country for cooking purpose and the demand is getting higher because of the recent Ukraine Russia

war has being conducted. These observations have motivated us to design a fruitful system which can successfully be used in our country for the sunflower growth research projects.

### III. SYSTEM FRAMEWORK AND ASSUMPTIONS

In this section, relevant subheadings are used to describe the specifics of the dataset-gathering procedure and suggested models. Also, here we explain the model hyperparameters.

#### A. Dataset

In this paper, classification of diseases in sunflower, the dataset we employed consists of images of sunflower leaves that have been affected by different diseases. For sunflower diseases classification we use data from online repositories which is Mendeley Data (Repository name) and that dataset are publicly available. They collect the data from Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) at Gazipur. For data collection they go to the farm November (25th to 29th), 2021, and capture raw images using a Digital camera [17]. Sequentially, each raw picture maintains a 512 x 512 pixel width and height also contain jpg format. For data pre-processing steps we do resize all image into 224\*224 size and also augmented the image data. The dataset we used that total containing eighteen hundred and ninety-two (1892) augmented images created from the original images of healthy and disease-affected sunflower leaves and blooms. The dataset was split into the training set and testing set. In Table 1 summarized how the dataset is distributed.

TABLE I: Categorization dataset

Class Name	No. of training image	No. of testing image
Gray mold	318	80
Leaf scars	407	102
Downy mildew	376	94
Fresh Leaves	412	103
Total	1513	379

Sunflowers usually has many disease from among many diseases we working with Gray mold, leaf scars, and downy mildew which are three common diseases that can affect plants like sunflowers.

Gray mold is a type of fungal disease that can cause brownish-gray lesions on the leaves, flowers, and stems of the plant. It thrives in cool, humid conditions and can spread quickly, leading to wilting and death of the plant if not controlled.

Leaf scars are another common symptom of several plant diseases, including sunflower rust and downy mildew. These appear as sunken, brownish-black areas on the leaves, often with a yellow halo around them. Leaf scars can weaken the plant and make it more susceptible to other diseases.

Downy mildew is also a fungal disease that can cause yellow or brown patches on the leaves, often with a fuzzy, grayish-white growth on the underside of the leaves. This fungus thrives in cool, moist conditions and can spread rapidly, leading to stunted growth, yellowing of leaves, and early death of the plant if not treated early.

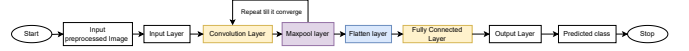


Fig. 1: CNN Architecture

We classify disease free if the leaves of a disease-free sunflower are usually green, lush, and vibrant, with a waxy coating that helps retain moisture. They are broad and heart-shaped, and can measure up to several inches in length and width. The margins of the leaves are serrated or toothed, and the veins are prominent, adding to the aesthetic appeal of the plant. Disease-free sunflower leaves are free from any discoloration, spots, or lesions that may indicate infection or damage caused by pathogens or pests. Instead, they are smooth, uniform, and healthy-looking, providing an ideal backdrop for the sunflower's bright and cheerful blooms.

#### B. Conceptual Background

Some of the key ideas and techniques employed in the suggested model are described in this section.

**Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)** are a kind of deep learning algorithms that are frequently used to analyze visual data. The convolution process is used to extract various information from the pictures. The picture is then translated into a smaller form that can be processed quickly without losing many of the image's properties. The earliest layers of a CNN are responsible for learning low-level spatial information, which often correlate to an object's borders, boundaries, or basic qualities. The deep layers also pick up on additional high-level, sophisticated data, such as complex forms and object orientations. The two basic components of a CNN are feature extraction and classification. Several convolutional and activation layers, followed by a pooling layer, are often used to extract features from an image. This step creates a feature map that is delivered to the classification section using the image's pixel values as input. In order to learn low/mid/high level characteristics from the picture, such as edges, patterns, and textures, convolutional layers are made up of filters that are applied to the layer's input. A mathematical tensor with the dimensions as in can be used to represent a picture as in 1.

$$\dim(\text{image}) = (n_h, n_w, n_c) \quad (1)$$

Where  $n_h$  is the size of the height,  $n_w$  is the size of the width, and  $n_c$  is the number of channels. By conducting the convolutional operation of multiplying the filter values by the window on which they sit, a filter is a tensor that typically has an odd dimension and is applied to the input in a sliding-window fashion.

**ResNet-152** is a popular convolutional neural network design called ResNet-152 is used to classify images, including in the setting of classifying sunflower diseases. With 152 layers, the model can learn more and more intricate and abstract characteristics as it analyzes the incoming picture. Prior to training on the novel sunflower dataset, the ResNet152 model was trained on the ImageNet dataset. The images in this dataset should be of high quality and clarity in order to

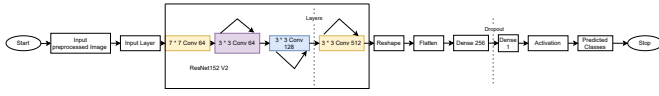


Fig. 2: Resnet Architecture

guarantee precise classification and that the algorithm can learn to identify the various diseases that affect sunflowers. During training, the model's weights and biases are changed in order to reduce the loss function, which calculates the discrepancy between expected outputs and real labels. The network's layers analyze the incoming picture, and the result is a probability distribution over all potential classifications. **VGG16** is a pre-trained transfer learning model that is mostly used to classify a large number of data sets. VGG16 also known as Very Deep Convolutional Networks. The performance of a ConvNet Model can be improved by increasing the depth of the layers. VGG16 takes a fixed input (224, 224) size and in the preprocessing stage it only subtracts the mean value of RGB.

**InceptionV3** which consists of several levels of convolutional and pooling operations, followed by several completely linked layers, and is the third iteration of the Convolution Neural Network created by Google. "Inception modules," a method used by the InceptionV3 framework, are created to record characteristics at various scales and resolutions. The modules are made up of concurrent convolutional layers with various filter widths and a pooling layer to lessen the output's dimensionality. After being combined, the outputs of these parallel routes are then transmitted to the following tier. This method enhances the model's capacity to categorize complicated images by enabling it to record characteristics at various degrees of abstraction and resolution. The ImageNet Database is used to teach InceptionV3. For this model, the suggested initial picture size is (299, 299, 3).

#### IV. METHODOLOGY

In this section, we discuss our methodology of CNN classification for sunflower disease detection. We begin this section by introducing our methods. Subsequently, the proposed classification is being performed into three sub-phase, that is image processing, training phrase and evaluation phrase.

##### A. Data processing

The dataset was split into an 80% training split and a 20% test split in order to facilitate training and evaluation of the model. 20% of the training samples were taken to create a validation split from the training subgroup. To teach the model the intricate aspects of the photos, the training subset is used. The validation subset, in contrast, is maintained apart from the training subset. Information is fed to the model after each epoch and the model's performance is assessed in order to track how well it is doing. When the training is complete, the model's performance on data that it has never seen before is evaluated using the test subset. The dataset was expanded using a mix of the horizontal flip, rotation, shearing, and zooming procedures to prevent over-fitting.

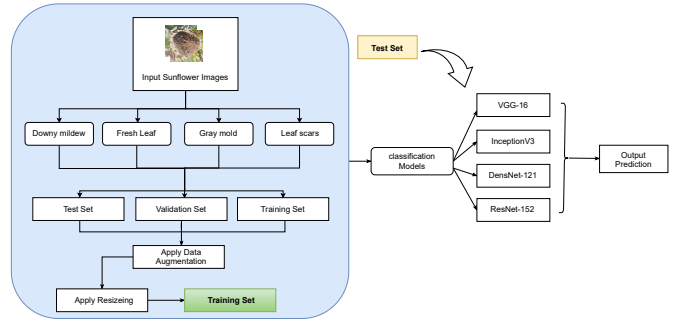


Fig. 3: System Architecture of the proposed CNN

##### B. Training Phase

The architecture of the CNN used in the experiment can be demonstrated as in 3.

##### C. Evaluation Phase

#### V. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

In this section, we evaluate our proposed method and compare its performance with other CNN models.

##### A. Simulation Environment

##### B. Performance Metrics

##### C. Simulation Result

##### 1) Impacts of varying :

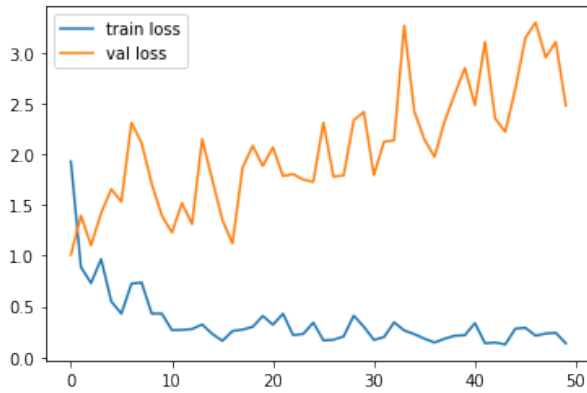
#### VI. CONCLUSION

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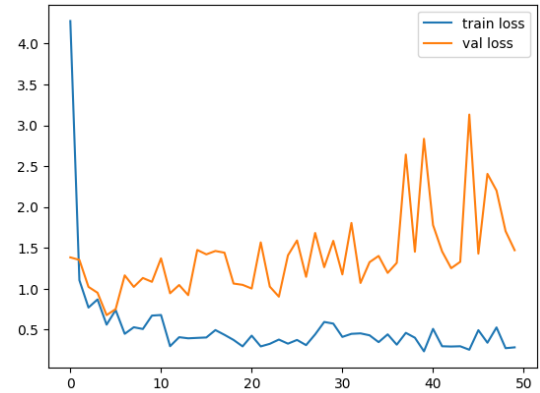
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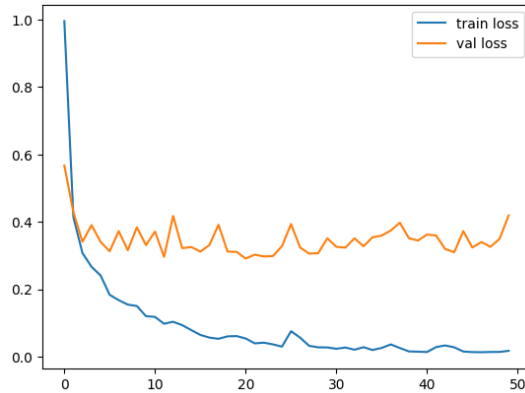
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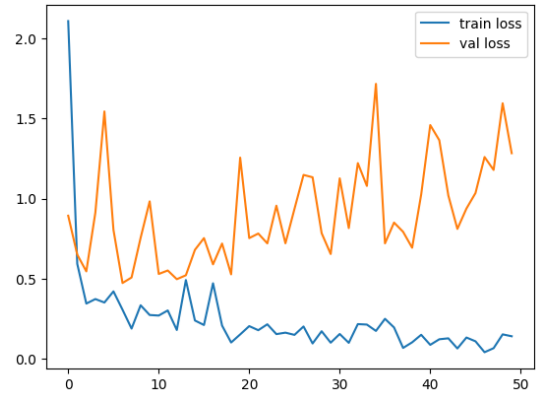
(a) ResNet-152



(b) InceptionV3

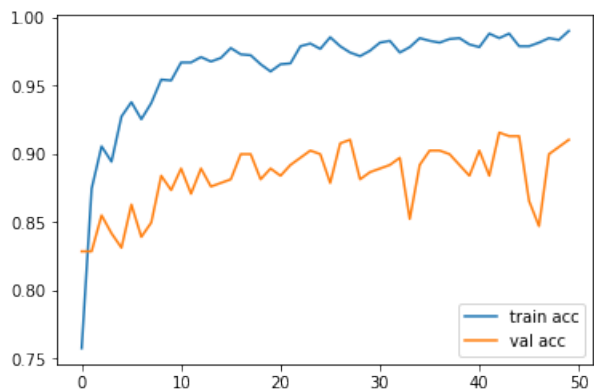


(c) VGG-16

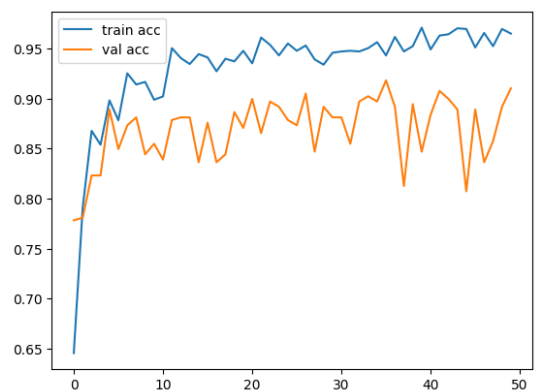


(d) DensNet-121

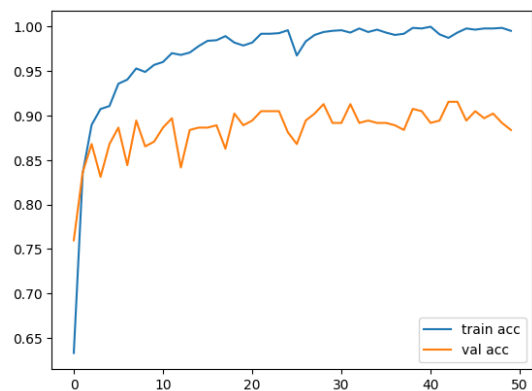
Fig. 4: Loss curves of varying CNN models



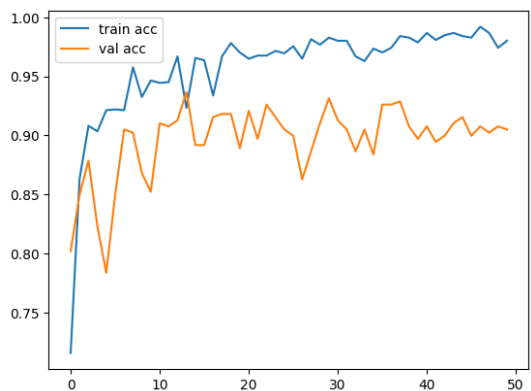
(a) ResNet-152



(b) InceptionV3



(c) VGG-166



(d) DensNet-121

Fig. 5: Accuracy curves of varying CNN models