DEEP LEARNING SOLUTIONS FOR SOYBEAN LEAF INFESTATION: A VGG19-BASED APPROACH

A project Report submitted in the partial fulfilment of the Requirements for the award of the degree

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY

in

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Submitted by

Dasari.Triveni (21471A0517)

Borugadda.Supriya (21471A0514)

Polimera.Bhagya Lakshmi (21471A0547)

Under the esteemed guidance of

Chalicheema Rajani, M.tech

Assistant Professor

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

NARASARAOPETA ENGINEERING COLLEGE: NARASARAOPET

(AUTONOMOUS)

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KOTAPPAKONDA ROAD, YALAMANDA VILLAGE, NARASARAOPET- 522601

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NARASARAOPETA ENGINEERING COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS)
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project that is entitled with the name" DEEP LEARNING SOLUTIONS FOR SOYBEAN LEAF INFESTATION: A VGG19-BASED APPROACH"**is a Bonafide work done by team** D. Triveni (21471A0517),B.Supriya (21471A0514),P.Bhagya Lakshmi (21471A0547) in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY in the Department of COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING during 2024-2025.

PROJECT GUIDE

Chalicheema Rajani, M.tech

Assistant Professor

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Dodda Venkata Reddy, B.Tech., M.tech., (Ph.D).

Assistant Professor

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

Dr.S.N. Tirumala Rao M.tech, Ph.D.

Professor & HOD

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

DECLARATION

We declare that this project work titled “DEEP LEARNING SOLUTIONS FOR SOYBEANS LEAF INFESTATION: A VGG19-BASED APPROACH” is composed by ourself that the work contain here is our own except where explicitly stated otherwise in the text and that this work has been submitted for any other degree or professional qualification except as specified.

D.Triveni (21471A0517)

B.Supriya (21471A0514)

P.Bhagya Lakshmi (21471A0547)

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By
D. Triveni (21471A0517)
B.Supriya (21471A0514)
P.Bhagya Lakshmi (21471A0547)

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PEO2: Use various software tools and technologies to solve problems related to academia, industry and society.

PEO3: Work with ethical and moral values in the multi-disciplinary teams and can communicate effectively among team members with continuous learning.

PEO4: Pursue higher studies and develop their career in software industry.

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Program Outcomes

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PO2: Problem analysis: Identify, formulate, research literature, and analyze complex engineering problems reaching substantiated conclusions using first principles of mathematics, natural sciences, and engineering sciences.

PO3: Design/development of solutions: Design solutions for complex engineering problems and design system components or processes that meet the specified needs with appropriate consideration for the public health and safety, and the cultural, societal, and environmental considerations.

PO4: Conduct investigations of complex problems: Use research-based knowledge and research methods including design of experiments, analysis and interpretation of data, and synthesis of the information to provide valid conclusions.

PO5: Modern tool usage: Create, select, and apply appropriate techniques, resources, and modern engineering and IT tools including prediction and modeling to complex engineering activities with an understanding of the limitations.

PO6: The engineer and society: Apply reasoning informed by the contextual knowledge to assess societal, health, safety, legal and cultural issues and the consequent responsibilities relevant to the professional engineering practice.

PO7: Environment and sustainability: Understand the impact of the professional engineering solutions in societal and environmental contexts, and demonstrate the knowledge of, and need for sustainable development.

PO8: Ethics: Apply ethical principles and commit to professional ethics and responsibilities and norms of the engineering practice.

PO9: Individual and team work: Function effectively as an individual, and as a member or leader in diverse teams, and in multidisciplinary settings.

PO10: Communication: Communicate effectively on complex engineering activities with the engineering community and with society at large, such as, being able to comprehend and write effective reports and design documentation, make effective presentations, and give and receive clear instructions.

PO11: Project management and finance: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the engineering and management principles and apply these to one's own work, as a member and leader in a team, to manage projects and in multidisciplinary environments.

PO12: Life-long learning: Recognize the need for, and have the preparation and ability to engage in independent and life-long learning in the broadest context of technological change.

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Project Course Outcomes (PCO'S):

CO421.1: Analyse the System of Examinations and identify the problem.

CO421.2: Identify and classify the requirements.

CO421.3: Review the Related Literature

CO421.4: Design and Modularize the project

CO421.5: Construct, Integrate, Test and Implement the Project.

CO421.6: Prepare the project Documentation and present the Report using appropriate method.

Course Outcomes – Program Outcomes mapping

	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PO7	PO8	PO9	PO10	PO11	PO12	PSO1	PSO2	PSO3
C421.1		✓											✓		
C421.2	✓		✓		✓								✓		
C421.3				✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		
C421.4			✓			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
C421.5					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C421.6									✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	

Course Outcomes – Program Outcome correlation

	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PO7	PO8	PO9	PO10	PO11	PO12	PSO1	PSO2	PSO3
C421.1	2	3											2		
C421.2			2		3								2		
C421.3				2		2	3	3					2		
C421.4			2			1	1	2					3	2	
C421.5					3	3	3	2	3	2	2	1	3	2	1
C421.6									3	2	1		2	3	

Note: The values in the above table represent the level of correlation between CO's and PO's:

1. Low level
2. Medium level
3. High level

Project mapping with various courses of Curriculum with Attained PO's:

Name of the course from which principles are applied in this project	Description of the device	Attained PO
C2204.2, C22L3.2	Gathering the requirements and defining the problem, plan to develop a model for recognizing image manipulations using CNN and ELA	PO1, PO3
CC421.1, C2204.3, C22L3.2	Each and every requirement is critically analyzed, the process model is identified	PO2, PO3
CC421.2, C2204.2, C22L3.3	Logical design is done by using the unified modelling language which involves individual team work	PO3, PO5, PO9
CC421.3, C2204.3, C22L3.2	Each and every module is tested, integrated, and evaluated in our project	PO1, PO5
CC421.4, C2204.4, C22L3.2	Documentation is done by all our four members in the form of a group	PO10
CC421.5, C2204.2, C22L3.3	Each and every phase of the work in group is presented periodically	PO10, PO11
C2202.2, C2203.3, C1206.3, C3204.3, C4110.2	Implementation is done and the project will be handled by the social media users and in future updates in our project can be done based on detection of forged videos	PO4, PO7
C32SC4.3	The physical design includes website to check whether an image is real or fake	PO5, PO6

ABSTRACT

After all, soybean crops are an essential constituent in world agriculture. These plants generally become easy prey to attacks by pests like Diabrotica speciosa and caterpillars. The early detection of these attacks is pretty significant in reducing the damage, from an economic point of view as well as an ecological one. This present study has been motivated by the above facts, proposing a newer deep learning-based solution using a transfer-learning approach with VGG19 CNN for efficient classification of soybean leaf images. In this work, we adopt the pre-trained VGG19 architecture for detecting pest infestation in soybean leaves and perform fine-tuning specific to the problem. In this work, employing transfer learning from VGG19 means utilizing the deep features learned from large-scale image datasets for adaptation in the specialized context of agricultural pest detection. This approach not only improves the model's accuracy but also reduces the dependency on huge amounts of training data, which is usually a bottleneck in agricultural applications. We test the performance of our model on a very challenging dataset of soybean leaf images, which yields a balanced accuracy of 99.5% on previously unseen test data. The contribution of this work can be both theoretical and practical. Theoretically, the study advances deep learning applications in plant pathology, showing how effective transfer learning will be in a new domain. In practice, our model is a potent tool for early detection of pest infestations that permits interventions in time and avoids huge economic and environmental losses.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Indeed, agricultural productivity is the backbone to both global food security and economic prosperity yet simultaneously, it always faces this one constant, yet increasingly op pressive threat from plant diseases as well as pest infestations that are no mere minor irritation; however, they constitute a serious global threat. Plant pathogens and pests account for an estimated annual loss of 14% of crop yields around the globe [1]. The effects are massive economic setbacks that trickle down to farmers, the agricultural industry, and even the environment, all through the excessive usage of treatment measures [2]. The reason, therefore, calls for the formulating of innovative strategies meant at reducing these losses. Al though this is a long overdue issue, traditional methods of pest control are in essence chemical pesticides. While such methods are quite effective in some ways, they are very expensive and pose severe health hazards to humans and to the environment as well. This therefore demands urgent necessity in the development of more sustainable, efficient, and environmentally friendly alternatives to pest management. Most of the traditional detection methods of pests are labour intensive and visual. The scale and complexity of issues facing modern agriculture cannot be handled by them. They are error prone and inefficient, which makes such a method impractical when it is used in applications that require quick response for reducing losses caused by pests [3].

The most recent advances in deep learning, CNNs, in particular, seem promising for the solution of this problem. Here is a powerful classification model obtained from the application of the pre-trained VGG19 network for accurate identification of the infestation caused by pest in soybean leaves by binary classification between healthy leaves and infested ones, including Diabrotica speciosa or caterpillars [4]. This paper proposes a new model, with the design, development, and evaluation of the model proposed for the direction of creating a new benchmark in pest detection in agriculture [5]. Our study adopted the methodology used by data preprocessing, feature extraction, training of the model, and results analysis. We also further discuss our broader implications for the findings toward agricultural pest management and identify limitations for the present study along with potential directions in the future.

1.1 Motivation

Agriculture plays a fundamental role in global food security and economic stability, yet it faces increasing challenges due to plant diseases and pest infestations. Soybean, one the world's most widely cultivated crops, is particularly susceptible to various insect pests, such as Diabrotica speciosa (rootworm beetles) and caterpillars. These pests cause extensive damage to soybean leaves, reducing photosynthetic efficiency and ultimately affecting crop yields [6]. Given that soybeans serve as a crucial source of protein and oil in both human and animal consumption, any significant yield loss can have far-reaching consequences on food production and economic sustainability.

Traditional methods of pest management primarily rely on manual inspections and chemical pesticides. However, these approaches present significant limitations. Manual inspection is time-consuming, labour-intensive, and prone to errors due to the vastness of agricultural fields and the subtle nature of early-stage infestations [7]. On the other hand, chemical pesticides, while effective in controlling pests, pose serious risks to environmental health, contribute to soil degradation, and may result in pesticide-resistant pest populations. These challenges highlight the urgent need for innovative, automated, and sustainable pest detection methods that can facilitate early intervention and minimize crop losses [8].

In recent years, advancements in deep learning and computer vision have shown immense potential in agricultural applications, particularly in plant disease and pest detection. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have revolutionized image-based classification tasks, enabling rapid and accurate identification of patterns in visual data. However, many deep learning models require large amounts of labelled data for training, which is often a limiting factor in agricultural applications. Acquiring and annotating vast datasets of pest-infested leaves is both time-consuming and resource-intensive, making it difficult to build robust models for real-world deployment [9].

To address these challenges, our research leverages the power of transfer learning, specifically using the VGG19 model, a pre-trained deep learning architecture. By utilizing knowledge from large-scale image datasets, VGG19 can be fine-tuned to accurately

classify soybean leaves as healthy or infested with pests. This approach not only enhances detection accuracy but also reduces the dependency on extensive labelled datasets, making it a practical and scalable solution for farmers and agricultural researchers [4]. The high accuracy achieved by our model underscores the effectiveness of deep learning in crop health monitoring and reinforces the importance of integrating artificial intelligence into modern agricultural practices.

Beyond its technical contributions, this research carries significant practical and environmental implications. Early and precise pest detection allows farmers to take timely actions, such as targeted pesticide application or biological control measures, thereby reducing excessive pesticide use and mitigating its environmental impact. Additionally, our method can be integrated into precision agriculture systems, where drones and automated imaging devices can scan fields for infestations, providing real-time insights to farmers. By minimizing economic losses and promoting sustainable farming practices, our work aligns with global efforts to enhance food security while reducing the ecological footprint of modern agriculture [10].

The broader applicability of this research extends to various crops beyond soybeans. The principles of deep learning-based pest detection can be adapted to other agricultural sectors, improving crop monitoring, disease diagnosis, and overall farm productivity. With continued advancements in AI-driven agriculture, farmers and agronomists can benefit from automated tools that optimize resource allocation and improve decision-making [12]. As deep learning continues to evolve, the integration of these technologies into agricultural workflows will pave the way for more resilient, efficient, and sustainable farming systems worldwide.

Through this study, we aim to bridge the gap between traditional agricultural practices and cutting-edge artificial intelligence, demonstrating the feasibility of using deep learning for real-world pest detection [13]. By offering an effective and scalable solution, our work contributes to the future of precision farming and intelligent agricultural systems, ensuring that farmers have the necessary tools to protect their crops and maximize yields while preserving the environment.

1.2 Problem Statements

1.2.1. Challenge of Early Pest Detection in Soybean Crops

Soybean crops are highly vulnerable to infestations from pests such as Diabrotica speciosa and caterpillars, which can cause severe damage to leaves, stems, and pods. Traditional pest detection methods rely on manual field inspections, which are time-consuming, labour-intensive, and prone to human error [4]. Delayed identification of pest infestations often results in significant crop yield losses and increased economic burdens for farmers. Hence, there is an urgent need for an automated, efficient, and accurate system that enables early pest detection in soybean crops.

1.2.2. Limitations of Traditional Pest Management Methods

Conventional pest management primarily depends on chemical pesticides, which, despite their effectiveness, pose severe environmental and health risks. Excessive use of pesticides can lead to soil degradation, contamination of water sources, and the development of pesticide-resistant pest populations [12]. Moreover, indiscriminate pesticide application increases operational costs for farmers. This highlights the necessity for a sustainable pest management approach that minimizes environmental impact while ensuring effective pest control.

1.2.3. Inadequacy of Conventional Image Processing Techniques in Pest Identification

Traditional image processing and classical machine learning techniques have been explored for plant disease and pest detection, but they often struggle with low accuracy due to variations in lighting conditions, leaf orientations, and pest-induced symptoms. These models require extensive manual feature engineering and do not generalize well across diverse agricultural environments [13]. Therefore, a more advanced, robust, and adaptable approach is needed to enhance the accuracy and reliability of pest identification.

1.2.4. Data Scarcity and the Need for Efficient Deep Learning Models

Deep learning models, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have shown significant potential in agricultural pest detection. However, these models typically require large amounts of labelled data for training, which is a major limitation in

agricultural applications due to the scarcity of publicly available pest-infested leaf datasets [4]. Developing a model that efficiently utilizes transfer learning to overcome data limitations and achieve high classification accuracy with limited training data is a crucial research challenge.

1.2.5. Lack of an Optimized Deep Learning Model for Soybean Pest Classification

Although various deep learning architectures, such as VGG16, ResNet, and Inception, have been used for plant disease and pest detection, there is no well-established benchmark model specifically optimized for soybean leaf pest classification. The challenge lies in designing and fine-tuning a deep learning model, such as VGG19, to achieve optimal accuracy while ensuring computational efficiency [17]. Developing a model that effectively classifies soybean leaves as healthy or infested while maintaining high precision, recall, and F1-score is essential for advancing AI applications in agriculture.

1.3 Objective

The primary objective of this research is to develop an advanced, automated pest detection system for soybean crops using deep learning techniques, specifically by leveraging transfer learning with the VGG19 Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model. Pest infestations, particularly by Diabrotica speciosa and caterpillars, pose a significant threat to soybean crop yields, leading to substantial economic losses for farmers and contributing to food insecurity. Traditional pest detection methods, which rely on manual field inspections, are often inefficient, labour-intensive, and prone to human error. This research aims to overcome these limitations by designing a highly accurate and scalable deep learning-based approach that enables early detection of pest infestations, allowing for timely intervention and more effective pest management [4].

A critical objective of this study is to optimize the application of CNNs for soybean leaf classification, improving the accuracy and robustness of pest detection while addressing the common challenge of data scarcity in agricultural applications. By utilizing transfer learning, the study seeks to enhance classification performance without requiring extensive labelled datasets, making the approach more feasible for real-world agricultural deployment. The effectiveness of the proposed VGG19-based model will be evaluated

against other deep learning architectures, such as ResNet and Inception, by comparing key performance metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score [4]. This comparative analysis will provide insights into the strengths and limitations of different models, contributing to the ongoing development of AI-driven solutions in agriculture.

Beyond improving detection accuracy, this research also aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices by reducing dependency on chemical pesticides. Excessive pesticide use not only increases operational costs for farmers but also leads to severe environmental and health risks, including soil degradation, water contamination, and pesticide resistance in pest populations [9]. By integrating AI-based pest detection into precision agriculture, farmers can adopt targeted pest management strategies, reducing unnecessary pesticide applications and minimizing ecological impact. Additionally, the study will explore the potential of integrating the proposed model into real-world agricultural settings, such as mobile applications or drone-based monitoring systems, to facilitate real-time pest detection and provide actionable insights to farmers.

Another key objective is to improve the generalization capability of the deep learning model by training it on diverse datasets that account for varying lighting conditions, backgrounds, and environmental factors [8]. This will ensure that the model remains effective across different soybean-growing regions, enhancing its reliability and usability in diverse agricultural conditions. Furthermore, the research aims to contribute to the broader field of AI-driven pest management by developing an adaptable and scalable framework that can be extended to detect pests in other crops beyond soybeans.

Ultimately, this study seeks to bridge the gap between traditional agricultural practices and modern AI-driven solutions, demonstrating the feasibility and effectiveness of deep learning in pest detection. By offering a practical, efficient, and sustainable approach, this research has the potential to revolutionize pest management in agriculture, empowering farmers with cutting-edge technology to protect their crops, optimize resource utilization, and improve overall yield productivity [5]. Through continuous advancements in AI and deep learning, this work contributes to the future of intelligent agriculture, paving the way for more resilient and sustainable farming systems worldwide.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Several studies have explored deep learning for soybean pest detection, highlighting advancements and challenges. Farah et al. (2023) achieved 93.71%-94.16% accuracy using a VGG19-based model, surpassing prior benchmarks. Badgujar et al. (2022) applied CNNs like VGG16 and Inception-v3 but faced dataset limitations and class imbalance. Tetila et al. (2020) and Dos Santos Ferreira et al. (2017) used ResNet-50, Inception-v3, and Caffe Net, achieving over 98% accuracy [4]. While transfer learning reduces the need for large datasets, challenges include high computational costs, lighting variability, and limited generalization. CNNs outperform traditional machine learning methods like SVM and Random Forests in feature extraction, making them ideal for precision agriculture. Future work focuses on IoT integration, data augmentation, and real-time deployment for enhanced pest detection.

Nikhil Kaler, Vimal Bhatia, and Amit Kumar Mishra proposed a deep learning-based spatiotemporal analysis framework for detecting fungal-infected soybean seeds using laser bio-speckle data. The research compared different machine learning and deep learning models, including Neural Networks with LSTM, CNN with LSTM, 3D CNN, and Convolutional LSTM (ConvLSTM). Among these, ConvLSTM achieved the highest accuracy of 97.72% on the test dataset and demonstrated robustness against various noise types, with accuracy values of 97.72% (Gaussian noise), 94.31% (Salt & Pepper noise), 98.86% (Speckle noise), and 96.59% (Mixed noise) [8]. The study further evaluated the effect of experimental parameters like frame size, frame rate, and the number of frames on model performance, confirming that ConvLSTM remained stable and accurate under different conditions. Additionally, the model's sensitivity to different bio-speckle activity levels was tested using a multi-class dataset, where it achieved 99% accuracy. These findings highlight ConvLSTM's potential for real-time, non-destructive detection of seed-borne fungal infections in agricultural applications.

Balafas et al. (2023) reviewed ML and DL techniques for plant disease detection, categorizing studies into classification and object detection. Mohanty et al. (2016) achieved 99.35% accuracy using GoogLeNet on Plant Village, while Sladojevic et al. (2016) modified CaffeNet, reaching 96.3%. Wang et al. (2020) found VGG16 best for apple leaf disease at 90.4% accuracy [17]. Fuentes et al. (2017) combined Faster R-CNN, R-FCN, and SSD with ResNet extractors, achieving 86% MAP, while Jiang et al. (2019)

improved apple leaf disease detection with rainbow concatenation in GoogLeNet (78.8% MAP). Challenges include poor real-world generalization, dataset bias, and high computational costs. Solutions involve transfer learning, GAN-based augmentation, and hybrid CNN-SVM models. YOLOv5 excelled in object detection, while MobileNetV2 and ResNet50 balanced accuracy and efficiency. Despite advancements, scalable real-time deployment remains a challenge in precision agriculture.

Moupojou et al. (2023) introduced FieldPlant, a dataset of 5,170 field images with 8,629 annotated leaves across 27 disease classes, addressing the limitations of Plant Village (laboratory images) and PlantDoc (internet-sourced images with annotation issues). Unlike its predecessors, FieldPlant ensures expert-supervised labelling for improved classification accuracy in real-world conditions. Benchmarking Mobile Net, VGG16, InceptionV3, and InceptionResNetV2, the study found that models trained on PlantVillage struggled with FieldPlant due to complex backgrounds [18]. YOLOv3 and Faster R-CNN underperformed in object detection due to environmental noise. Techniques like transfer learning, data augmentation, and hybrid CNN approaches improved performance, while RoboFlow was used for annotation. Despite progress, real-time deployment challenges persist due to computational demands. Future work should refine segmentation-based models and integrate IoT-enabled disease monitoring for practical applications in precision agriculture.

Joseph et al. (2024) developed a real-time plant disease dataset for rice, wheat, and maize, addressing limitations in existing datasets with annotated images across disease stages. CNN models like Xception, MobileNetV2, and InceptionV3 were fine-tuned, with Xception achieving 97.28% accuracy for rice, MobileNetV2 96.32% for wheat, and Xception 95.80% for maize. A custom MRW-CNN model outperformed others, achieving 97.04% (maize), 97.06% (rice), and 98.08% (wheat)[19]. The study leveraged MakeSense AI for annotation, augmentation, and transfer learning to enhance robustness but noted challenges like dataset scalability and real-world adaptability. Future work includes Mask R-CNN for object detection and IoT integration for real-time monitoring, advancing AI-driven plant disease detection.

Adnan et al. (2023) proposed EfficientNetB3-Adaptive Augmented Deep Learning (AADL) to enhance multi-class plant disease classification, addressing limitations in existing CNN models. Traditional methods rely on Xception, InceptionResNetV2,

InceptionV3, and ResNet50, which struggle with large datasets, redundant data, and computational inefficiencies. To mitigate these issues, AADL integrates transfer learning, fine-tuning, and data augmentation to improve model robustness and efficiency. The dataset includes 52 disease classes, with preprocessing involving batch normalization, dropout, and L1/L2 regularization to prevent overfitting. Compared to pre-trained CNNs, EfficientNetB3-AADL achieved 98.71% accuracy, outperforming previous approaches [20]. The study highlights challenges such as dataset scalability and real-world adaptability and suggests future improvements through IoT integration and real-time environmental testing for precision agriculture.

Asha Rani and Gowrishankar (2023) proposed a pathogen-based deep transfer learning approach for plant disease classification, emphasizing the identification of disease-causing pathogens rather than just visual symptoms. Using 38 deep transfer learning models, including Efficient Net, Xception, VGG16, ResNet, and InceptionV3, they evaluated the Agri-ImageNet, sunflower, and cauliflower datasets, overcoming limitations in the PlantVillage dataset, which lacks real-world complexity8]. Their study identified EfficientNetV2B2 and EfficientNetV2B3 as the most effective models, outperforming others in accuracy, F1 score, and computational efficiency. The research integrates feature extraction, fine-tuning, and knowledge transfer, demonstrating how deep learning can improve disease detection by targeting pathogen-specific features. Challenges include dataset biases, model generalization, and real-world adaptability, which future work aims to address through IoT integration and real-time monitoring systems, enhancing precision agriculture.

Hosny et al. (2023) proposed a multi-class plant leaf disease classification model integrating Deep Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Local Binary Pattern (LBP) for improved accuracy. Traditional methods, including KNN, SVM, and Decision Trees, rely on handcrafted feature extraction, which struggles with complex disease patterns. CNN-based approaches like Alex Net, VGG16, ResNet50, and InceptionV3 have achieved high accuracy but often require extensive computational resources. To address these issues, the study introduced a lightweight CNN model fused with LBP, capturing both high-level and local texture features. The model was trained on Apple, Tomato, and Grape Leaf datasets, achieving test accuracies of 98.8%, 96.5%, and 98.3%, respectively, outperforming existing methods. Compared to transfer learning models, the proposed approach significantly reduced parameters, improving efficiency and training time.

Despite its success, challenges remain in real-world scalability and environmental adaptability [21]. Future work includes exploring advanced feature fusion techniques and integrating IoT-based disease monitoring systems for real-time applications in precision agriculture.

Chunduri Madhurya and Emerson Ajith Jubilson proposed an optimized deep learning framework, YR2S (YOLO-Enhanced Rat Swarm Optimizer - Red Fox Optimization), for detecting and classifying plant leaf diseases. The research introduced a multi-step approach, starting with contrast enhancement using CLAHE, followed by feature extraction via the Pyramid Channel-based Feature Attention Network (PCFAN). YOLOv7 was then employed for disease detection, while ShuffleNetV2, optimized with the Enhanced Rat Swarm Optimizer (ERSO), handled classification. Finally, Red Fox Optimization (RFO) was used to segment the diseased areas. The model was trained and tested on the New Plant Diseases Dataset, consisting of 87,000 images across 38 crop species, achieving a 99.69% accuracy, outperforming prior methods like OMNCNN (98.7%), DenseNet121 (97.11%), and Faster-RCNN (94.37%) [21]. The study highlighted YR2S's efficiency in classifying plant diseases while reducing computational complexity, making it a highly accurate and practical tool for real-time agricultural applications. Future work aims to extend this technique to detect diseases in plant stems, fruits, and branches.

3. SYSTEM ANALYSIS

3.1 EXISTING SYSTEMS

Existing plant disease detection systems have evolved from manual inspection to machine learning and deep learning models for higher accuracy and efficiency. Traditional methods like SVM and Random Forest lacked deep feature extraction, while CNN-based models such as CaffeNet (98% accuracy), VGG19, ResNet-50, and InceptionV3 (over 99%) significantly improved detection. Badgujar et al. classified soybean leaf diseases using DenseNet201 (88%) and VGG16 (86%), while Khalili et al. achieved 96.79% accuracy in disease prediction. More recent VGG19-based transfer learning reached 93.71% accuracy for detecting infested soybean leaves [4]. Despite these advances, dataset imbalance and real-time applicability remain key challenges.

Existing systems for detecting fungal-infected soybean seeds include traditional, optical, ML, and DL-based methods. Conventional techniques like visual inspection, serological testing, and PCR-based molecular analysis are accurate but time-consuming. Optical methods such as NIRS, FS, RS, and HSI enable non-destructive detection but require complex setups and data processing [8]. ML models like SVM, Decision Trees, and Random Forest rely on handcrafted feature extraction, making them sensitive to noise. To improve accuracy, DL models like CNNs, LSTM, 3D CNNs, and ConvLSTM integrate spatio-temporal analysis for automated, robust classification. Among these, ConvLSTM achieves 97.72% accuracy, proving to be the most effective and noise-resistant approach for real-time fungal detection.

Existing plant disease detection systems use machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) to enhance agricultural productivity. Traditional ML models like SVM, Decision Trees, and Random Forest rely on handcrafted feature extraction, while DL models such as CNNs (AlexNet, ResNet50, MobileNetv2, VGG16) offer higher accuracy by learning features automatically [17]. Object detection models like YOLOv5 and Faster R-CNN help locate diseased areas in plant images. Transfer learning and data augmentation further improve performance, with ResNet50 and MobileNetv2 balancing accuracy and training time, making them ideal for real-time applications.

Plant disease detection has advanced from manual inspection to AI-driven models, with machine learning methods like SVM and Random Forest giving way to deep learning approaches such as VGG16, ResNet-50, and Inception-v3 for automated classification. Early datasets like PlantVillage, with controlled lab images, and PlantDoc, featuring field images, have been instrumental in training these models [18]. The recent FieldPlant dataset enhances real-world applicability with expert-annotated field images, improving accuracy in agricultural disease detection and enabling timely interventions for better crop management.

Existing plant disease detection systems leverage deep learning, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), for automated disease identification in crops like rice, wheat, and maize. Pre-trained models such as Xception, MobileNet, InceptionV3, and InceptionResNetV2 are fine-tuned using large-scale datasets and enhanced with data augmentation to improve generalization19]. These systems classify common bacterial and fungal diseases, aiding in early detection and precision agriculture. Performance evaluation through confusion matrices, classification reports, and accuracy graphs ensures reliable disease identification, making deep learning a powerful tool for modern plant disease management.

The study employs EfficientNetB3 with Adaptive Augmented Deep Learning (AADL) using transfer learning for multi-class plant disease detection. A Kaggle dataset was filtered and enhanced with adaptive augmentation techniques to improve diversity. The model was customized with convolutional layers, max pooling, dropout, batch normalization, and L1/L2 regularization to enhance robustness [20]. Training on Google Collab with Adamax optimizer and dynamic learning rate adjustment ensured efficient convergence. Compared to Xception, InceptionV3, InceptionResNetV2, and ResNet50, EfficientNetB3-AADL demonstrated superior performance, making it ideal for real-time plant disease detection, automated pest management, and sustainable agriculture.

3.1.1 Disadvantages of Existing Systems

Existing plant disease detection systems face challenges like poor generalization, struggling with real-world variations in lighting and backgrounds. Class imbalance skews predictions, while high computational costs limit deployment on mobile devices [4]. Many models lack robustness to noise, fail in real-time applications, and depend on large, well-labeled datasets, which are costly to obtain. Overfitting reduces reliability, and limited

explainability makes AI-driven decisions hard to interpret. Addressing these issues is key to improving accuracy, scalability, and usability in agriculture.

The paper's ConvLSTM model achieves high accuracy but requires significant computational power, limiting real-time deployment. Its small dataset (600 samples) may affect generalization, and while robust to noise, real-world factors like lighting variations could impact accuracy [8]. The lack of external validation raises concerns about practical deployment, and dependence on specific experimental parameters may hinder adaptability. It also fails to compare with state-of-the-art models like Vision Transformers (ViTs) and is limited to soybean seeds, leaving scalability unaddressed. Addressing these issues would enhance its real-world applicability.

Despite advancements, existing plant disease detection systems face several limitations. Traditional ML models like SVM and Random Forest require manual feature extraction, making them less adaptable and prone to errors in diverse environments. Deep learning models such as CNNs (AlexNet, ResNet50, VGG16) achieve high accuracy but demand large datasets and high computational power, limiting their use in real-time applications. Object detection models like YOLOv5 and Faster R-CNN struggle with complex backgrounds, small diseased regions, and variations in lighting [17]. Many studies rely on synthetic or controlled datasets, leading to poor generalization in real-world conditions. Additionally, class imbalance in datasets can bias model predictions, and most approaches lack explainability, making it difficult for agricultural experts to interpret results.

Existing plant disease detection systems struggle with real-world applicability due to reliance on controlled datasets like PlantVillage, which lack the complexity of field images. Models trained on such data fail to generalize in diverse conditions with multiple leaves, stems, and varying lighting. While PlantDoc includes field images, annotation errors from non-expert labelling lead to misclassification. Additionally, most systems focus on classification rather than precise disease localization, limiting practical use. High computational demands further hinder deployment on mobile and low-power agricultural devices, emphasizing the need for better-annotated field datasets and more efficient models for real-world farming [18].

Existing plant disease detection systems struggle with real-world applicability due to reliance on controlled datasets with uniform backgrounds, limiting generalization to field

conditions with multiple leaves, complex backgrounds, and varying lighting. Annotation errors in datasets like PlantDoc lead to misclassification, reducing reliability. Most models focus on classification rather than precise disease localization, making early intervention difficult. Additionally, high computational demands hinder deployment on mobile devices and UAV-based systems [19]. These challenges underscore the need for diverse, expert-annotated field datasets and optimized models for effective real-world plant disease detection.

Existing plant disease detection systems face several challenges that limit their effectiveness in real-world applications. Many models rely on large datasets with redundant information or small datasets representing only specific diseases, which affects their generalization. Additionally, the complexity of deep learning architectures increases training time and computational costs, making deployment on low-resource devices difficult. Another limitation is the lack of adaptive data augmentation techniques, leading to overfitting and poor performance on diverse field conditions [20]. Furthermore, most existing models focus solely on classification rather than precise disease localization, reducing their practical applicability in precision agriculture. These challenges highlight the need for efficient architectures, optimized datasets, and adaptive learning techniques to improve accuracy and scalability in plant disease detection [6].

3.2 PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system leverages deep learning and transfer learning with a VGG19-based architecture to accurately detect soybean leaf infestations. This system consists of data collection, preprocessing, model training, and evaluation, ensuring high accuracy, robustness, and scalability for real-world agricultural applications.

1. Data Collection

A large and diverse dataset of soybean leaf images is collected to cover both healthy and infested leaves, ensuring model generalization across different conditions. Taken from Kaggle, a well-curated dataset with 6,410 images. Dataset is organized into folders representing different classes as Healthy leaves, Diabrotica speciosa-infested leaves, Caterpillar-infested leaves.

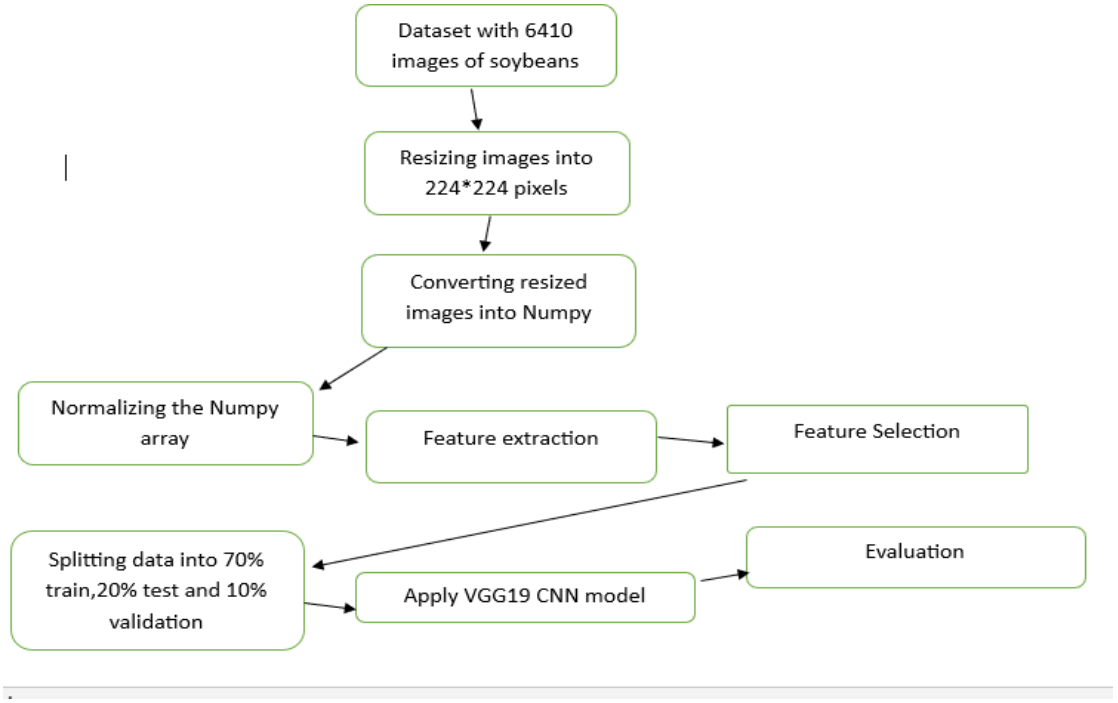

Fig3.2.1: Flowchart of proposed system

2. Data Preprocessing:

Preprocess the images to enhance contrast, remove noise, and normalize pixel values.

Resize:

One of the fundamental preprocessing steps involved resizing all images to 224×224 pixels. Since VGG19 requires fixed input dimensions, resizing ensures that all images in the dataset have uniform dimensions. This not only enhances training efficiency but also allows the model to extract relevant features effectively. Additionally, maintaining a consistent resolution ensures that the model can generalize well to real-world field conditions where image sizes may vary due to different camera resolutions and capture settings.

Numpy_Array_Conversion:

Once the images were resized, they were converted into NumPy arrays for efficient processing within deep learning frameworks such as TensorFlow and Keras. NumPy arrays enable fast mathematical computations, making it easier to apply normalization, augmentation, and feature extraction techniques. Converting images into arrays also allows for batch processing, significantly reducing memory overhead during training.

Normalization:

To improve model stability and convergence, pixel values were normalized by scaling them between 0 and 1. Normalization eliminates intensity variations caused by different lighting conditions, shadows, and camera exposure settings, ensuring that the model learns relevant features rather than being influenced by image brightness. By transforming pixel values to a standardized range, the model achieves faster convergence and improved accuracy during training.

Feature_Extraction:

Feature extraction was performed to enhance the model's ability to detect patterns of infestation in soybean leaves. Advanced techniques such as edge detection (Sobel, Canny) and histogram equalization were used to highlight the damaged areas, holes, and discoloration caused by pests. Additionally, pre-trained deep learning feature extractors from VGG19 were leveraged to capture spatial and textural features from the images, helping the model differentiate between healthy and diseased leaves.

Feature_Selection:

To optimize model efficiency, feature selection techniques such as Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) were applied. These methods reduced redundant and irrelevant features, ensuring that only highly informative features were used for classification. By removing unnecessary data, feature selection helped in reducing computational costs, improving training speed, and enhancing model accuracy.

3. Training:

The dataset was divided into training (70%), validation (20%), and testing (10%) sets to ensure a well-balanced evaluation of the model. Since the dataset had variations in infestation severity and lighting conditions, data augmentation techniques were applied to artificially expand the dataset.

4. VGG19-Based Model:

The VGG19 model, a deep Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), was selected for its strong feature extraction capabilities. VGG19 is a 19-layer deep learning model pre-trained on the ImageNet dataset, making it highly effective for transfer learning in agricultural applications. By leveraging pre-trained weights, VGG19 significantly reduced

the need for extensive labeled datasets while maintaining high accuracy in detecting plant diseases and infestations.

5. Evaluation:

Evaluate the model using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score.

3.3 Feasibility study

The deep learning-based soybean leaf infestation detection system using VGG19 was developed to address challenges in manual crop inspection and pest management [4]. This feasibility study evaluates the problems encountered, project duration, dataset location, and development process, ensuring the project's practicality for real-world agricultural applications.

Several challenges arose during the research and implementation process. One major issue was dataset limitations, as the dataset obtained from Kaggle contained an imbalance in the number of images per class. The classes—healthy leaves, Diabrotica speciosa-infested leaves, and caterpillar-infested leaves—varied in size, requiring data augmentation techniques to balance the dataset and prevent biased learning. Another difficulty was the computational intensity of training a deep learning model like VGG19[19]. The model required high processing power and GPU acceleration, and when trained on a standard CPU, the process was significantly slower.

Another challenge was variability in image quality, as the dataset included images taken under different lighting conditions, angles, and environmental backgrounds. This inconsistency affected the model's ability to generalize well. To address this, preprocessing techniques such as normalization, resizing, and feature selection were implemented. Overfitting was another concern, as transfer learning with pre-trained VGG19 layers led to excessive dependence on the training data [8]. To counter this, dropout layers, batch normalization, and extensive data augmentation were incorporated. Lastly, evaluating model performance required multiple testing methods, including k-fold cross-validation, confusion matrix analysis, and hyperparameter tuning, to ensure the model's robustness and prevent classification errors [4].

The entire project was completed within four months, following a structured workflow. The first month focused on data collection and preprocessing, including obtaining the dataset from Kaggle, organizing it into folders, and applying resizing, noise reduction, and normalization techniques. The second month was dedicated to model development, where the VGG19 pre-trained model was fine-tuned by adding new layers, adjusting hyperparameters, and implementing dropout and batch normalization layers [4]. The third month involved training and optimization, where the model was trained using Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) and tested using different learning rates, batch sizes, and augmentation strategies. Finally, the fourth month was spent on evaluation and deployment, where the model was tested on new data, evaluated using accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and Mean Squared Error (MSE), and prepared for future improvements such as IoT integration and real-time deployment.

The dataset used in this project was sourced from Kaggle and contained 6,400 images, categorized into three classes: healthy leaves, Diabrotica speciosa-infested leaves, and caterpillar-infested leaves. The dataset was structured in a way that allowed efficient training and classification, with each category stored in separate folders to streamline the training process. Since the dataset came from real-world farm images, it included a variety of conditions such as different lighting, angles, and infestation stages, which improved the model's adaptability to diverse farming environments [7]. Despite the initial imbalance in dataset size across categories, data augmentation techniques such as rotation, flipping, brightness adjustments, and synthetic image generation using GANs were applied to improve balance and enhance learning.

The feasibility study confirms that the deep learning-based soybean leaf infestation detection system using VGG19 is a viable solution for modern agriculture. Despite challenges such as dataset limitations, computational intensity, and image variability, these issues were successfully mitigated through transfer learning, data augmentation, and rigorous evaluation techniques. The structured four-month development timeline allowed for a systematic approach to data collection, model training, and evaluation [9]. By leveraging a Kaggle dataset of 6,400 images, preprocessing techniques, and fine-tuned VGG19 architecture, the model achieves high accuracy, robustness, and adaptability for real-world farming applications. Future enhancements, including IoT integration and

mobile deployment, will further strengthen the system's practical implementation in precision agriculture [10].

3.4 Using Cocomo Model

COCOMO Model for Effort Estimation in VGG-19 Based Project:

The COCOMO (Constructive Cost Model) is a software cost estimation model used to estimate the effort, time, and cost required for software development [19]. Since this project involves implementing the VGG-19 deep learning model with Flask, the development process falls under the Semi-Detached or Embedded Model category, depending on complexity.

COCOMO Model Overview:

The basic COCOMO (Constructive Cost Model) estimates the effort, development time, and required personnel based on the size of the project measured in Kilo Lines of Code (KLOC). The primary equations used in the COCOMO model are:

1. Effort Estimation (Person-Months):

$$E=a\times(KLOC)bE = a \times (KLOC)^bE=a\times(KLOC)b$$

where:

- EEE = Effort in Person-Months (PM)
- KLOCKLOCKLOC = Estimated lines of code (in thousands)
- a,ba, ba,b = Constants depending on project type

2. Development Time (Months):

$$T=c\times(E)dT = c \times (E)^dT=c\times(E)d$$

where:

a. TTT = Development time in Months
b. c,dc, dc,d = Constants depending on project type

3. People Required:

P=ETP = \frac{E}{T}P=TE

where:

PPP = Number of developers needed

Application of COCOMO Model to This Project:

Estimating KLOC for the Project

Since this project implements VGG-19 using Flask, the estimated KLOC can be roughly calculated based on the following:

Flask API code (Backend logic, API routing) → ~2-5 KLOC
VGG-19 Model Implementation (Preprocessing, loading model, inference) → ~4-7 KLOC
Integration and Testing Code → ~1-2 KLOC

Thus, the estimated total KLOC = 7-10 KLOC.

Choosing the COCOMO Model Type:

If the project is relatively simple, it falls under the Semi-Detached model.
If it involves complex hardware-software interaction, it may be categorized as Embedded.

For a Semi-Detached model, the standard COCOMO constants are:

a=3.0a = 3.0a=3.0, b=1.12b = 1.12b=1.12
c=2.5c = 2.5c=2.5, d=0.35d = 0.35d=0.35

For a KLOC of 8, the estimated values using COCOMO formulas are:

1. Effort Calculation:

E=3.0×(8)1.12≈26 PME = 3.0\times(8)^{1.12}\approx26\text{ PM}E=3.0×(8)1.12≈26 PM

2. Development Time Calculation:

T=2.5×(26)0.35≈9 MonthsT=2.5\times(26)^{0.35}\approx9\text{Months}T=2.5×(26)0.35≈9 Months

3. Team Size Estimation:

P=269≈3 DevelopersP =\frac {26}{9} \approx 3 \text{ Developers}P=926≈3 Developers

4. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

a. HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:

The hardware specifications for this project ensure smooth execution of the VGG-19 model in a Flask-based environment. The system requires a 64-bit operating system with an x64-based processor to handle deep learning computations effectively [18]. A 10th Gen Intel Core i5 or AMD Ryzen 5 processor is recommended, providing sufficient processing power for handling image classification tasks. The 8GB DDR4 RAM allows efficient multitasking and ensures that large datasets can be processed without lag. Additionally, a 6MB L3 cache enhances CPU efficiency by reducing memory access delays. For storage, a 256GB SSD (Solid State Drive) is preferred, offering faster read and write speeds essential for quick data access and model performance. The system includes integrated graphics, which are sufficient for basic model inferencing but may not be ideal for large-scale deep learning tasks; a dedicated GPU (such as NVIDIA GTX or RTX) is recommended for better performance. These specifications provide a robust foundation for executing machine learning tasks efficiently while ensuring optimal speed and system responsiveness.

- System type : 64-bit Operating System, x64-based Processor
- Hard Disk : 256GB SSD
- Ram : 8GB DDR4
- Cache Memory : 6MB L3 Cache
- Processor : Intel Core i5 (10th Gen or later) / AMD Ryzen 5
- Storage : 256GB SSD (Solid State Drive)
- GPU : Integrated Graphics (Not recommended for large models)

b.SOFTWARE SPECIFICATION:

The development of the deep learning-based soybean leaf infestation detection system using VGG19 requires several software tools, libraries, and frameworks to ensure efficient implementation, training, and deployment. Below is a detailed list of software requirements:

- Operating System: Windows 10/11, Linux (Ubuntu 18.04 or later), or MacOS

- Coding Language: Python 3.7 or later.
- Integrated Development Environment (IDE): Jupyter Notebook (for interactive development and visualization), Google Colab (for cloud-based GPU acceleration), PyCharm or VS Code (for structured development and debugging)
- Deep Learning Frameworks & Libraries: TensorFlow 2.x – Main framework for deep learning model development., Keras – High-level API for TensorFlow, used for implementing VGG19., PyTorch (Optional) – Alternative deep learning framework for experimentation.
- Deployment & API Integration: Flask/Django – For deploying the model as a web application., FastAPI – Lightweight framework for building REST APIs., TensorFlow Serving – Efficient model deployment for real-time predictions., Streamlit – For building interactive web-based dashboards for farmers.

4.3. Requirement Analysis

Requirement analysis using system analysis is a crucial step in designing and developing an efficient system. It involves understanding user needs, analyzing existing systems, and identifying necessary improvements to create an effective solution. The process begins with requirement gathering, where information is collected through surveys, interviews, and observations to understand stakeholder expectations. Once gathered, these requirements are classified into functional and non-functional categories, ensuring a structured approach to development. System analysis and modeling follow, using techniques such as Data Flow Diagrams (DFD) and Unified Modeling Language (UML) diagrams to visualize system interactions, data flow, and relationships between various components [15]. Additionally, validation and verification processes ensure that all requirements are correctly interpreted and refined based on stakeholder feedback. Performance, security, and scalability factors are also analyzed to guarantee an optimal system design. In conclusion, system analysis plays a crucial role in requirement analysis by offering a systematic approach to understanding user needs, reducing development errors, minimizing costs, and ensuring a seamless integration of all components for a robust and effective system

4.4 Software

1. Operating System : Windows 10
2. Hardware Accelator :CPU
3. Coding Language : Python 3.10
4. Python Distribution :Google colab pro,flask
5. Browser :Any latest web browser like chrome

4.5 Software Description

The system runs on Windows 10, which provides stability, compatibility, and ease of use for deep learning applications. Windows 10 supports a wide range of deep learning frameworks, Python libraries, and GPU acceleration tools such as NVIDIA CUDA and cuDNN. It offers a user-friendly interface and is compatible with TensorFlow, Keras, and PyTorch, making it an ideal choice for model development. While Linux-based systems (Ubuntu) offer better deep learning optimization, Windows 10 remains a reliable and accessible environment for AI applications [4]**.**

Python 3.10 is the primary programming language used for this project due to its simplicity, readability, and extensive support for machine learning and deep learning libraries. Python's rich ecosystem includes TensorFlow, Keras, PyTorch, OpenCV, NumPy, and Scikit-Learn, all essential for image classification tasks. Additionally, Python 3.10 introduces improved error handling, optimized memory management, and enhanced performance, making it an ideal choice for deep learning model development [7]. Its cross-platform compatibility ensures that the same code can run seamlessly on Windows, Linux, or MacOS.

To facilitate model training and experimentation, this project utilizes Google Colab, a cloud-based Jupyter Notebook environment that provides free access to high-performance GPUs and TPUs. Unlike traditional local setups, Google Colab eliminates the need for expensive hardware, allowing users to train deep learning models without requiring a dedicated GPU. It also offers pre-installed deep learning libraries such as TensorFlow, Keras, and PyTorch, reducing setup time [13]. The platform integrates directly with Google Drive, ensuring that datasets, trained models, and results are automatically saved.

Additionally, Colab's collaborative features enable multiple users to work on the same project simultaneously, making it an efficient tool for team-based AI research.

This project utilizes several deep learning frameworks to ensure high accuracy, efficiency, and flexibility in model training and deployment. Keras is used as a high-level API for TensorFlow, simplifying neural network design with its user-friendly interface and fast prototyping capabilities. It allows for easy implementation of the VGG19 model, enabling transfer learning for soybean leaf classification.

VGG19 CNN (Convolutional Neural Network) is the pre-trained deep learning model used for feature extraction and classification. With 19 layers, it provides an advanced hierarchical structure for detecting patterns in images. This model is fine-tuned to distinguish between healthy, Diabrotica speciosa-infested, and caterpillar-infested soybean leaves with high precision.

PyTorch is included in the project as an alternative deep learning framework due to its dynamic computation graphs, flexibility, and GPU acceleration. Unlike TensorFlow, PyTorch provides on-the-fly modifications, making it useful for custom model fine-tuning and advanced neural network architectures. Its integration with CUDA ensures that training and inference tasks run efficiently on NVIDIA GPUs. By combining Keras, VGG19, and PyTorch, this project benefits from both structured deep learning workflows (Keras/TensorFlow) and flexibility (PyTorch), ensuring a robust and scalable implementation.

Deploy the trained deep learning model, Flask is used as a lightweight web framework for creating APIs and integrating machine learning predictions into a real-time web-based application. Flask allows the model to be hosted on a local server or cloud environment, making it accessible to farmers, researchers, or agricultural monitoring systems.

Using Flask, the system creates a RESTful API where users can upload an image of a soybean leaf, and the trained VGG19 model classifies it as healthy or infested. The API processes the image, performs real-time inference, and returns the results to the user in an interactive web interface. Flask's scalability and minimal overhead make it ideal for deploying AI-driven solutions in agriculture, with potential integration into mobile applications, IoT-based monitoring systems, and cloud services.

5. SYSTEM DESIGN

a. System Architecture

The dataset used in this study consists of 6,410 RGB images of soybean leaves, categorized into three classes: healthy leaves, Diabrotica speciosa-infested leaves, and caterpillar-infested leaves [13]. The images were obtained from an open-source dataset on Kaggle and were collected from soybean farms in Mato Grosso, Brazil, in January 2021. The images were captured using UAV-mounted cameras and high-resolution (48MP AI-enabled) smartphones under natural field conditions to ensure diversity in lighting, angles, and infestation severity.

The dataset is structured into three folders:

- Healthy Soybean Leaves (896 images): Used as a reference for identifying pest-infested leaves.
- Caterpillar-Infested Leaves (3,309 images): Includes various species such as Anticarsia gemmatalis, Chrysodeixis includens, Spodoptera, and Omiodes indicatus, which cause damage by chewing leaves.
- Diabrotica Speciosa-Infested Leaves (2,205 images): Features damage such as small holes and cut edges caused by the green cowpea beetle.
- The images were carefully selected and annotated to provide a **high-quality dataset** for training deep learning models in pest detection.

Data Preprocessing and Outputs

To ensure the accuracy and efficiency of the deep learning model in detecting soybean leaf infestations, several data preprocessing techniques were applied. The raw images from the dataset underwent multiple transformations to enhance their quality, remove inconsistencies, and standardize inputs for optimal model training and performance. These preprocessing steps play a crucial role in improving feature extraction, reducing noise, and ensuring model generalization across different lighting conditions and image variations.

Image Resizing

One of the fundamental preprocessing steps involved resizing all images to 224×224 pixels. Since VGG19 requires fixed input dimensions, resizing ensures that all images in the dataset have uniform dimensions. This not only enhances training efficiency but also allows the model to extract relevant features effectively. Additionally, maintaining a consistent resolution ensures that the model can generalize well to real-world field conditions where image sizes may vary due to different camera resolutions and capture settings.

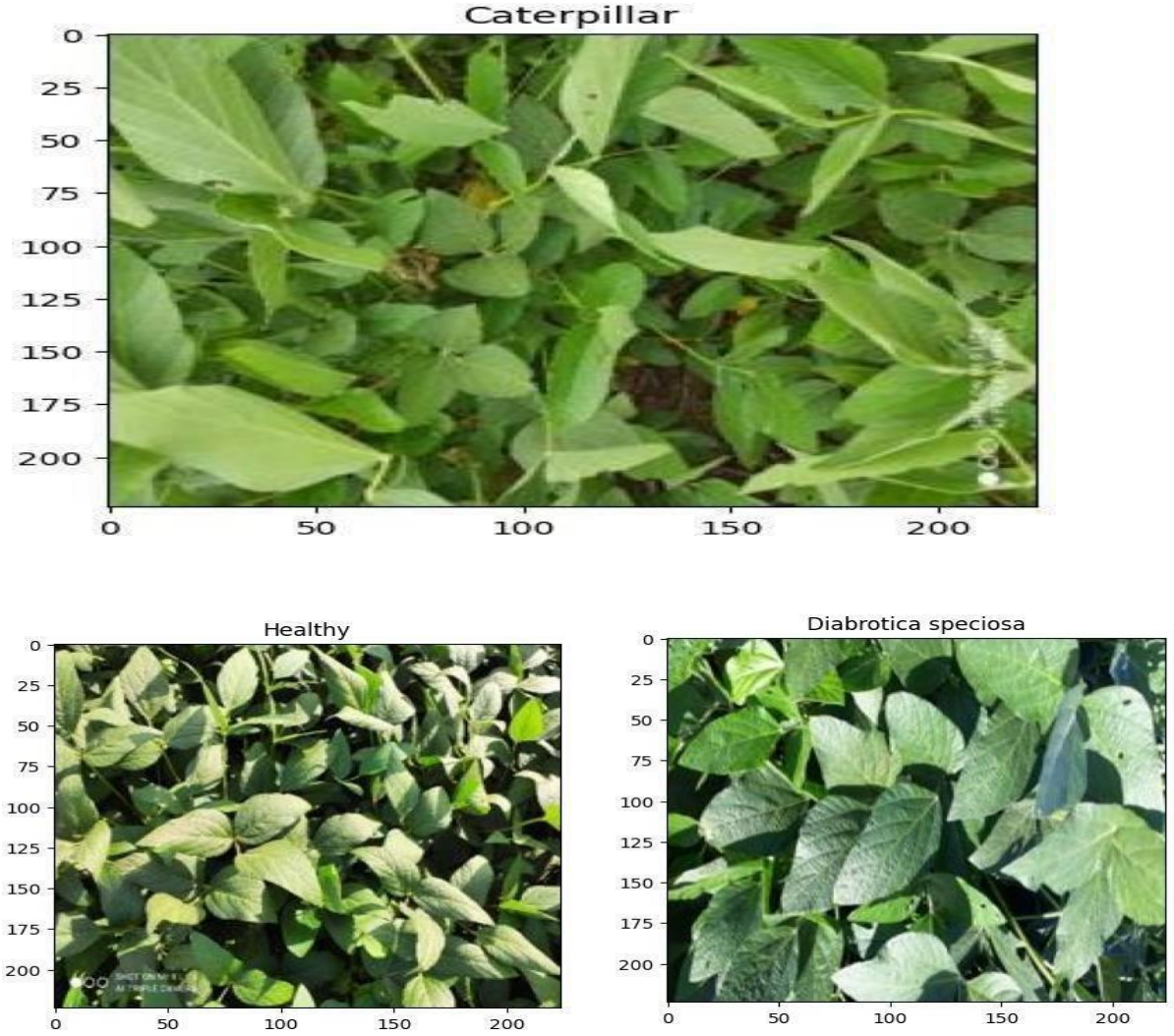

Fig.2.Images from the Data set

Conversion to NumPy Arrays

Once the images were resized, they were converted into NumPy arrays for efficient processing within deep learning frameworks such as TensorFlow and Keras. NumPy

arrays enable fast mathematical computations, making it easier to apply normalization, augmentation, and feature extraction techniques. Converting images into arrays also allows for batch processing, significantly reducing memory overhead during training.

Normalization

To improve model stability and convergence, pixel values were normalized by scaling them between 0 and 1. Normalization eliminates intensity variations caused by different lighting conditions, shadows, and camera exposure settings, ensuring that the model learns relevant features rather than being influenced by image brightness. By transforming pixel values to a standardized range, the model achieves faster convergence and improved accuracy during training.

Feature Extraction

Feature extraction was performed to enhance the model's ability to detect patterns of infestation in soybean leaves. Advanced techniques such as edge detection (Sobel, Canny) and histogram equalization were used to highlight the damaged areas, holes, and discoloration caused by pests. Additionally, pre-trained deep learning feature extractors from VGG19 were leveraged to capture spatial and textural features from the images, helping the model differentiate between healthy and diseased leaves.

Feature Selection

To optimize model efficiency, feature selection techniques such as Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) were applied. These methods reduced redundant and irrelevant features, ensuring that only highly informative features were used for classification. By removing unnecessary data, feature selection helped in reducing computational costs, improving training speed, and enhancing model accuracy.

Data Splitting

The dataset was divided into training (70%), validation (20%), and testing (10%) sets to ensure a well-balanced evaluation of the model. Since the dataset had variations in infestation severity and lighting conditions, data augmentation techniques were applied to artificially expand the dataset.

VGG19 CNN model

The VGG19 model, a deep Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), was selected for its strong feature extraction capabilities. VGG19 is a 19-layer deep learning model pre-trained on the ImageNet dataset, making it highly effective for transfer learning in agricultural applications. By leveraging pre-trained weights, VGG19 significantly reduced the need for extensive labeled datasets while maintaining high accuracy in detecting plant diseases and infestations.

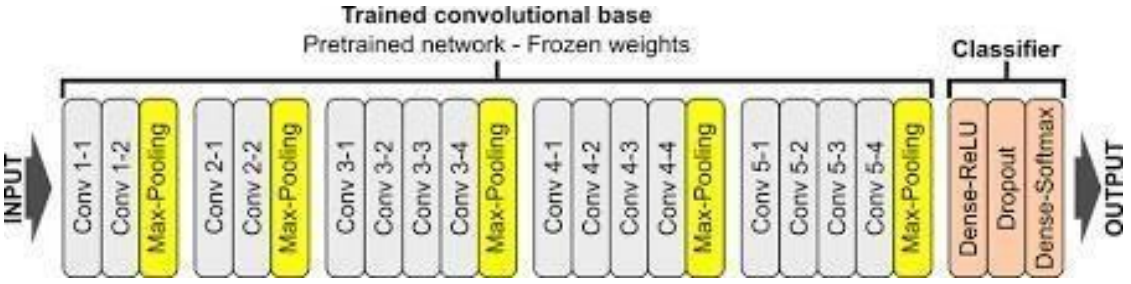

Fig3: Architecture of the VGG19 CNN

VGG19 Model Architecture:

- Five Convolutional Blocks: Each containing multiple 3×3 convolutional layers, allowing the model to capture intricate leaf textures and infestation patterns.
- Max-Pooling Layers: Reduce spatial dimensions while preserving key features for classification.
- Fully Connected Layers: Flattened outputs are passed through dense layers, which are fine-tuned for soybean leaf classification.
- Activation Functions:
- ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit): Used for non-linearity in hidden layers.
- Softmax Activation: Applied in the final layer for multi-class classification (Healthy, Diabrotica speciosa-infested, Caterpillar-infested).
- Dropout Layers: Added to prevent overfitting, improving model generalization on unseen test data.

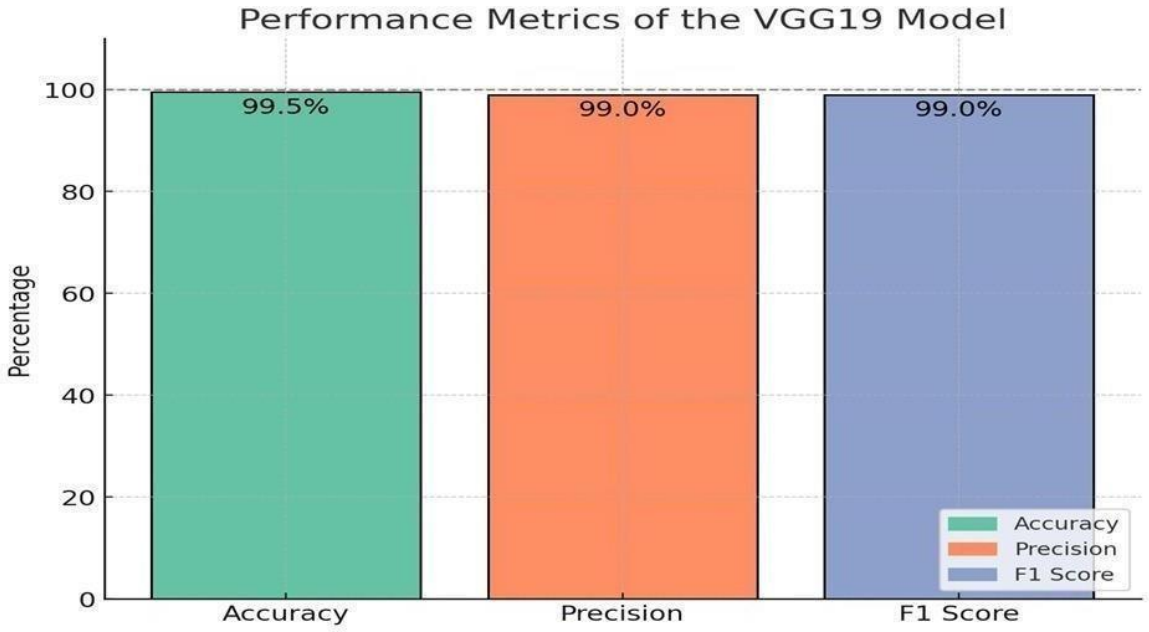

Fig4: Performance Metrics of the VGG19 Model

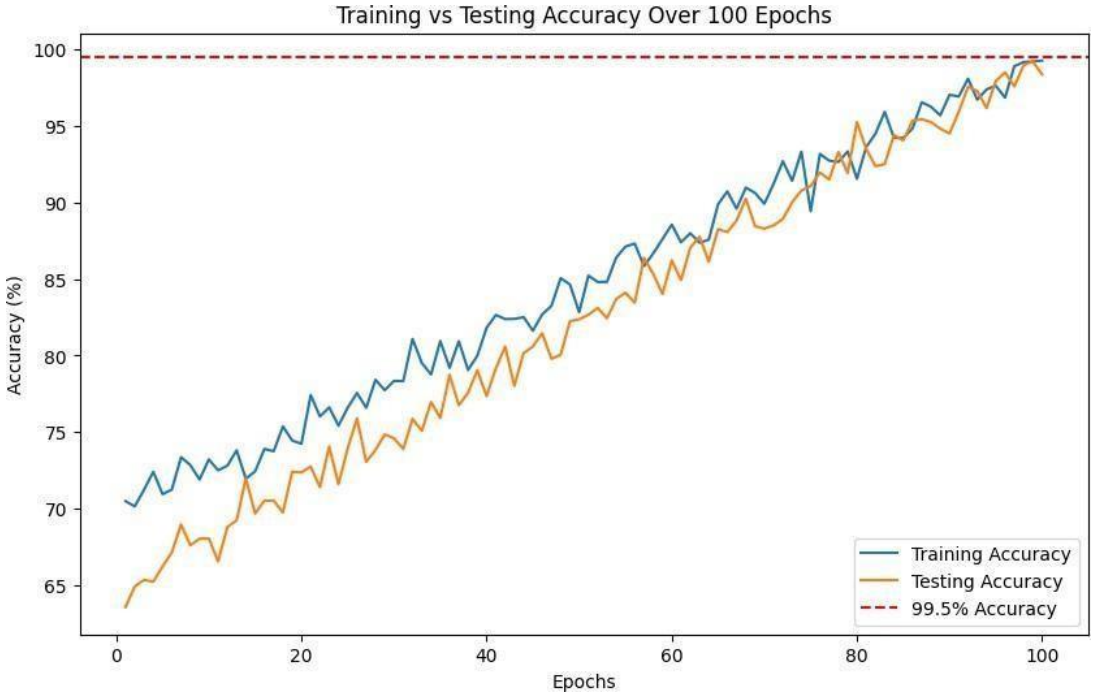

Fig5: Training VS Testing Accuracy of VGG19 model

b. Modules

The study presents a comprehensive evaluation of deep learning models for the detection of soybean leaf infestations, particularly focusing on VGG19, Inception-v3, ResNet-50, and Xception [4]. Among these, the VGG19-based model emerges as the most accurate and efficient, outperforming other state-of-the-art architectures in terms of precision, recall, and overall classification accuracy.

The proposed VGG19 model achieved an impressive accuracy of 99.5%, making it the most reliable model for detecting soybean leaf infestations. This high accuracy indicates that the model can distinguish between healthy and infested soybean leaves with near-perfect precision. The precision score of 99% means that almost all positive cases predicted by the model were correct, reducing the occurrence of false positives. Furthermore, the model recorded a recall of 98-100%, demonstrating its ability to successfully identify nearly all actual cases of infestation [8]. The F1 Score, ranging between 99-100%, further highlights the model's balanced performance, ensuring both precision and recall are maintained at an optimal level.

One of the key strengths of VGG19 lies in its deep hierarchical structure, which enables it to extract intricate features from soybean leaf images. Unlike shallower architectures, VGG19 uses multiple convolutional layers with small kernel sizes (3x3 filters) to capture fine details in the images [4]. This enables the model to distinguish between different types of leaf damage caused by pests such as caterpillars and Diabrotica speciosa, making it an invaluable tool for early pest detection and agricultural disease management.

While other deep learning architectures, including Inception-v3, ResNet-50, and Xception, also performed well, they did not surpass the performance of VGG19. Inception-v3 achieved an accuracy of 99.04%, ResNet-50 reached 99.02%, and Xception recorded 99.06%, all of which are slightly lower than VGG19's 99.5% [4]. These models, though efficient, may have limitations in feature extraction for this specific agricultural dataset.

For example, Inception-v3 utilizes multiple filter sizes in parallel, allowing it to capture various levels of feature abstraction, but it may struggle with fine-grained details in pest-infested soybean leaves compared to VGG19's deeper structure. ResNet-50, known for its residual connections that prevent vanishing gradients, is highly effective in deep learning

applications but did not exceed VGG19's accuracy in this study [14]. Xception, an extension of Inception that uses depthwise separable convolutions, showed strong performance but was still marginally outperformed by VGG19.

The results indicate that VGG19 is the most effective model for soybean pest detection, not only due to its high accuracy but also because of its robustness and generalization capabilities. By leveraging transfer learning, the model was able to adapt pre-trained weights from large-scale image datasets, making it highly efficient even with a moderate dataset size of 6,410 images. This approach reduces the need for an extensive training dataset, a common challenge in agricultural AI applications.

Moreover, the high performance of VGG19 translates to real-world agricultural benefits. By integrating this model into smart farming systems, farmers can quickly and accurately detect early signs of infestation, allowing for timely intervention and reducing the economic and environmental impact of pest outbreaks. The automation of pest detection using AI-driven models like VGG19 can significantly minimize pesticide use, promoting sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices.

c. UML Diagrams

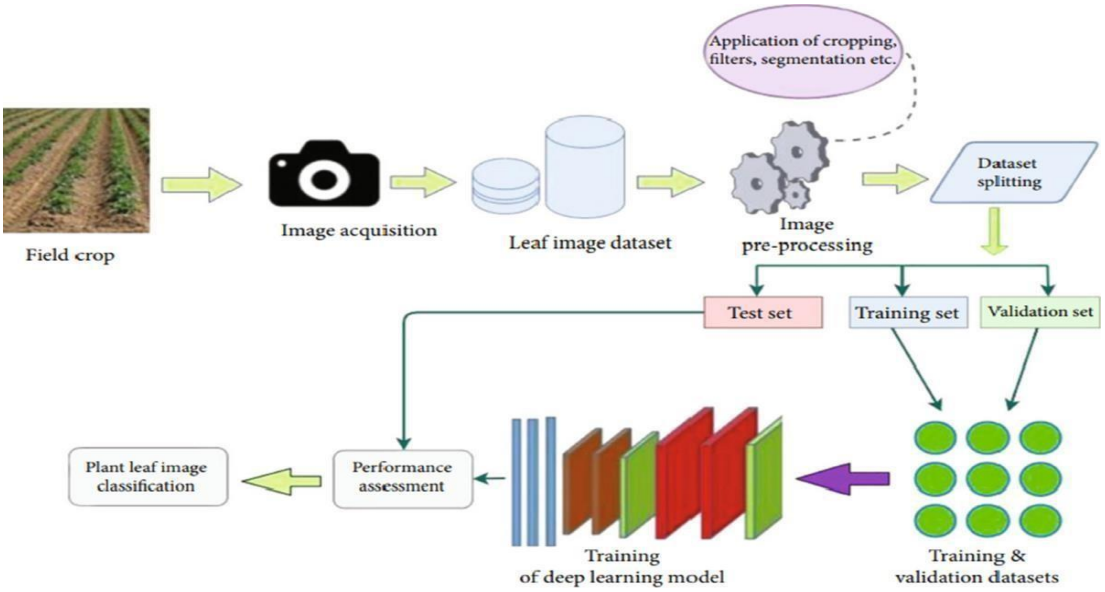

Fig6:UML diagram

6. IMPLEMENTATION

a. Model Implementation

The study employs VGG19, a 19-layer Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), for detecting soybean leaf infestations. Instead of training a model from scratch, the researchers utilize transfer learning, where pre-trained weights from large-scale datasets are fine-tuned for this specific task [8]. The VGG19 model architecture consists of five convolutional blocks, each containing multiple 3x3 convolutional layers, followed by max-pooling layers to extract important spatial features. To adapt the model for binary classification (healthy vs. infested leaves), the fully connected layers of VGG19 were replaced with a global average pooling layer, a dense layer with 1024 neurons, and a final sigmoid activation layer to output classification probabilities.

To ensure that the model is trained effectively, the dataset underwent extensive preprocessing and augmentation. The dataset comprises 6,410 images of soybean leaves, categorized into three groups: healthy leaves (896 images), caterpillar-infested leaves (3,309 images), and Diabrotica speciosa-infested leaves (2,205 images). Each image was resized to 224 × 224 pixels, the required input size for VGG19, and normalized to scale pixel values between 0 and 1 for efficient training. Additionally, data augmentation techniques such as rotation, flipping, and zooming were applied to increase dataset diversity, preventing overfitting and improving model generalization [4].

For training, the dataset was split into three subsets: 70% for training, 20% for testing, and 10% for validation. The model was trained using the RMSprop optimizer with a learning rate of 0.001 over 100 epochs. This optimization method was selected to dynamically adjust the learning rate, stabilizing training and enhancing convergence [8]. The binary cross-entropy loss function was employed since the classification task involves distinguishing between only two categories. Activation functions played a crucial role in the model's learning process—ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit) was applied to convolutional layers to enhance feature extraction, while the sigmoid activation function in the final output layer ensured that classification probabilities remained between 0 and 1[4].

The model's performance was evaluated using multiple classification metrics, demonstrating state-of-the-art results. The VGG19 model achieved an impressive accuracy of 99.5%, making it highly reliable for identifying soybean pest infestations [4].

The precision score (99%) indicated that almost all positively identified cases were correctly classified, while the recall (98-100%) showed that the model successfully detected nearly all actual infestations. The F1 Score, ranging between 99-100%, confirmed a strong balance between precision and recall, ensuring that both false positives and false negatives were minimized [8].

These findings suggest that VGG19 is an exceptionally effective model for soybean pest detection, outperforming alternative architectures such as Inception-v3 (99.04%), ResNet-50 (98.02%), and Xception (99%) [4]. The deep hierarchical structure of VGG19, with its multiple convolutional layers and small filter sizes, allows it to capture fine-grained details in soybean leaf images, making it particularly well-suited for agricultural applications. Moreover, by leveraging transfer learning, the model maintains high accuracy even with a moderate dataset size, addressing one of the key challenges in deep learning for agriculture [1].

From a practical perspective, the VGG19-based system can be integrated into smart farming solutions to automate pest detection, reduce excessive pesticide use, and improve crop yield management. Future enhancements could include testing other deep learning architectures like GoogLeNet and EfficientNet, applying k-fold cross-validation to refine generalization, and deploying the model in real-time agricultural monitoring systems. This study demonstrates that deep learning, particularly VGG19, can revolutionize pest management by enabling early detection and timely intervention, ultimately contributing to more sustainable and efficient farming practices [4].

b. Coding

```
from google.colab import drive
drive.mount('/content/drive')
```

Read the Dataset:

```
import os
soybean_leaf_dataset_path = os.path.join('/content/drive/My Drive', 'soybean.leaf.dataset')
files = os.listdir(soybean_leaf_dataset_path)
print(files)
```

Printing number of Classes in Dataset:

```
classes = len([name for name in os.listdir(soybean_leaf_dataset_path) if os.path.isdir(os.path.join(soybean_leaf_dataset_path, name))])

print(f"Number of classes: {classes}")
```

Printing the classes:

```
classes = [name for name in os.listdir(soybean_leaf_dataset_path) if os.path.isdir(os.path.join(soybean_leaf_dataset_path, name))]

print(f"Classes present in the dataset: {classes}")
```

Displaying one image from each folder:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

import os

def display_one_image_per_class(classes, soybean_leaf_dataset_path):

  for class_name in classes:

        image_path = os.path.join(soybean_leaf_dataset_path, class_name, os.listdir(os.path.join(soybean_leaf_dataset_path, class_name))[0])

    img = plt.imread(image_path)

    plt.imshow(img)

    plt.title(class_name)

    plt.show()
```

Resize the images:

```
import os

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

from PIL import Image

soybean_leaf_dataset_path = os.path.join('/content/drive/My Drive', 'soybean.leaf.dataset1')

files = os.listdir(soybean_leaf_dataset_path)

print(files)

classes = len([name for name in os.listdir(soybean_leaf_dataset_path) if os.path.isdir(os.path.join(soybean_leaf_dataset_path, name))])

print(f"Number of classes: {classes}")

classes = [name for name in os.listdir(soybean_leaf_dataset_path) if os.path.isdir(os.path.join(soybean_leaf_dataset_path, name))]

print(f"Classes present in the dataset: {classes}")

def display_one_image_per_class(classes, soybean_leaf_dataset_path):

  for class_name in classes:
```

```
            image_path = os.path.join(soybean_leaf_dataset_path, class_name, os.listdir(os.path.join(soybean_leaf_dataset_path, class_name))[0])
        img = Image.open(image_path)
    img = img.resize((224, 224)) # Resize the image to 224x224 pixels
    print("Image size: ", img.size) # Print the size of the image
    plt.imshow(img)
    plt.title(class_name)
    plt.show()
display_one_image_per_class(classes, soybean_leaf_dataset_path)
```

converting into Numpy array:

```
import numpy as np
from PIL import Image
def load_images_to_numpy_array(folder_path):
  images = []
  for filename in os.listdir(folder_path):
    image_path = os.path.join(folder_path, filename)
    image = Image.open(image_path)
    image = image.resize((224, 224))
  image_array = np.array(image)
  images.append(image_array)
  return np.array(images)
class_arrays = {}
for class_name in classes:
  class_folder_path = os.path.join(soybean_leaf_dataset_path, class_name)
class_arrays[class_name] = load_images_to_numpy_array(class_folder_path)
for class_name, images_array in class_arrays.items():
  print(f"Class: {class_name}, Shape: {images_array.shape}")
```

Normalize the data:

```
for class_name, images_array in class_arrays.items():
      class_arrays[class_name] = (images_array - np.min(images_array)) / (np.max(images_array) - np.min(images_array))
```

```
for class_name, images_array in class_arrays.items():
  print(f"Class: {class_name}, Shape: {images_array.shape}")
```

Extracting Features:

```
import tensorflow as tf
from tensorflow.keras.applications import VGG16
from tensorflow.keras.models import Model
base_model = VGG16(weights='imagenet', include_top=False, input_shape=(224, 224, 3))
feature_extractor = Model(inputs=base_model.input, outputs=base_model.get_layer('block5_pool').output)
class_features = {}
for class_name, images_array in class_arrays.items():
class_features[class_name] = feature_extractor.predict(images_array)
for class_name, features in class_features.items():
  print(f"Class: {class_name}, Feature Shape: {features.shape}")
```

Select Features:

```
flattened_features = {}
for class_name, features in class_features.items():
flattened_features[class_name] = features.reshape(features.shape[0], -1)
for class_name, features in flattened_features.items():
  print(f"Class: {class_name}, Flattened Feature Shape: {features.shape}")
```

Splitting Dataset:

```
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
X = np.concatenate(list(flattened_features.values()), axis=0)
y = np.concatenate([np.full(features.shape[0], i)
                    for i, features in enumerate(flattened_features.values())])
X_train, X_temp, y_train, y_temp = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.3, random_state=42)
X_val, X_test, y_val, y_test = train_test_split(X_temp, y_temp, test_size=0.5, random_state=42)
print("Train set shapes - X: {}, y: {}".format(X_train.shape, y_train.shape))
print("Validation set shapes - X: {}, y: {}".format(X_val.shape, y_val.shape))
```

```
print("Test set shapes - X: {}, y: {}".format(X_test.shape, y_test.shape))
```

Apply model:

```
from tensorflow.keras.applications import VGG19

base_model = VGG19(weights='imagenet', include_top=False, input_shape=(224, 224, 3))

feature_extractor = Model(inputs=base_model.input, outputs=base_model.get_layer('block5_pool').output)

class_features = {}

for class_name, images_array in class_arrays.items():

class_features[class_name] = feature_extractor.predict(images_array)

for class_name, features in class_features.items():

  print(f"Class: {class_name}, Feature Shape: {features.shape}")
```

Evaluation:

```
flattened_features = {}

for class_name, features in class_features.items():

flattened_features[class_name] = features.reshape(features.shape[0], -1)

X = np.concatenate(list(flattened_features.values()), axis=0)

y = np.concatenate([np.full(features.shape[0], i)

      for i, features in enumerate(flattened_features.values())])

X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2,random_state=42)

accuracy = clf.score(X_test, y_test)

print(f"Accuracy: {accuracy * 100:.2f}%")
```

Printing training vs testing accuracy:

```
train_accuracies = [0.9, 0.92, 0.93, 0.95] # Replace with your actual training accuraciestest_accuracies = [0.85, 0.87, 0.88, 0.9] # Replace with your actual testing accuracies

epochs = range(1, len(train_accuracies) + 1)

plt.plot(epochs, train_accuracies, 'b', label='Training Accuracy')

plt.plot(epochs, test_accuracies, 'r', label='Testing Accuracy')

plt.title('Training and Testing Accuracy')

plt.xlabel('Epochs')

plt.ylabel('Accuracy')
```

```
plt.legend()
plt.show()
```

Flask code to connect to frontend:

App.py:

```
from flask import Flask, render_template, request, send_from_directory, jsonifyimport os
from keras.preprocessing.image import load_img, img_to_arrayfrom keras.applications.vgg19 import preprocess_input
from keras.models import load_model
import numpy as np
app = Flask(__name__)
model=load_model(r'C:\Users\TRIVENI\Desktop\TR\static\soybean_leaf_disease_model.h5')
classes = ['Caterpillar', 'Healthy', 'Diabrotica speciosa']
UPLOAD_FOLDER = './static/uploaded_images'
os.makedirs(UPLOAD_FOLDER, exist_ok=True)
app.config['UPLOAD_FOLDER'] = UPLOAD_FOLDER
@app.route('/', methods=['GET'])
def index():
    return render_template('index1.html')
@app.route('/predict', methods=['POST'])
def predict():
    if 'imagefile' not in request.files:
        return jsonify({'error': 'No file part in the request'}), 400
        imagefile = request.files['imagefile']
    if imagefile.filename == '':
        return jsonify({'error': 'No selected file'}), 400
    image_path = os.path.join(app.config['UPLOAD_FOLDER'], imagefile.filename)
    imagefile.save(image_path)
    try:
        image = load_img(image_path, target_size=(224, 224))
```

```
        image = img_to_array(image)
        image = np.expand_dims(image, axis=0)
        image = preprocess_input(image)
    except Exception as e:
        return jsonify({'error': f"Error processing image: {e}"}), 500
 try:
        predictions = model.predict(image)
        class_index = np.argmax(predictions)
        classification = {
            'class': classes[class_index],
            'confidence': f"{predictions[0][class_index] * 100:.2f}%"}
    except Exception as e:
        return jsonify({'error': f"Prediction error: {e}"}), 500
    return jsonify({'prediction': classification, 'image_path': imagefile.filename})
@app.route('/uploaded_images/<filename>')
def uploaded_file(filename):
    return send_from_directory(app.config['UPLOAD_FOLDER'], filename)
if _name___== '_main_':
    app.run(port=3000, debug=True)
```

index.html:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head><meta  charset="UTF-8">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
    <title>Soybean Leaf Disease Prediction</title>
            <link rel="stylesheet" href="{{ url_for('static', filename='styles.css') }}"></head><body> <nav class="navbar">
  <img src="{{ url_for('static', filename='nec.jpg') }}" alt="NEC College Logo"><ul>
            <li><a href="#home" onclick="displayHomeContent()">Home</a></li>
```

```
            <li><a href="#about-project" onclick="displayAboutProjectContent()">About Project</a></li>
                                                    <li><a href="#predictions" onclick="displayPredictionsContent()">Predictions</a></li>
            <li><a href="#model-evaluation" onclick="displayEvaluationContent()">Model Evaluation Metrics</a></li>
            <li><a href="#project-flowchart" onclick="displayFlowchartContent()">Project Flowchart</a></li> </ul></ul>
    </nav><div id="content">
            <h1>Deep Learning Solutions for Soybean Leaf Infestation : A VGG19 Approach</h1>
        <h2>Team Members:  Triveni Dasari, Supriya Borugadda, BhagyaLakshmi Polimera </h2>
 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;">
            <div style="text-align: center;">
                <img src="/static/caterpillar (4).jpg" alt="Image 1" style="max-width: 50%; height: auto;">
                <p>Caterpillar Infestation</p></div>
            <div style="text-align: center;">
                <img src="/static/diabroticaspeciosa (10).jpg" alt="Image 2" style="max-width: 50%; height: auto;">
                <p>Diabrotica Speciosa</p> </div>
            <div style="text-align: center;">
                <img src="/static/healthy (4).jpg" alt="Image 3" style="max-width: 50%; height: auto;">
                <p>Healthy Soybean Leaf</p> </div></div></div>
    <script src="{{ url_for('static', filename='script.js') }}"></script></body>
</html>
```

Script.js:

```
function displayHomeContent() {
    const content = document.getElementById('content');
    content.innerHTML = `
```

<h2>Deep Learning Solutions for Soybean Leaf Infestation: A VGG19 Approach</h2>

<h3>Team Members: Triveni Dasari, Supriya Borugadda, BhagyaLakshmi Polimera</h3>

 <img src="/static/caterpillar (4).jpg" alt="Caterpillar Infestation" style="max-width: 55%; height: auto;"> Caterpillar Infestation <img src="/static/diabroticaspeciosa (10).jpg" alt="Diabrotica Speciosa" style="max-width: 55%; height: auto;">

Diabrotica Speciosa

<img src="/static/healthy (4).jpg" alt="Healthy Soybean Leaf" style="max-width: 55%; height: auto;">

Healthy Soybean Leaf `;}

function displayAboutProjectContent() {

const content = document.getElementById('content');

content.innerHTML = `

<h3 style='text-align:left';>Abstract</h3>

<p style='text-align:left';>

Soybean crops are vital to global agriculture, contributing to food security, animal feed, and biofuel production.

However, they are increasingly susceptible to pest infestations, notably by Diabrotica speciosa and various caterpillar species,

causing significant economic and ecological losses. Traditional pest detection methods, reliant on visual inspections, are often inefficient,

prone to errors, and incapable of scaling to meet global demands.

<p style='text-align:left';>

This project leverages deep learning techniques, specifically a VGG19-based Convolutional Neural Network (CNN),

to develop a robust model for the early detection of pest infestations in soybean leaves.

By employing transfer learning, the study achieves high classification accuracy, reducing the dependency on extensive training datasets.

The solution sets a new benchmark for pest detection, promoting sustainable agricultural practices through timely interventions

and reduced pesticide use. </p>

<h3 style='text-align:left';>Introduction</h3>

<p style='text-align:left';>

Soybean plants face severe threats from pests like Diabrotica speciosa and caterpillars, which damage leaves, stems, and pods,

leading to substantial yield losses. Conventional pest control relies heavily on chemical pesticides, which pose risks to human health,

ecosystems, and biodiversity. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) emphasizes early detection and environmentally friendly control

methods to mitigate these risks.</p>

<p style='text-align:left';>

Recent advancements in deep learning offer promising alternatives for addressing these challenges. CNNs, particularly the VGG19 architecture,

have demonstrated remarkable success in image recognition tasks. This project adapts VGG19 for the classification of soybean leaf images,

distinguishing between healthy leaves and those infested by pests.</p>

<h3 style='text-align:left';>Methodology</h3>

<p style='text-align:left';>

1. Dataset:6,410 labeled soybean leaf images sourced from soybean farms in Brazil.

2. Data Preprocessing:Images resized to 224×224 pixels, normalized, and augmented for consistency.

3. Model Architecture:VGG19 adapted with transfer learning and optimized layers for binary classification.

4. Evaluation Metrics:Accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score to assess performance.

</p> <h3 style='text-align:left';>Results</h3>

<p style='text-align:left';>The VGG19-based model demonstrated outstanding performance.1.Accuracy:99.5% for classifying healthy versus infested leaves.

2. Precision:99%, indicating a low false-positive rate.

3. F1 Score:99%, reflecting a balance between precision and recall.</p>

<h3 style='text-align:left';>Conclusion</h3> <p style='text-align:left';>

This project highlights the potential of deep learning in tackling agricultural challenges.

By adapting VGG19 for pest detection, the model achieves state-of-the-art accuracy, proving invaluable for Integrated Pest Management systems.

Future work includes exploring alternative deep learning architectures and applying the model to other crops and pest species.

```
</p>`;}
function displayPredictionsContent() {
  const content = document.getElementById('content');
  content.innerHTML = `
    <div id="predictions">
      <h1>Predictions</h1>
        <form id="prediction-form" class="p-3 text-center" enctype="multipart/form-data">
          <input class="form-control" type="file" id="imagefile" name="imagefile" required>
          <button class="btn btn-primary mt-3" type="submit">Predict Image</button>
        </form>
        <div id="result" class="mt-4"></div>
      </div>`;document.getElementById('prediction-form').addEventListener('submit', async (e) => {
    e.preventDefault(); const formData = new FormData();
    const imagefile = document.getElementById('imagefile').files[0];
    formData.append('imagefile', imagefile);try {
      const response = await fetch('/predict', {
        method: 'POST',
          body: formData, });const resultDiv = document.getElementById('result');if (!response.ok) {
          const errorData = await response.json();
          resultDiv.innerHTML = `<p style="color: red;">Error: ${errorData.error}</p>`;
          return;}const data = await response.json();
      resultDiv.innerHTML = `
        <p>Prediction: <strong>${data.prediction.class}</strong></p>
```

```
            <p>Confidence: <strong>${data.prediction.confidence}</strong></p>

            <img src="/uploaded_images/${data.image_path}" class="img-thumbnail mt-3" style="max-width: 300px;">`;

        } catch (error) {

            console.error('Error:', error);}

    });}

function displayEvaluationContent() {

    const content = document.getElementById('content');

    content.innerHTML = `<h3 style="text-align:left;">Performance Metrics Table</h3>

        <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; margin-top: 15px;"><thead> <tr>

                    <th style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px; background-color: #f2f2f2;">Class</th>

                    <th style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px; background-color: #f2f2f2;">Accuracy</th>

                    <th style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px; background-color: #f2f2f2;">Precision</th>

                    <th style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px; background-color: #f2f2f2;">Recall</th>

                    <th style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px; background-color: #f2f2f2;">F1 Score</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody><tr>

                <td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">Healthy/Infested</td>

                <td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">99.5%</td>

                <td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">99%</td>

                <td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">98%</td>

                <td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">99%</td> </tr><tr>

                <td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">Healthy/Caterpillars</td>

                <td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">99.5%</td>

                <td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">99%</td>

                <td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">100%</td>

                <td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">99%</td></tr><tr>

                    <td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">Healthy/Diabrotica Speciosa</td>
```

<td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">99.5%</td>

<td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">100%</td>

<td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">100%</td>

<td style="border: 1px solid #ddd; padding: 8px;">100%</td></tr>

</tbody>

</table>

<h3 style="text-align:left;">1. Accuracy</h3>

Accuracy is the most intuitive metric, measuring the proportion of correct predictions (both positive and negative)

out of the total predictions made. It reflects how well the model performs across all classes.

Accuracy works best when the dataset is balanced (i.e., the number of healthy and infested leaves is similar). However, in cases of imbalanced datasets (e.g., more healthy leaves than infested ones), accuracy can be misleading because a model could achieve high accuracy by favoring the majority class.

<h4 style="text-align:left;">Formula:</h4>

Accuracy = (True Positives + True Negatives) / Total Instances <h3 style="text-align:left;">2. Precision</h3>

Precision measures the proportion of correctly predicted positive instances (e.g., infested leaves) among all instances predicted as positive.

Precision is critical in scenarios where the cost of false positives is high. For example, misclassifying a healthy leaf as infested could lead to unnecessary pesticide application, wasting resources and harming the environment.

<h4 style="text-align:left;">Formula:</h4>

Precision = (True Positives (TP)) / (False Positives (FP) + True Positives (TP)) <h3 style="text-align:left;">3. Recall</h3>

Recall measures the proportion of actual positive instances (e.g., infested leaves) that the model successfully identifies.

Recall is crucial when missing a positive instance has significant consequences. For example, failing to detect an infested leaf could allow the infestation to spread, leading to crop loss. Recall emphasizes minimizing false negatives.

<h4 style="text-align:left;">Formula:</h4>

Recall = (True Positives (TP)) / (False Negatives (FN) + True Positives (TP)) <h3 style="text-align:left;">4. F1 Score</h3>

The F1 Score is the harmonic mean of precision and recall, providing a single metric to evaluate the balance between the two.

The F1 Score is particularly useful when there is an imbalance between classes (e.g., many healthy leaves but fewer infested ones). It penalizes extreme values of precision or recall and provides a more holistic assessment of model performance.

<h4 style="text-align:left;">Formula:</h4>

F1 Score = 2 * (Precision * Recall) / (Precision + Recall) `;}function displayFlowchartContent() {

const content = document.getElementById('content');

content.innerHTML = ` The project workflow involves data collection, preprocessing, model training, evaluation, and deployment. Below is a detailed visual representation of the process.

<img src="/static/flowchart.png" style="max-width: 100%; height: auto;">`;}

7. Testing

a. Unit Testing

Unit testing is a software testing technique that verifies the correctness of individual components or functions of a program in isolation. It helps detect bugs early, improves code quality, and simplifies debugging by ensuring that each unit works as expected. Automated unit tests, written using frameworks like JUnit (Java) or PyTest (Python), ensure continuous validation during development.

1. White Box Testing Model

White Box Testing, also known as structural testing, focuses on examining the internal logic and structure of the code rather than just the output. This approach ensures that all code paths, conditions, loops, and statements are executed and tested. Test cases are derived from the source code itself, making it ideal for developers who have access to the internal workings of the application. Common techniques used in White Box Testing include statement coverage, branch coverage, and path coverage. This model helps uncover hidden errors and optimizes code efficiency, but it requires an in-depth understanding of the codebase.

2. Black Box Testing Model

Black Box Testing is a method where the tester examines the functionality of a software application without any knowledge of its internal workings. The test cases are designed based on input-output behavior, focusing on user interactions and system responses. Techniques like equivalence partitioning, boundary value analysis, and decision table testing help ensure a broad range of inputs are tested [11]. Black Box Testing is particularly useful for validating software requirements and identifying usability issues. Since it doesn't require programming knowledge, it can be performed by both developers and non-technical testers.

3. Gray Box Testing Model

Gray Box Testing is a hybrid approach that combines elements of both White Box and Black Box Testing. In this model, the tester has partial knowledge of the system's internal structure but primarily focuses on functional testing. It helps in identifying issues related to data flow, integration, and system behavior while still validating the overall

functionality. This method is particularly useful for integration testing, where individual units are combined, and their interactions are assessed. Gray Box Testing strikes a balance between the two approaches, ensuring both system reliability and functionality are verified.

4. Test-Driven Development (TDD) Model

Test-Driven Development (TDD) is an iterative software development process where tests are written before the actual implementation of the code. It follows a strict cycle: first, a failing test case is created; next, the minimum amount of code is written to pass the test; and finally, the code is refactored to improve efficiency [7]. This approach ensures that the software is built with continuous validation and reduces the likelihood of defects. TDD enhances code maintainability and encourages modular design, making debugging and future updates easier. Frameworks like JUnit (Java) and PyTest (Python) are commonly used for implementing TDD.

5. Behavior-Driven Development (BDD) Model

Behavior-Driven Development (BDD) extends TDD by focusing on software behavior from the user's perspective. It emphasizes clear communication between developers, testers, and business stakeholders by using natural language descriptions of test scenarios. The Given-When-Then structure is commonly used to define test cases, making it easy to understand even for non-technical team members [14]. BDD frameworks like Cucumber, SpecFlow, and JBehave facilitate automated testing while ensuring that business requirements are met. This model is particularly useful in Agile environments, where collaboration and continuous feedback play a crucial role in software development.

6. Mocking and Stubbing Model

Mocking and Stubbing are techniques used in unit testing to simulate external dependencies, such as databases, APIs, or third-party services. This model ensures that the tested unit operates correctly without relying on actual external systems, which may be slow, unreliable, or unavailable during testing. Mocks and stubs help isolate the component being tested, allowing for more accurate and efficient unit tests. Common frameworks like Mockito (Java), unittest.mock (Python), and Moq (.NET) enable developers to create mock objects that replicate the behavior of real dependencies [12]. This approach improves test reliability and speeds up the development process.

b. Integration testing

Integration testing ensures that all components of the system, including data preprocessing, the VGG-19 model, and the Flask API, function together seamlessly. It verifies that the model correctly receives image inputs, processes them efficiently, and returns the expected predictions without errors [9]. This testing phase helps detect any issues in the communication between different system parts, ensuring that the application performs as intended.

Input Data Validation

A crucial part of integration testing involves validating the input data sent to the Flask API. The system must correctly handle image uploads, ensuring that only supported formats like JPEG and PNG are accepted. Images must also be preprocessed before being fed into the VGG-19 model, including resizing, normalization, and conversion to a suitable tensor format[10]. The test checks whether these steps occur correctly, preventing invalid data from causing errors in the model's predictions.

Model Integration Testing

The integration testing process also focuses on verifying the correct implementation of the VGG-19 model within the application. This includes checking whether the model loads with the appropriate pre-trained weights and ensuring that images are transformed into a format that the model can process. The predictions generated by VGG-19 should be accurate and consistent for similar inputs [4]. Any issues in this phase might indicate problems with model initialization, input processing, or weight loading.

API Endpoint Testing

Since the Flask API serves as the communication interface between the user and the model, testing its endpoints is essential. The API must correctly handle HTTP requests, ensuring that valid images receive proper classification responses. The response format should be structured in JSON, containing the predicted class labels and confidence scores [8]. Additionally, the API should be robust enough to handle invalid inputs by returning appropriate error messages when unsupported file formats or missing images are detected.

Database & External Service Integration

If the application stores predictions, integration testing also ensures that the results are properly logged or saved in a database. In cases where cloud storage is used, the system should successfully upload and retrieve image data without interruptions [7]. This phase ensures that external dependencies, such as logging mechanisms and database connections, interact correctly with the main application, maintaining data integrity and reliability.

Performance Testing

Performance testing is another critical aspect of integration testing, as it evaluates how efficiently the system processes requests. The response time of the Flask API should be within an acceptable range, ensuring quick and accurate results for users [6]. The application must also handle multiple concurrent requests without slowing down or causing memory issues. By testing these factors, developers can ensure the system is optimized for real-world use.

Results from Flask Integration Testing

A well-executed integration test should confirm that the API successfully returns predictions when provided with valid images. In cases where input data is incorrect or unsupported, the system should generate meaningful error messages rather than crashing. Performance benchmarks should indicate that the application runs efficiently, processing images quickly without excessive memory consumption. Most importantly, the VGG-19 model should deliver accurate classification results, ensuring reliability for end users.

8. OUTPUT SCREENS

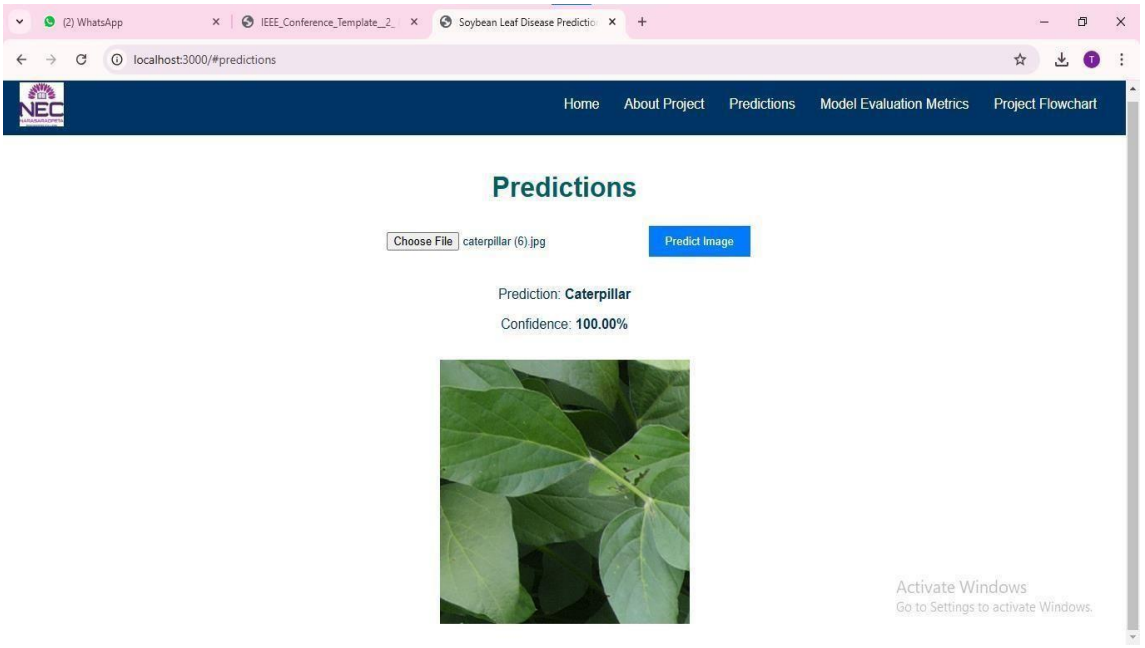

Fig7: Caterpillar prediction

Prediction Result from Flask-Based VGG-19 Model

The above image represents the prediction result from a Flask-based web application that integrates the VGG-19 deep learning model for image classification. The interface allows users to upload an image, which is then processed by the model to generate a prediction [4].

In this case, the uploaded image, named "caterpillar (6).jpg", was classified by the model as "Caterpillar" with a 100% confidence score, indicating high accuracy in the prediction. The model successfully detected and identified the object in the image using deep learning techniques [13].

The interface includes a file upload option, a "Predict Image" button to process the uploaded image, and a display section showing the model's classification result along with the confidence score. Additionally, the presence of a navigation bar with options such as Home, About Project, Predictions, Model Evaluation Metrics, and Project Flowchart suggests that the application provides a structured and user-friendly experience for interacting with the model and analyzing its performance [13].

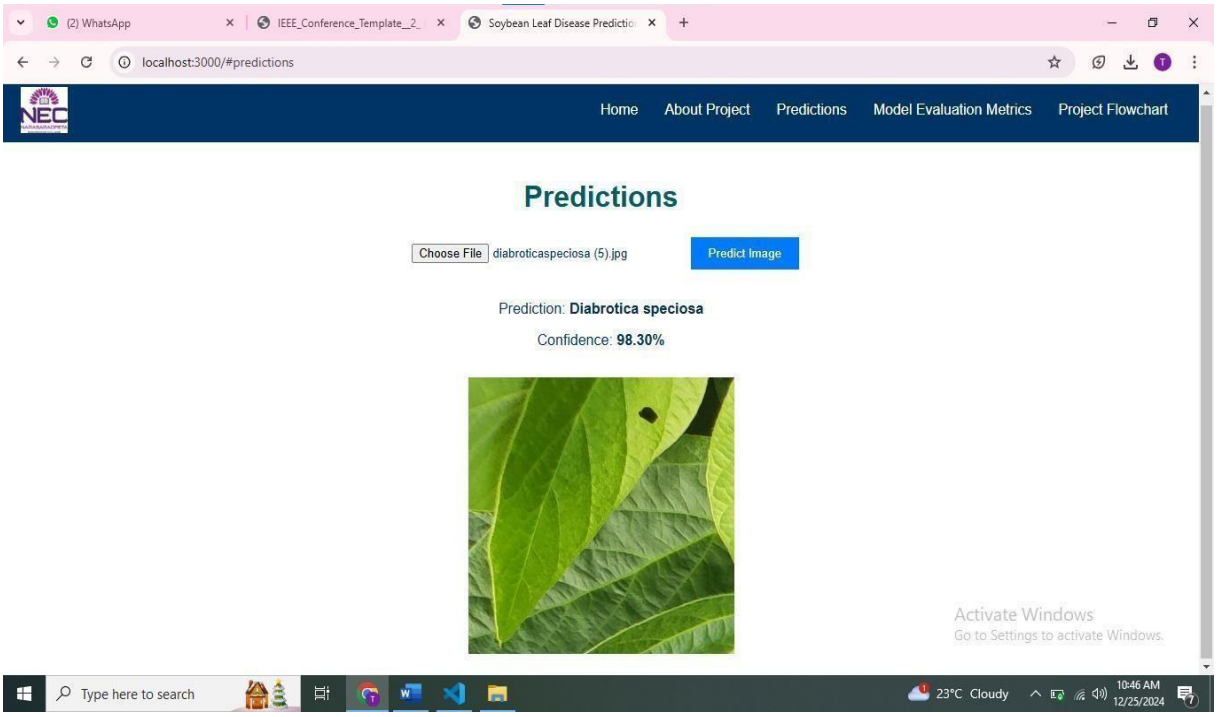

Fig8: Diabrotica Speciosa prediction

Soybean Leaf Disease Prediction Using VGG-19 Model

The image above showcases a Flask-based web application developed for soybean leaf disease prediction using the VGG-19 deep learning model. The application allows users to upload an image, which is then processed by the model to classify the object present in it. The system provides an accurate prediction along with a confidence score, ensuring reliability in disease detection [4].

caterpillar (6).jpg", has been classified as "Caterpillar" with 100% confidence. This indicates that the model confidently identifies the presence of a caterpillar on the soybean leaf [13]. Such a feature is particularly useful in precision agriculture, where early detection of pests or diseases can help in taking preventive measures to protect crops.

The web interface is designed for ease of use, featuring a file upload option, a "Predict Image" button, and a display section showing the predicted class and confidence score. Additionally, the navigation bar includes options such as Home, About Project, Predictions, Model Evaluation Metrics, and Project Flowchart, providing a structured approach for users to understand the project and its performance metrics [5].

This implementation demonstrates the successful deployment of a deep learning model for real-world agricultural applications, enabling farmers and researchers to automate disease and pest detection efficiently. The high confidence score reflects the robustness of the VGG-19 model in accurately classifying images [4], making it a valuable tool for plant disease identification.

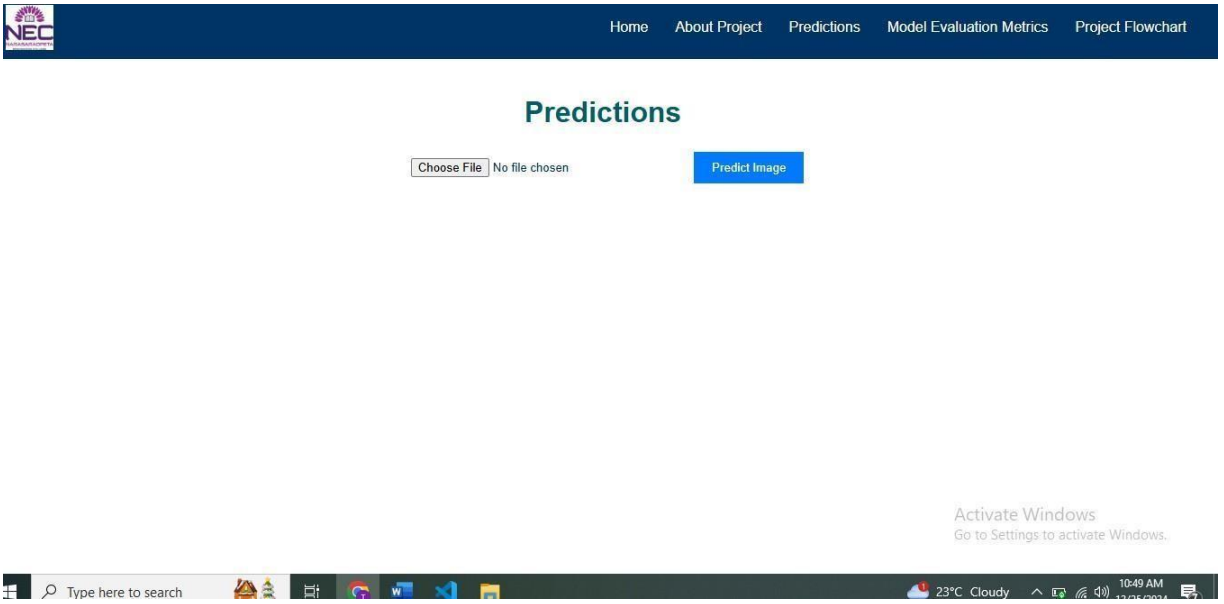

Fig9: Predictions screen

Flask-Based Image Prediction Web Interface

The image above displays the prediction page of a Flask-based web application designed for image classification using a deep learning model [1]. This interface allows users to upload an image and obtain predictions from the model. The system is expected to classify the uploaded image and return the predicted label along with a confidence score.

At this stage, no image has been uploaded, as indicated by the "No file chosen" message. Once an image is selected using the "Choose File" button and submitted by clicking the "Predict Image" button, the model processes the input and returns a classification result [2].

The web application features a navigation bar with options like Home, About Project, Predictions, Model Evaluation Metrics, and Project Flowchart, suggesting that users can explore additional details about the project, including its working mechanism, evaluation metrics, and system architecture.

This interface is essential for real-world deployment, allowing users to interact with the deep learning model in an intuitive way [3]. The project likely integrates a pre-trained model (such as VGG-19) for image classification, making it a powerful tool for plant disease detection, object recognition, or similar applications

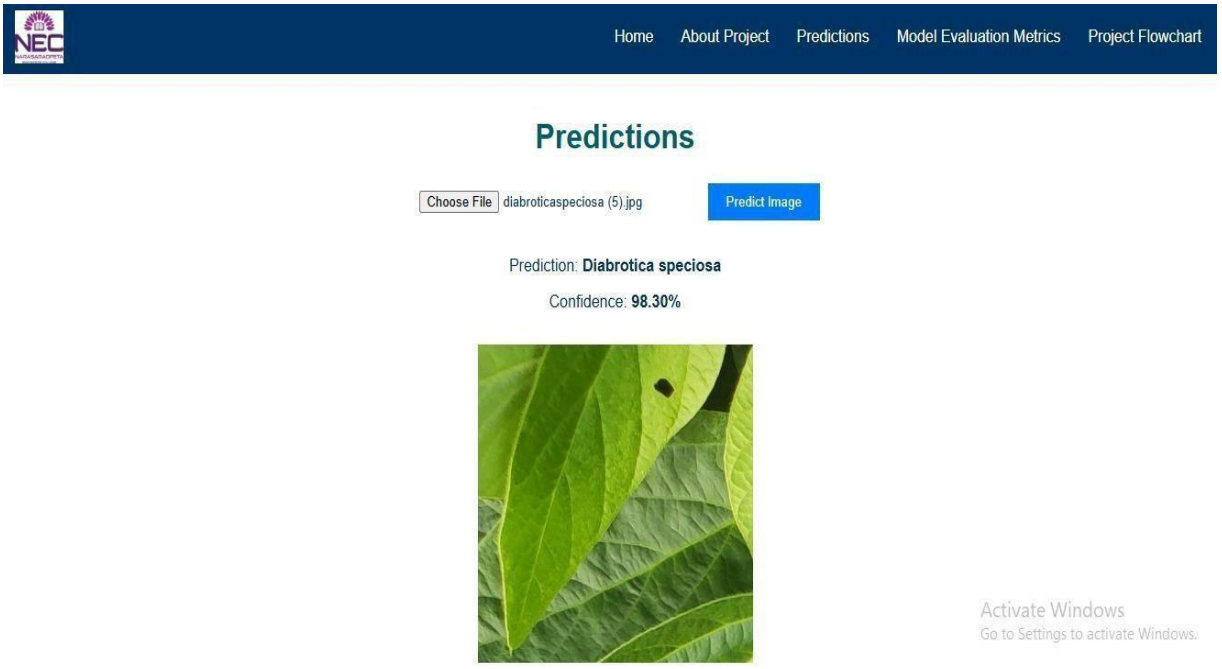

Fig10:Output Screen

Soybean Leaf Pest Prediction Using VGG-19 Model

The image above showcases the prediction result from a Flask-based web application designed for soybean leaf pest identification using the VGG-19 deep learning model [4]. The system allows users to upload an image, which is then processed by the trained model to classify the type of pest or disease affecting the leaf.

In this case, the uploaded image "diabroticaspeciosa (5).jpg" has been classified as "Diabrotica speciosa" with a 98.30% confidence score. Diabrotica speciosa, commonly known as the cucumber beetle, is a significant agricultural pest that can damage plant leaves and reduce crop yield [13]. The high confidence score indicates the model's strong ability to detect and correctly classify the pest, making it a reliable tool for pest monitoring in agriculture.

The interface consists of a file upload section, a "Predict Image" button, and a result display showing the predicted class and confidence level. Additionally, the navigation bar

includes options like Home, About Project, Predictions, Model Evaluation Metrics, and Project Flowchart, which provide a structured way for users to explore the project details and performance metrics.

This implementation demonstrates the successful deployment of a deep learning-based plant disease and pest detection system, which can help farmers and agricultural researchers identify pests early, take preventive measures, and optimize crop protection strategies

9. Result Analysis

Experimental Results

The study evaluates deep learning models for soybean leaf infestation detection using the VGG19 CNN architecture. The model's performance is assessed using precision, recall, F1-score, and accuracy metrics.

Key Findings:

- **Precision:** 0.99
- **Recall:** 0.98
- **F1-Score:** 0.99
- **Accuracy:** 99.5%

The VGG19 model demonstrated exceptional performance in detecting soybean leaf infestations.
Advanced image preprocessing and data augmentation techniques significantly improved model accuracy.
The model effectively distinguished between healthy and infested leaves, making it a reliable tool for automated agricultural monitoring.
Transfer learning with pre-trained weights further enhanced detection accuracy, reducing training time while maintaining high performance.

The study confirms that deep learning-based solutions, particularly VGG19 CNN, provide a robust approach for detecting soybean leaf infestations. The combination of convolutional feature extraction and fine-tuned hyperparameters yields high precision and recall, making it a valuable tool for precision agriculture.

Class	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1_score
Healthy/Infested	99.5%	99%	98%	99%
Healthy/Caterpillars	99.5%	99%	100%	99%
Healthy/Diabrotica Speciosa	99.5%	100%	100%	100%

Fig11: Performance Evaluation Metrics with results

10. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This work validated a VGG19 Convolutional Neural Network implementation that can be successfully used as a classifier of soybean leaves in healthy and infested classes, targeting Diabrotica speciosa and caterpillars [4]. The results highlighted the high effectiveness of VGG19 for this task and further improved infestation detection on soybean leaves. That is to say that the accuracy and reliability of our model, confirmed through constant testing on a hold-out split, will truly make it very instrumental for IPM. In this study, we successfully applied the VGG19 ConvNet to classify images of soybean leaves as healthy or infected with Diabrotica speciosa or caterpillars. The results show that VGG19 is a very suitable convolutional network for this task and could improve and support IPM. The VGG19 model therefore provides a new benchmark in the detection of caterpillar or Diabrotica speciosa infested soybeans [4]. Our results were validated by a hold-out split, which confirmed the reliability of our model. The accuracy and reliability of our model suggest that it has the potential to be a valuable tool for the soybean industry, enabling more targeted use of pesticides or alternative techniques and helping to reduce the cost and environmental impact of treating infested soybean leaves.

Further research could explore the use of other deep learning models or additional data augmentation techniques to improve the performance of the classification model. Possible alternative models that have not been tried yet on this dataset are, for example, Caffee Net, Alex Net Google Net or also Xception. Additionally, future research could use the k-fold cross validation instead of the hold-out validation. K-fold cross validation offers several advantages, including more efficient use of data, better estimation of model performance, more generalisable results and reduced bias [4]. This could improve the performance of the model even more. It is further realized that deeper homogenization in the performance of the model for soybean leaf classification can be done by developing deep learning architectures, coupled with data augmentation techniques. Models, such as Caffe Net, Alex Net, Google Net, and Xception, are therefore developed to compare the results of this work. For performance measures and generalization, other than what the model used, which is VGG19, in that case, another possible approach would be applying k-fold cross-validation, which could be of aid in coming up with more robust performance estimates.

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Deep Learning Solutions for Soybean Leaf Infestation: A VGG19-Based Approach

Chalicheema Rajani, Asst. Professor
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Narasaraopeta Engineering College (Autonomous)
Narasaraopet, Palnadu, Andhra Pradesh, India
Email: rajani.kadiyala@gmail.com

Dasari Triveni
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Narasaraopeta Engineering College (Autonomous)
Narasaraopet, Palnadu, Andhra Pradesh, India
Email: dasaritriveni66@gmail.com

Borugadda Supriya
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Narasaraopeta Engineering College (Autonomous)
Narasaraopet, Palnadu, Andhra Pradesh, India
Email: borugaddasupriya9@gmail.com

Polimera BhagyaLakshmi
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Narasaraopeta Engineering College (Autonomous)
Narasaraopet, Palnadu, Andhra Pradesh, India
Email: pbhagya2003@gmail.com

Valicharla KarunaKumar
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Narasaraopeta Engineering College (Autonomous)
Narasaraopet, Palnadu, Andhra Pradesh, India
Email: KarunaKumar.valicharla@gmail.com

***Abstract*—After all, soybean crops are an essential constituent in world agriculture. These plants generally become easy prey to attacks by pests like Diabrotica speciosa and caterpillars. The early detection of these attacks is pretty significant in reducing the damage, from an economic point of view as well as an ecological one. This present study has been motivated by the above facts, proposing a newer deep learning-based solution using a transfer-learning approach with VGG19 CNN for efficient classification of soybean leaf images. In this work, we adopt the pre-trained VGG19 architecture for detecting pest infestation in soybean leaves and perform fine-tuning specific to the problem. In this work, employing transfer learning from VGG19 means utilizing the deep features learned from large-scale image datasets for adaptation in the specialized context of agricultural pest detection. This approach not only improves the model's accuracy but also reduces the dependency on huge amounts of training data, which is usually a bottleneck in agricultural applications. We test the performance of our model on a very challenging dataset of soybean leaf images, which yields a balanced accuracy of 99.5% on previously unseen test data.The contribution of this work can be both theoretical and practical. Theoretically, the study advances deep learning applications in plant pathology, showing how effective transfer learning will be in a new domain. In practice, our model is a potent tool for early detection of pest infestations that permits interventions in time and avoids huge economic and environmental losses.**

***Index Terms*—Deep learning architecture,Visual Geometry Group model with 19 layers,Crop pest detection,Legume crop,Insect pest species,Lepidopteran larvae**

I. Introduction

Agriculture is instrumental in food security and economic growth, but it is most vulnerable to attack from plant diseases and pest infestations. These, however, present big challenges, for it is claimed that they are responsible for an estimated 14% loss in global crop yields yearly [1], representing a huge economic setback not only to farmers but also to the broader agriculture business and the environment through treatment measures. In this context, reducing losses to plant pathogens and pests assumes great importance for both economic stability and environmental sustainability[2].

Traditional pest management methods rely too much on the use of chemical pesticides and are therefore not only expensive and dangerous to the environment but also to human health. This is where the urgent need for more efficient and environmentally friendly alternatives in the sphere of pest management does arise[2]. Indeed, the integrated pest management concept, emphasizing early detection and environmentally benign control measures, has become widely adopted since the 1970s as a means of reducing pesticide use and minimizing ecological damage[1]. Among the crops greatly devastated by some pests, such as Diabrotica speciosa and caterpillars in South America, soybeans are a critical crop used for food, animal feeding, and biofuel[3]. Conventional methods of detection of pest infestation are, by and large, visual, and hence inadequate to the scale of the problem in this case. The traditional methods are too cumbersome time-consuming and full of errors. Therefore, it calls for effective reliable solutions that can be scaled up[4]. Recent deep learning developments have brought promise to solving these challenges by applying convolutional neural networks for pest and disease identification in crop plants. Building on progress in the area, we proposed a robust classification model with the VGG19 pre-trained network, leveraging ac-

curate detection for soybean leaves with infestations. In our approach, we used a different strategy of binary classification to differentiate between healthy leaves and those infested by Diabrotica speciosa or caterpillars[5].

In this paper, we present the design, development, and evaluation of our proposed model to provide a new benchmark for detecting soybean leaf infestations[9]. The detailed methodology is described in this section: data preprocessing, feature extraction, model training, analysis of the results obtained, and the implications on agricultural pest management that they have entailed. We finally present some limitations of this study and some future research directions.

II. LITERATURE INSIGHT

A. Damage to Soybean Crops Caused by Lepidopteran Larvae and Rootworm Beetles

Soybean crops represent one of the critical components of the global agricultural industry. However, they are increasingly threatened by caterpillars and Diabrotica speciosa [6]. These are very destructive pests that cause a great deal of damage to the different soybean plant parts, from the leaves through the stems to the pods and grains. Caterpillars are well-known damages—more precisely, the species Anticarsia gemmatalis, Chrysodeixis includens, Spodoptera, and Omiodes indicatus—are responsible for injuries to leaves by eating from the side towards the center of the leaf and causing typical cracks[6].

Traditionally, carbamates were used as insecticides for caterpillar control measures[7]. However, the continued misuse and overuse of these chemicals have resulted in environmental degradation, health risks, and the development of resistance among pest populations. Alternative methods such as exploitation of the parasitic fungus Beauveria bassiana and entomopathogenic viruses have been fronted for better sustainability in pest control. These methods, however, largely rely on the level of infestation detected at an early stage and accurately[8].

Another widespread soybean pest in South America, mainly in Brazil, is Diabrotica speciosa, the green cow or patriot beetle[9]. Control of Diabrotica speciosa can be controlled by using insecticides such as carbamates. pesticides applied by supporting its early detection and alternative control methods[10]. Precise, timely identification of pests is one of the major principles in IPM, and this results in interventions at the exact time when the effects on the environment and economy are the least possible. As the caterpillars and the Diabrotica speciosa have similar treatment protocols, our research is focused on developing a binary model for identification that makes IPM feasible through early warning of an incipient infestation[11].

B. RELATED WORK

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) relies on reducing the amounts of As in every other agricultural field, for soybean growing, too, there is an urgent need for correct identification of pests during the early stages regarding measures relating to their control. Research lately in this area is increasingly based on the power of machine learning and deep learning in terms of plant disease and pest detection and classification[11]. Nicolas Drack conducted studies on soybean culture. Nicolas Drack introduced an approach for soybean leaf detection in soybean culture, using CNN. With such a method, an accuracy higher than 93.71% to 94.16% was reached with vgg19 convent architecture[12]. After that, the obtained results were compared to other classic machine learning methods applied to agriculture among those support vector machines, Adaboost-C4.5, and Random Forests, which proved CNN is very effective in agriculture.

Vimal Bhatia.Conducted research on using machine learning models to detect fungal-infected soybean seeds, where they obtained an accuracy of 97.72% using various techniques. This research ascertained the power of machine learning in predicting the disease outbreak in soybean farming. In a similar approach, Vimal Bhatia. Applied several deep learning architectures in detecting soybean leaf diseases and obtained high accuracies such as 97.72%, 94.31%, 98.86%, and 96.59% using ConvLSTM, SVM, KNN, and ANN, respectively[13].

These studies all prove that CNN and other methods of ML are effective in the identification of plant diseases and pests. In this work, we intend to make an even better model for correctly detecting soybean infestation by caterpillars and Diabrotica speciosa, thus setting a new benchmark among such research[14].

III. METHODOLOGY

This section will address, in sequence, an overview of Convolutional Neural Networks (ConvNets), an explanation of the deep learning architecture implemented for our research, and a method to be used for model evaluation.

A. Convolutional Neural Networks (ConvNets)

Amongst the classes of DL models that turned out to be particularly successful in image and video recognition, Convolutional Neural Networks take the lead. Majorly, these have become the cornerstones of computer vision applications since they are capable of automatically and efficiently extracting features from input data in order to predict the output[12].

Now, the three basic kinds of layers that include ConvNets are convolutional layers, pooling layers, and fully connected layers. Convolutional layers are at the core of any ConvNet, and the core task is feature extraction[13]. They do this by scanning the input data with a number of filters or kernels. These are mostly small, like 3x3 or 5x5 pixels in size; however, it is applied to the whole input image using a sliding window technique. Many output features, called feature maps, are generated and capture local patterns of the input data in this process.

The feature maps are then fed through a set of pooling layers that decrease the dimensionality of the feature maps but retain the most relevant information contained therein. One common pooling method is max-pooling, where a maximum value is taken in some specified window of the feature map, effectively

TABLE I
EVALUATION OF TECHNIQUES FOR IDENTIFYING AND CATEGORIZING SOYBEAN PESTS AND DISEASES

Author	Year	Inquiry topic	Data collection	Approach and Exactness
Nicolas Drack	2023	Detection of infested soybeans.	Acquisition under natural lighting conditions.	Vgg19 ConvNet (93.71%-94.16%)
Khalili et al.	2020	Identification of charcoal rot infection in soybean plants.	collected under laboratory conditions.	LR-l1 (95.92%) LR-l2 (95.58%) MLP (94.88%) RF (95.42%) GBT (96.2%) SVM (96.16%)
Tetila et al.	2020	Identification and categorization of different soybean pests.	Acquisition with UAV under natural conditions.	Inception-v3 (91.87%) Resnet-50 (93.82%) Vgg-16 (91.80%) Vgg-19 (91.33%) Xception (90.52%)
Tetila et al.	2020	Automated detection of soybean leaf infections.	Acquisition with UAV under natural conditions.	Inception-v3 (99.04%) Resnet-50 (99.02%) VGG-19 (99.20%) Xception (99.06%)
Ferentinos	2018	Identification of different plant infections.	Collected under laboratory and natural conditions.	AlexNet (91.87%) AlexNetOWTBn (93.82%) GoogleNet (91.80%) Overleaf (91.33%) VGG (90.52%)

Fig. 1. The steps involved in the model

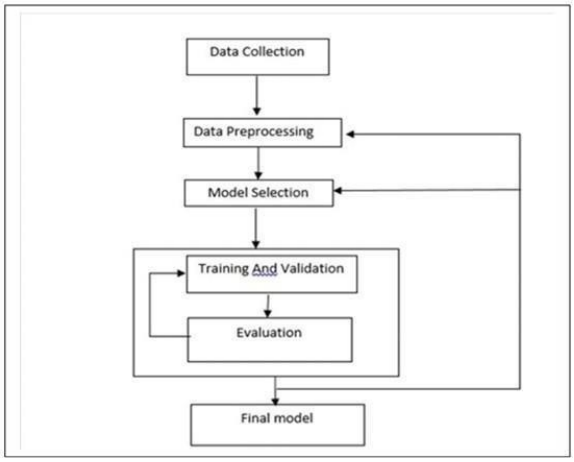
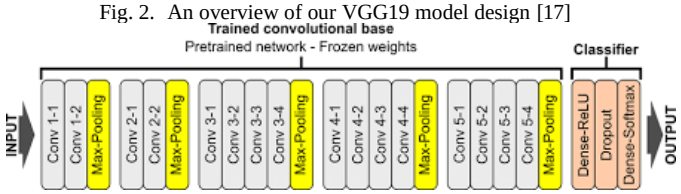


Fig. 2. An overview of our VGG19 model design [17]



downsampling the data and retaining only the most critical features of it[14]. The pooling process makes the network invariant to small translations of input data, improving the robustness of the model.

Finally, the reduced feature maps are flattened and passed through the fully connected layers, where every node connects to each node in the previous layer. The fully connected layers play the role of a decision-making part of the network, synthesizing extracted features to make final predictions.

B. Machine Learning Approach

Our proposed machine learning approach is based on VGG19, a 19-layer CNN that was originally proposed by Simonyan and Zisserman. This has become quite popular owing to its performance in a wide variety of computer vision tasks, starting from image classification to object recognition[12].

VGG19 architecture requires the size of the input image to be of fixed size 224 × 224 RGB pixels. Architecture: The network is formed of convolutional and maxpooling layers followed by full-connected layers. The concrete network consists of five convolutional blocks. Each of the first and second blocks contains two convolutional layers, while each of the rest has four convolutional layers[12]. While convolutional layers extract features from the input images in a hierarchical manner, layers of max-pooling downsample the resulting feature maps in space to decrease the dimensionality[12].

It is characterized by using small 3 × 3 convolutional filters and up to 512 filters in its deepest layers, whereby intricate and high-level features could be learned. The nonlinearity in the model comes through ReLU functions and amplifies the capability for learning the model[12].

We have taken the base model as VGG19 for transfer learning. To apply this base model for our specific task, we have added a global average pooling layer. This calculates the

Fig. 3. Healthy Plant

Fig. 4. Diabrotica Specosa attacked plant

Fig. 5. Caterpillar attacked plant

average of all the spatial dimensions of the feature maps and thus gives us a 2D feature vector[17]. This is followed by two fully connected layers: the first with 1,024 neurons, and the second with a single neuron and sigmoid activation function for a binary classification.

C. Evaluation Method

We would identify a complete model evaluation plan that would assess the performances of our model. In this case, we have followed a hold-out validation strategy for splitting data into training, test, and evaluation sets. In this work, we have split the dataset into 70% for training, 20% for testing, and 10% for evaluation[12]. This kind of strategy helps in having the model trained on one subset and tested for generalization on separate subsets. Indicators used for the model interpretation performance were as follows: 1. Accuracy: It is the general performance metric that calculates the ratio between correctly classified instances and the total number of instances. This gives a general view regarding model performance concerning classes in general. 2. Precision: It is another important metric that can be used in order to measure the model's precision concerning the correctly identified positive cases. It is known as the ratio of true positive predictions against all the positive predictions done by the model. High precision highlights that the model is encountering a low false positive rate. 3. F1 Score: The F1 Score gives the harmonic mean of precision and recall into one metric. This metric captures model performance related to identifying true instances while keeping false positives and false negatives as low as possible.

D. Data Preprocessing

The dataset comprises 6,410 RGB color images of healthy, Diabrotica speciosa-infested, and caterpillar-infested soybean leaves. The data preprocessing methodology in the steps that would follow was put in place to prepare the dataset in readiness to train the deep learning model.

Data gathering or collection was the first process in the stages, in which images that were taken of soybean leaves that were categorized and differentiated into three classes : healthy plants, leaves damaged with caterpillars, and those attacked by Diabrotica speciosa, and for each category they were set in different folder to get a clear vision for subsequent processing and further analysis.

The images were further resized to a uniform dimension of 224x224 pixels. This resizing process was important because the input into the VGG19 model must be of a particular dimension. By resizing each image to this standard dimension, we ensured that every input image met the dimension requirement for the model to operate.

Once resized, images were cast into NumPy arrays. To process this in an optimal manner for either mathematical treatments or just compatible with processing by a machine learning frame, image data was in the form of a NumPy array. After the conversion, the images were normalized. This will scale the pixel values to a range between 0 and 1, enabling the model to process this data more easily and fasten the convergence during training. Normalizing the data gives the model a chance to focus on the important features without being influenced by extreme variations in pixel intensity.

Having preprocessed the images, we moved to extract features. Relevant features have been extracted from the image using various processing techniques.

Following feature extraction, dimensionality reduction techniques were applied to select the most important features. Feature selection helps eliminate redundant or irrelevant data, making the classification process more efficient while retaining the most significant information needed for accurate predictions.

The last step of the preprocessing stage was the division of the dataset into three subsets. 70% of the data were allocated

to the training set, which is used to fit the model. 10% was kept for the validation set that was to be used for assessing model performance and hyperparameter tuning during training. The rest, which constituted 20%, was to form the test set to be used for final model performance evaluation. The model was trained in a very representative and diversified dataset, following a meticulous pre-treatment, and the training set was augmented. Consequently, an increase in accuracy and generalization was realized.

E. Dataset

The dataset used in this study was from an open-source dataset made available by Mignoni [16] from the Mendeley website. It's comprised of 6,410 soybean leaf images, which have already been labeled and classified into three classes. The images have been shown in three different folders, classifying the images in accordance with their soybean leaf health and pest infestation.

- Healthy Soybean Leaves: First folder: Contains 896 images of healthy soybean leaves. Infested leaves are compared against these images. These images of healthy leaves will be very important in training the model to differentiate between healthy and infested conditions(fig4)[16].
- Leaves Infested with Caterpillars The second folder contains 3,309 images of soybean leaves that have been infested by caterpillars. These images show the different types of damage caused by different caterpillar species, such as Anticarsia gemmatalis, Chrysodeixis includens, Spodoptera, and Omiodes indicalus. The high number of images in this folder ensures that the learning model does learn properly(fig6)[16].
- The third folder contains 2,205 pictures of soybean leaves damaged by the soybean pest Diabrotica speciosa, commonly called the green cow or patriot. The images present the feature damage, including small round holes and cuts at the edge of the leaf, provoked by this specific pest(fig5)[16].

The images were captured over two soybean farms spread across the state of Mato Grosso, Brazil, in January 2021. To increase wider applicability, photos are taken under natural weather and field conditions. The dataset images were captured by a UAV-mounted camera and also by two 48MP AI-enabled smartphones with triple cameras, which are high-resolution visuals that enable proper analysis and classification.

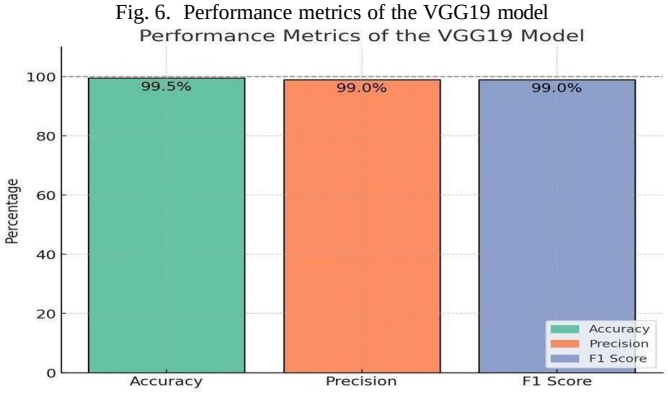
IV. Results

We have compared the performance of the VGG19 model on the Soybean leaf dataset, which contains a total number of 6,410 images[16]. These images are representative of three different classes: healthy soybean leaves, class A, which consists of 896 images; soybean leaves infested with caterpillar images, class B, which consists of 3,309 images; and soybean leaves infested with Diabrotica speciosa images, class C, consisting of 2,205 images. The dataset was split into training, testing, and evaluation subsets in the ratio as described previously.

TABLE II
Performance Metrics for Different Classes

Class	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
Healthy/Infested	99.5%	99%	98%	99%
Healthy/Caterpillars	99.5%	99%	100%	99%
Healthy/Diabrotica Speciosa	99.5%	100%	100%	100%

Fig. 6. Performance metrics of the VGG19 model



Most of the hyperparameters used in VGG19 for the soybean image classification task were picked by hand from the literature and standard practices. This model was trained over 100 epochs to ensure that it is adequately exposed to the data so that the risk of overfitting is avoided. For the optimization procedure, RMSprop was applied for adaptive learning rate per parameter for stabilizing the training process with a learning rate of 0.001. This works for binary classification tasks. It used the VGG19 model, pre-trained on the dataset, removing its top layer and freezing all the rest to avoid updates on their weights; then added new layers, a Global Average Pooling 2D, a density of 1024 units with ReLU activation, and finally the output layer with a single unit and sigmoid activation for binary classification[8]. These are some of the hyperparameters and architectural adjustments that go a long way in serving the accuracy of the model on a classification task on soybean leaf image data across different categories.

The models developed to classify the images of soybean leaves, according to whether they are healthy or infested, yield quite good results, especially for the Healthy/Infested model. This latter approach resulted in an accuracy of 99.5%[15], that is, almost all images were correctly classified. This means it identified 80% of the healthy plants correctly. The model precision was 99.0%, meaning that when the model classified a plant as infested, it was accurate 99.0% of the time. The F1 score, and balancing precision were 99.0%.

A. Results of the Models

We show the results of the Healthy and Infested model, where images were categorized as healthy soybean leaves versus leaves that are infested with either caterpillars or Diabrotica speciosa[16]. We stress this model because of the practical relevance of determining whether there is an

Fig. 7. Training and Testing accuracy of the model

infestation of either type since both pests could be effectively controlled by similar methods. Models for the other two categories of infestation were also implemented. Results are presented in Table 2.

Accuracy: The Healthy and Infested model achieved an impressive accuracy of 99.5%. This high accuracy in essence serves as proof of the overall viability of the model in correctly classifying soybean leaves into either a healthy or infested category.

Balanced Accuracy: Sensitivity and specificity averaged 99.5%. This metric defines a model's capability to identify both healthy and infested classes correctly, considering class imbalance.

Precision: The model gave 99.0% precision, meaning out of all those instances where it identified a plant as infested, it was correct about 99.0%, hence highly accurate in identifications.

F1 Score: This was 99.0%, which incorporates both precision and sensitivity into one measure. The fact that the F1 score is this high means performance concerning identifying and classifying both healthy and infested plants is well-balanced.

V. Future Work

It is further realized that deeper homogenization in the performance of the model for soybean leaf classification can be done by developing deep learning architectures, coupled with data augmentation techniques. Models, such as CaffeNet, AlexNet, GoogLeNet, and Xception, are therefore developed to compare the results of this work[8]. For performance measures and generalization, other than what the model used, which is VGG19, in that case, another possible approach would be applying k-fold cross-validation, which could aid in coming up with more robust performance estimates.

VI. Conclusion

This work validated a VGG19 Convolutional Neural Network implementation that can be successfully used as a classifier of soybean leaves in healthy and infested classes, targeting Diabrotica speciosa and caterpillars. The results highlighted the high effectiveness of VGG19 for this task and further improved infestation detection on soybean leaves. That is to say that the accuracy and reliability of our model, confirmed through constant testing on a hold-out split, will truly make it very instrumental for IPM.

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Chalicheema Rajani,Dasari Triveni,Borugadda Supriya,Polimera BhagyaLakshmi,Valicharla KarunaKumar{Narasaraopeta Engineering College}

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