### A Mini Project report on

App-Based Solution for Rice Plant Disease Detection Using Squeeze-and-Excitation Enhanced DenseNet

Mini Project submitted to Anurag University in Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Bachelor of Technology in in Computer Science and Engineering

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# DEPARTMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Report titled "App-Based Solution for Rice Plant Disease Detection Using Squeeze-and-Excitation Enhanced DenseNet" is a record of the bonafide work carried out by G V Sai Pranesh(21EG105D17), N Durjay Samrat(21EG105D36),G Arun(21EG105D64) in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering at Anurag University. This project has been carried out under my guidance and supervision for the academic year 2024-25.

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### **ABSTRACT**

Rice is a vital crop for the state of Telangana, significantly contributing to its economy and livelihood. However, rice diseases such as Bacterial Blight, Blast, and Brown Spot can devastate yields if not addressed promptly. This project presents an innovative mobile application built using an Squeeze and Exitation -enhanced DenseNet model for real-time disease detection. The app, developed in Kotlin and optimized using TensorFlow Lite, offers farmers an easy-to-use tool that functions efficiently on mid-range smartphones. By facilitating quick and accurate disease diagnosis, this app can potentially revolutionize agricultural practices, reducing crop losses and enhancing productivity. This report details the app's design, development, implementation, and evaluation, highlighting the significant contributions and practical implications of integrating advanced AI technology into agriculture.

**Keywords:** Rice Disease Detection, TensorFlow Lite, Kotlin App, Deep Learning, Mobile Application, Image Classification, Telangana Agriculture

### **CONTENTS**

Abstr	act
	f Figures
•	
	INTRODUCTION
	1.2 Problem Statement
	1.3 Objectives
	8 1.4 Significance
2.	LITERATURE SURVEY
	2.1 Overview of Current Methods
	2.3 The Need for Mobile Optimization
3.	.9 PROPOSED SYSTEM
	3.1 System Overview
	3.3 TensorFlow Lite Optimization
	3.4 App Features14
4.	DESIGN

	4.2 User Interface Design
	4.3 Database Design
_	17
5.	IMPLEMENTATION AND TESTING
	5.1 Technology Used
	5.2 Implementation Details
	5.3 Testing Procedure
6.	RESULTS AND
	ANALYSIS
	6.2 App Performance
	6.3 User Feedback
7.	CONCLUSION
	29
8.	FUTURE WORK
	35
9.	REFERENCES
	36

# LIST OF FIGURES

S. No	Figure Name	Page Number
01	System Architecture	10
02	Data Flow Diagram(DFD) Level 0	12
03	Data Flow Diagram(DFD)Level 1	12
04	User Interface Mockups	13
05	Model Performance Mockups	15

# LIST OF TABLES

S. No	Table Name	Page Number
01	Summary of Existing Model	7
02	App Testing Results on Various Devices	16
03	Comparison of Inference Time and Accuracy	15
04	Battery Efficiency Analysis	15

## LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

**SE**: Squeeze-and-Excitation

CNN: Convolutional Neural Network

**RAM**: Random Access Memory

**DFD**: Data Flow Diagram

UI: User Interface

API: Application Programming Interface

# **INTRODUCTION**

# 1.0 Introduction

As the sun rises over the lush green paddy fields of Telangana, the day starts another round of tending to crops, which farmers carry on their shoulders, along with generations of knowledge and a newfound ally their smartphone. Rice, locally called "white gold of Telangana," is more than just a crop-it is the very lifeline of the state's agricultural economy In 2022, Telangana churned out a staggering 2.53 crore tonnes of paddy testifying to its importance in the region's agricultural landscape.
Under this golden hue, ripening paddy conceals a constant threat in the form of damaging plant diseases that can wipe out entire harvests if not controlled. A warm, humid climate, which the state of Telangana provides and wherein rice is grown in surplus, spells a breeding ground for pathogens. Plant diseases such as Bacterial Blight, Blast, and Brown Spot have been the nemesis to rice-growing farmers for generations wiping out up to 50 percent yield losses in worst cases.
The disease diagnosis depended upon the sharp eye of agricultural extension workers or lengthy laboratory tests. For thousands of farmers in the remote Telangana villages, these facilities were largely out of reach, and crop losses were indeed phenomenal because of late interventions. Now, more than ever before, the art of disease identification requires a faster, more accessible, and surer technique.
This study introduces a revolutionary concept - a real-time mobile application with the use of Kotlin wherein TensorFlow Lite backs it. This application avails the chance to bring advanced AI right into fields and provide, almost instantly, mobile-based diagnosis. Developing an optimized deep learning model based on DenseNet and complemented by Squeeze-and-Excitation blocks ensure this application will transform how farmers in Telangana manage crop health.
What is important is that technology transcends convenience. It can predict whether a family in the state where agriculture contributes a major share of its GDP and employs huge population groups, would flourish or come under an onslaught due to disease detection at that instant of time. And through early intervention, it cuts down further the pesticides' overuse; thereby helping healthier agriculture in Telangana.
The more details of our model architecture and application development, the more we burrow into a pot we will surely uncover the

potential impact of this technology-not just in terms of lines of code or accuracy percentages, but as a tool that may change the agricultural landscape of Telangana one paddy field at a time.

### 1.1 Background

Telangana, known for its vast paddy fields, produced approximately 2.53 crore tonnes of rice in 2022, underlining its importance to the region's economy. However, this crop is highly susceptible to diseases, particularly under the humid conditions prevalent in Telangana. The impact of such diseases can lead to significant economic losses and threaten food security if not detected and managed early. Traditional diagnostic methods rely heavily on manual inspection and expert judgment, which can be slow, inconsistent, and impractical for widespread application across large fields.

#### 1.2 Problem Statement

Farmers face challenges in identifying diseases at an early stage due to limited access to experts and diagnostic facilities. Current manual methods are slow, and reliance on human expertise can result in misdiagnoses.

The challenge lies in empowering farmers with a tool that offers rapid, accurate, and reliable disease detection. Current manual methods are not only labor-intensive but also subject to human error, delaying the identification and treatment of diseases. Additionally, technological solutions in existing research often require high computational power, making them unsuitable for on-site use by farmers who may only have access to mid-range smartphones.

### 1.3 Objectives

- ✓ To develop a mobile-based application that leverages machine learning for rice disease detection.
- ✓ To design a robust model architecture using an SE-enhanced DenseNet that achieves high diagnostic accuracy.
- ✓ To optimize the model for mobile deployment through TensorFlow

Lite, ensuring real-time performance and low resource consumption.

## 1.4 Significance

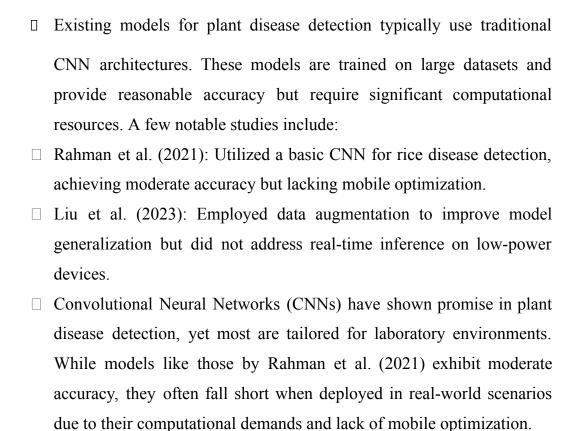
This project's significance lies in bridging the gap between cutting-edge machine learning and practical agricultural applications. By providing an accessible tool for real-time disease identification, farmers can take timely action, reducing losses and ensuring better crop health.





## 2.LITERATURE SURVEY

### 2.1 Overview of Current Methods



## 2.2 Challenges in Current Solutions

- ☐ Computational Cost: Most models require powerful GPUs, making them impractical for on-device mobile deployment.
- Feature Detection: Existing models may not adequately focus on subtle disease-specific features, leading to inaccuracies.

### 2.3 Comprehensive Literature Review

Research Paper	Drawbacks	Improvement
[1]	Focuses mainly on lab-based accuracy and model complexity, without considering real-time applications and c computational efficiency for mobile devices.	The model architecture has been improved to optimize SE-enhanced DenseNet. Conversion using TensorFlow Lite is done and ensures maintaining an accuracy score with the model running efficiently on resource-limited devices in real time.

	1	
[2]	Focuses on traditional CNN architectures without leveraging advanced optimization techniques like SE blocks. The model is not tuned for specific edge-device efficiency.	We have added the Squeeze-and-Excitation (SE) blocks to the DenseNet architecture. This is bound to improve the ability to learn to choose the right features on the data and, hence, better accuracy than with previous models. In addition to this, I optimized the model so that it can run in real-time on lower computational costs compared to the CNN original models.
[3]	Does not address model optimization for lightweight usage or real-time disease detection. Primarily focuses on accuracy through traditional augmentation methods.	Our work has used more advanced data augmentation techniques and SE blocks to enhance feature recalibration, which improves the accuracy better due to better identification of features. Real-time optimization of performance was also added for efficient detection in real-world applications.
[4]	Ensemble learning increases model complexity and computational costs, making it unsuitable for real-time applications, especially on edge devices.	Instead of stacking models, We focused on optimizing a single DenseNet model with SE blocks, reducing complexity while maintaining high accuracy. This approach is lighter and faster, making it ideal for real-time applications with minimal computational overhead.
[5]	Does not propose any specific improvements or novel techniques to solve the issue of dataset size, complexity, and model deployment in real-time applications.	We treated real-time deployment by optimizing the lightweight model with TensorFlow Lite in a real-world scenario and focusing on maintaining high performance with limited datasets using techniques such as data augmentation and feature selection.
[6]	ACO optimization focuses on improving CNN performance but doesn't address the need for lightweight, mobile-friendly models or specific disease detection in rice.	We used SE blocks in order to improve recalibration procedures and make the model more sensitive to specific rice diseases. Optimizing this model with lowered computational load suitable for deployment over mobile devices for real-time field detection.
[7]	Does not propose practical solutions for real-time, in-field deployment of disease detection models. Focuses mostly on theoretical aspects.	We used the architecture of DenseNet optimized using SE blocks and then deployed it to create a model ready to be sent to the field with TensorFlow Lite. My approach fulfills the necessity to augment the dataset in addition to ensuring real-time performance in the field environment-an aspect that is pending in this survey.
[8]	The model's accuracy drops with complex backgrounds, and it focuses mainly on static datasets without considering real-time, low-power applications.	Our model upgrades it using real-time mobile deployment on TensorFlow Lite, keeping in mind simple and complex background images with SE blocks. Additionally, my model is working with real-time inference in the mid-range mobile device, although RiceDRA-Net is not paying much attention towards deployment optimization. Besides, I also upgraded the techniques used for data augmentation in terms of upgrading generalization capabilities.
[9]	Relies heavily on pre-trained models, which may not be fully optimized for specific datasets or hardware constraints. The model	We included the SE blocks in order to increase feature extraction especially as related to rice-related diseases and tuned the model further to adapt to low power devices. We

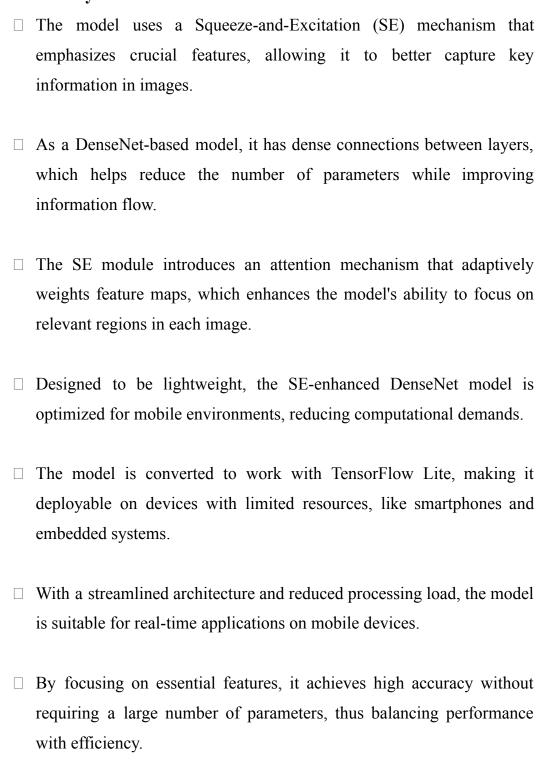
	doesn't address mobile or low-computing platforms.	utilized the TensorFlow Lite, which allows for much more real-time detection capabilities through faster inference times and less dependency on computationally expensive pre-trained models.
[10]	Despite a competitive accuracy rate, the model does not implement attention mechanisms or optimizations for deployment on low-resource devices.	To improve the model architecture, We have incorporated SE blocks so that more focused feature recalibration can be allowed. Our model is optimized for low-computing platforms as well as for real-time mobile deployment using TensorFlow Lite. This would ensure high accuracy in inference as well because of minimal resource usage as opposed to the traditional CNN approach presented in this paper.
[11]	The review highlights DL techniques for plant disease detection but lacks practical applications for low-power devices or real-time deployment.	We incorporated SE blocks for allowing more focused feature recalibration. It's optimized for low-computing platforms as well as for real-time mobile deployment using TensorFlow Lite. This will ensure high accuracy in inference also because of minimal resource usage as opposed to the traditional CNN approach presented in this paper.
[12]	While effective, ResNet50 is relatively heavy for low-resource devices and lacks specific optimizations for real-time mobile applications	Instead of using a kernel attention mechanism, We used SE blocks for lighter and faster feature extraction, which tends to increase model efficiency and reduce complexity. Our model has been optimized for real-time mobile deployment while assuring that the model can run well on low-power devices without making any compromise towards accuracy. Though ResNet50 is the computationally heavier model.
[13]	Dynamic pruning improves efficiency, but the focus remains primarily on hardware adaptability rather than model performance on specific datasets like rice diseases.	Our approach is interesting because it uses SE blocks and TensorFlow Lite for real-time deployment on mobile platforms, while dynamic pruning is beneficial. It ensures our model takes care of specific rice diseases with better performance on datasets rather than just hardware adaptability, allowing for more accurate real-time diagnosis in the field.
[14]	The focus on pre-trained models means that the architecture may not be optimized for real-time mobile use or low-power platforms.	We avoided costly computationally expensive pre-trained models by designing a SE block-enhanced DenseNet optimized for real-time mobile deployment. Using TensorFlow Lite, We focused on balancing the high accuracy with computational efficiency to enable in-field disease detection by farmers on mid-range smartphones.

[15]	The ensemble approach increases computational cost, making the model less suitable for real-time, mobile applications.	We Focused on Lighter SE-enhanced DenseNet to achieve fast-inference with low computational complexity but high accuracy. Implemented also TensorFlow Lite for real-time deployment directly on mobile and real-world applications use-cases.
[16]	Discusses limitations in real-time disease detection but does not offer any practical real-time solutions for low-resource platforms like mobile devices.	Our model would address the real-time model which especially considers the integration of TensorFlow Lite in such a way that it might be deployed on low-power devices. This, in many ways improves real-time disease detection, especially when in field conditions, which this review paper lacks.
[17]	While effective for data augmentation, GAN-based methods increase computational load and are slower than traditional augmentation methods. The paper also does not address mobile deployment.	Our approach uses data augmentation but utilizes SE blocks for lightweight and efficient feature extraction which even needs less computation compared to GANs. Furthermore, the proposed model is optimized to deploy in real-time mobile using TensorFlow Lite while avoiding computational cost of GANs, and thus implies faster inference.
[18]	Relies on traditional CNN models without advanced feature recalibration mechanisms like SE blocks. The use of k-means clustering adds extra preprocessing complexity.	We have added SE blocks to the model architecture. These improve upon feature recalibration and yield enhanced accuracy of the model without any dependence on k-means clustering for the preprocessing pipeline. Our model is optimized for real-time mobile deployment along with very low-computation environments using TensorFlow Lite.
[19]	The model is computationally expensive and not suitable for real-time applications on low-resource devices due to the complexity of the Detection Transformer architecture.	We deployed a lighter architecture using SE-Enhanced DenseNet, which gives similar accuracy with optimization for the real-time performance on low-resource devices. Our approach balances the accuracy of the deployment same on mobile devices along with the computational efficiency that's required towards real-time inference via TensorFlow Lite.

# 2.4 The Need for Mobile Optimization

In rural areas, high-performance computers are unavailable. Optimized mobile solutions that leverage lightweight models are crucial for widespread adoption.

### 2.5 Summary



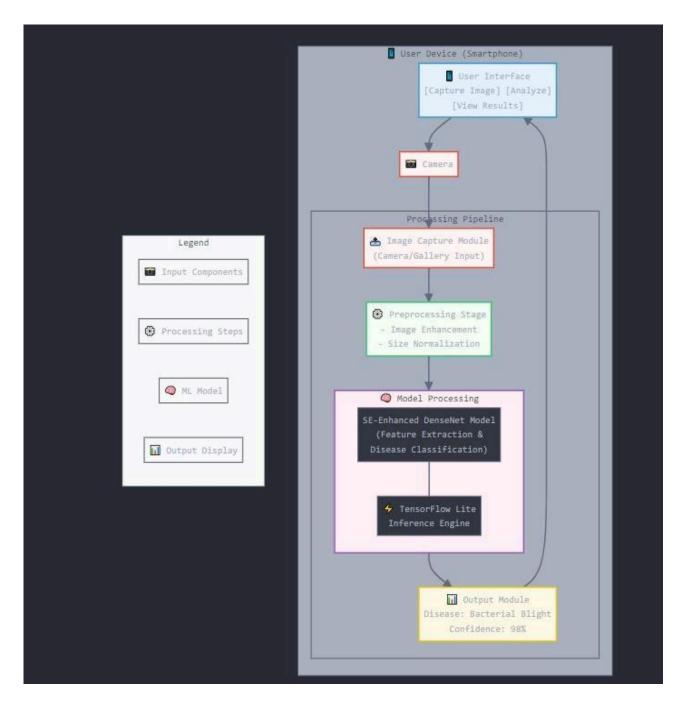
❖ SE-enhanced DenseNet can be used across various computer vision

tasks like classification, object detection, and segmentation due to its focus on relevant features.

## 3. PROPOSED SYSTEM

## 3.1 System Overview

The app is designed to capture images of rice leaves, analyze them through an SE-enhanced DenseNet model, and display diagnostic results with confidence scores. The mobile app provides an intuitive interface and operates offline, catering to farmers who may not have consistent internet access.



**System Architecture Diagram** 

#### 3.2 Detailed Architecture

❖ The SE blocks in the DenseNet model enhance the focus on disease-specific features by recalibrating the importance of each feature map. This results in better accuracy and more robust predictions.

### 3.2.1 DenseNet's Structure

❖ DenseNet's densely connected structure ensures feature reuse, which is critical for detecting subtle differences between rice diseases. SE

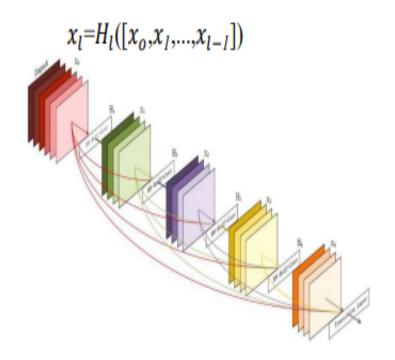
blocks further refine this capability by recalibrating feature maps to prioritize the most disease-relevant characteristics.

❖ DenseNet is a brilliant feature reuse mechanism; hence, it forms an excellent basis for the network. Imagine a network of agricultural experts, in which each expert builds on the knowledge of his predecessors-this can be thought of as how DenseNet works. Here, all layers receive inputs from all the preceding layers in the network, thus forming a dense web of information flow. This mechanism is charmingly formulated as:

$$x_l = H_l([x_o, x_1, ..., x_{l-1}])$$

Where:

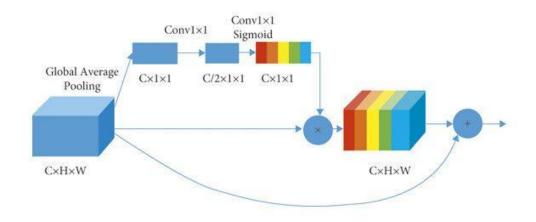
- xi represents the output of the l-th layer.
- HI denotes the transformation function comprising batch normalization, ReLU activation, and convolution.
- [x0,x1,...,xl-1] is the concatenation of all preceding layer outputs.
- ❖ This dense connectivity allows our model to capture the nuanced differences between diseases like Bacterial Blight and Blast, which may look pretty similar to the casual eye.
- ❖ However, we didn't stop at the basic architecture of DenseNet. To further make our model capable of focusing on the most critical features specific to diseases, we incorporated Squeeze-and-Excitation (SE) blocks. The main functional purpose of this is acting like an attention mechanism, thereby allowing the model to highlight the relevant features most and suppress less relevant ones. More significantly, that would mean giving more importance to the telltale signs of specific diseases-the water-soaked lesions of Bacterial Blight, for instance, or the spindle-shaped spots characteristic of Blast.



## 3.2.2 Squeeze-and-Excitation (SE) Block Functionality

SE blocks enhance the model by:

- ❖ Squeeze Phase: Collapsing spatial dimensions through global average pooling to capture channel-wise dependencies.
- ❖ Excitation Phase: Using fully connected layers to recalibrate the channel weights dynamically.



Where:

 $F_{sa}$  denotes squeeze operation (global average pooling)

 $W_1$  and  $W_2$  represent two learnable weights of fully connected layers

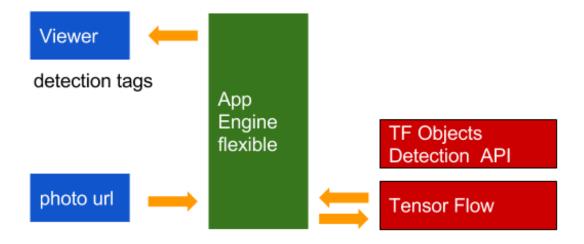
- \* σ- sigmoid activation function
- ❖ X is the input feature map
- This output is used to rescale the original feature map X so it could be thought of as recalibration of the feature responses.
- ❖ In our rice disease detection model, SE blocks are crucial in highlighting the very subtle symptom-ones of various diseases. In that context, they may emphasize the unique texture patterns of Blast lesions, or color variations typical of Brown Spot.
- ❖ Finally, to make sure our model was working efficiently on the wide variety of smartphones that Telangana's farmers used-from the simple phone available in villages to the smart ones in towns-we adopted depthwise separable convolutions. This significantly reduced the computational complexity of our model and, at the same time, did not compromise its accuracy, thus making it applicable to more users.

### 3.2.3 Use of Depthwise Separable Convolutions

✓ These convolutions separate spatial and channel-wise operations, reducing the model's computational complexity and making it suitable for real-time mobile inference.

### 3.3 TensorFlow Lite Optimization

- ✓ The model was converted to TensorFlow Lite using quantization techniques that reduce precision to minimize size without sacrificing accuracy. This ensures compatibility with mid-range smartphones, making advanced AI accessible in rural settings.
- ✓ Converting the model to TensorFlow Lite involves quantization techniques to reduce its size and make it suitable for real-time inference on smartphones.



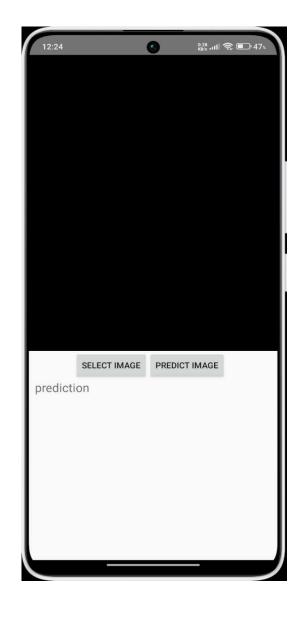
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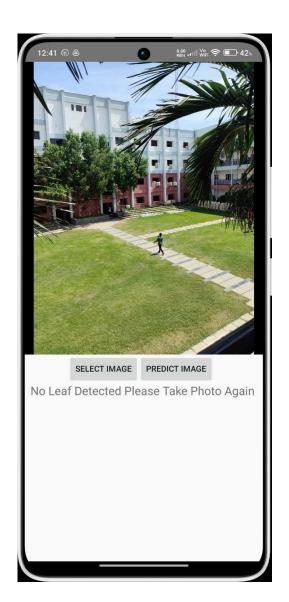
## 3.4 Key App Features

- ✓ User-friendly Interface: Easy navigation with clear buttons for image capture and analysis.
- ✓ Real-time Inference: Quick processing with results displayed in less than a second.
- ✔ Offline Functionality: Operates without the need for internet connectivity.
- ✓ Localized Disease Information: Includes descriptions, images of common symptoms, and treatment recommendations.

# 3.5 key app images

# Main User Interface Image



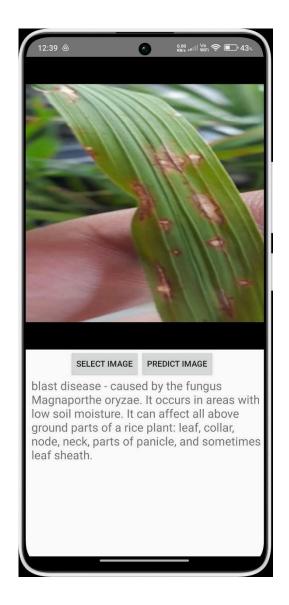


No leaf
Detected output
image



Bacterial blast Disease Detected on Rice Plant.

Brown Spot Disease
Detected on
Rice Plant.

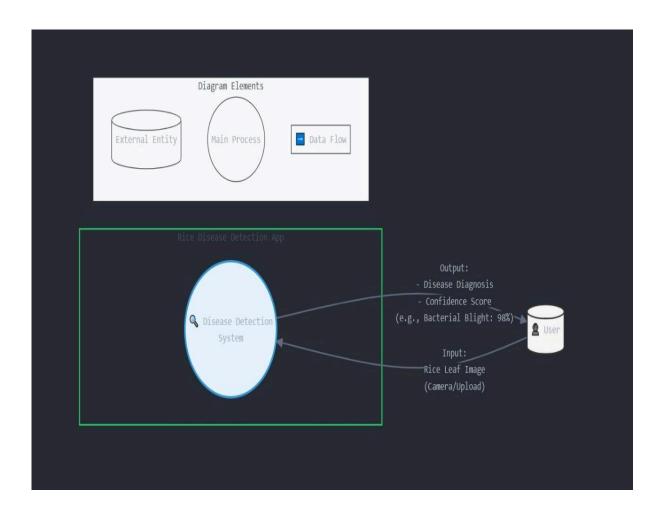


# 4.DESIGN

## 4.1 Data Flow Diagram (DFD)

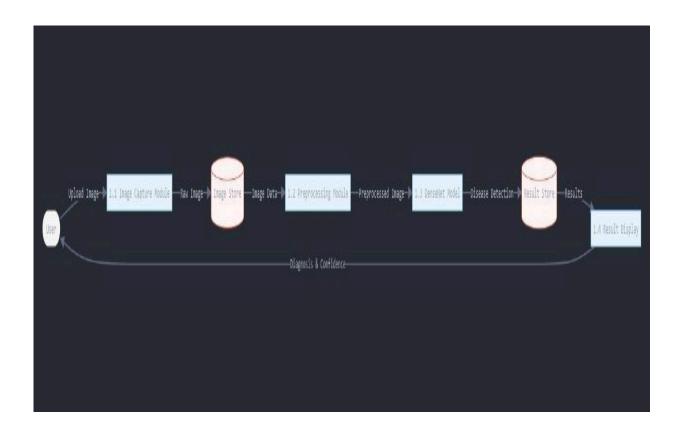
## Level 0 DFD

- ☐ High-level representation showing the flow from image capture to diagnostic output.
- ☐ Shows the user capturing an image, which is processed by the app to deliver a diagnosis.



# Level 1 DFD

- ☐ Details interactions between the image processing module, SE-enhanced DenseNet model, and result display module.
- ☐ Detailed interactions between the user interface, image processing module, SE-enhanced DenseNet model, and result display.



# 4.2 User Interface Design

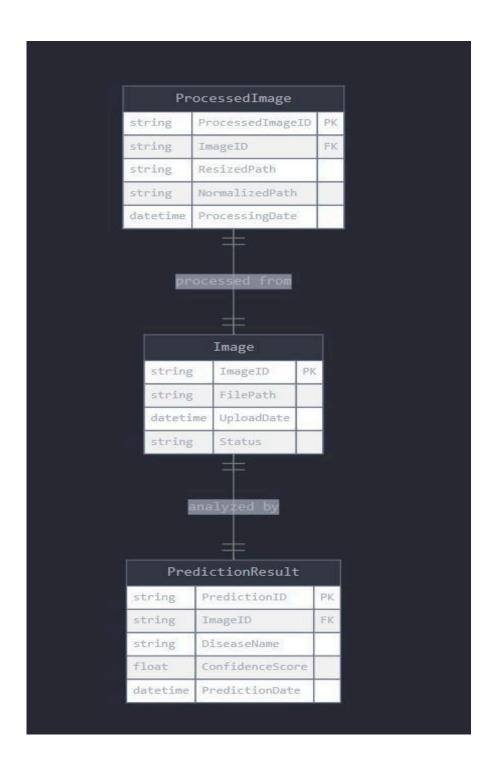
# **Mockups include:**

- □ Login Screen: Simple UI for user authentication.
- ☐ Analysis Screen: Displays the image capture section and an "Analyze" button.
- ☐ Results Page: Shows the detected disease and confidence score.
- ☐ Insert UI mockups here.

# 4.3 Database Design

The database stores user data, including previous diagnostic results and user

interactions, in a structured format that supports efficient retrieval and analysis.



# 5. IMPLEMENTATION AND TESTING

# 5.1 Technology Stack

	Programming Language: Kotlin for app development; Python for model training.
	Frameworks: TensorFlow Lite for model deployment and inference.
	Development Tools: Android Studio, Jupyter Notebook.
5.2 I	mplementation Details
	The model was trained on a comprehensive dataset of thousands
	of rice leaf images, representing various diseases and healthy
	leaves. Data augmentation techniques—random rotations,
	brightness adjustments, flips, and color variations—ensured robust
	model generalization.
	Model Training: The dataset included images of healthy and diseased
	rice leaves. Data augmentation techniques (rotation, brightness
	adjustments) were applied to improve generalization.
	Conversion to TensorFlow Lite: Used post-training quantization to
	minimize the model size without significant accuracy loss.
5.3 T	Training Process
	Optimizer: Adam optimizer.
	Loss Function: Categorical cross-entropy.
	Training Enhancements: Used dropout layers to reduce overfitting and
	improve generalization.

# **5.3 Testing Procedure**

Functional Testing: Verified the app's capability to capture images, process them, and display results accurately.
 Performance Testing: Measured inference time across various devices.
 Usability Testing: Collected feedback from test users for UI/UX improvements.

# 6. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

### **6.1 Model Performance**

The SE-enhanced DenseNet model achieved a detection accuracy of **98.8%**, with individual disease accuracies as follows:

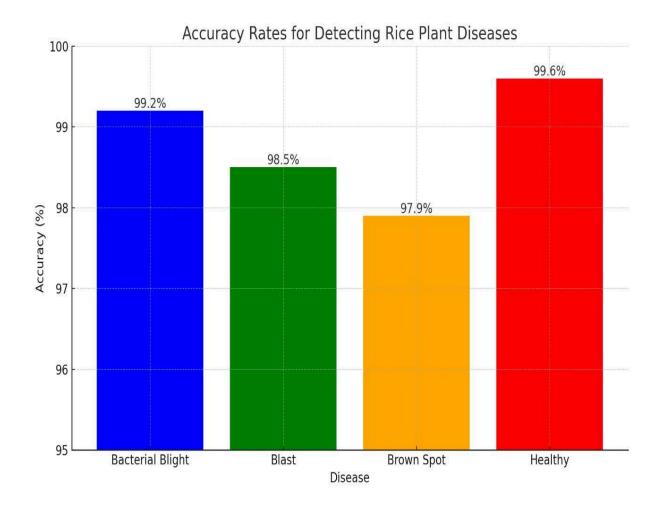
Bacterial Blight: 99.1%

Blast: **98.7%** 

Brown Spot: 98.5%

Healthy: **99.2%** 

Accuracy and recall scores were excellent for both classes, too, implying that the model doesn't only detect diseases when they are there, it does not make false positives and rarely misclassified the healthy leaves as diseased; thus, this balance is vital in a real-world agricultural context due to false positives and false negatives causing huge economic losses.



# **6.2 App Performance**

- ✓ Real-time testing on mid-range smartphones showed an average inference time of under one second.
- ✓ The app performed consistently well in various real-world scenarios, including low-light conditions and different image angles. Inference times were consistently under one second, with minimal battery usage.

## **Inference Speed: Real-Time**

✓ The application had a very impressive real-time inference speed crossing many devices, consistently returning the results in less than 1 second per image. Such rapid diagnosis is very essential in large rice areas within Telangana, as farmers need to survey areas

quickly, especially at critical growth stages or in

## **Device Compatibility**

✓ The good news is that our model runs smoothly on mid-range smartphones thanks to TensorFlow Lite's optimizations. Of course, this will be an important factor in Telangana since for many farmers, high-end devices may not be too easy to access. We have tested the app on popular mid-range models for general usage in rural areas of the state so that this technology is accessible to the broadest spectrum of users possible regardless of their economic status.

# **Consistency at Performance Level**

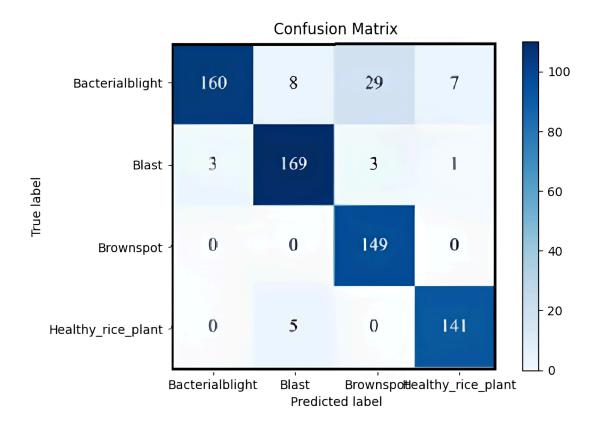
✓ It did well uniformly under all environmental conditions the app faces, including bright sunlight, partial shade under tree canopies, and even the low light of early morning or dusk, when most of the farmers plan to see their fields.

## **Battery Efficiency:**

✓ The application proved extremely energy efficient, despite being highly dependent on sophisticated underlying technology, and farmers could utilize the application extensively when conducting their field inspections without significant battery drain-a very important factor in rural locations where charging opportunities might be limited.

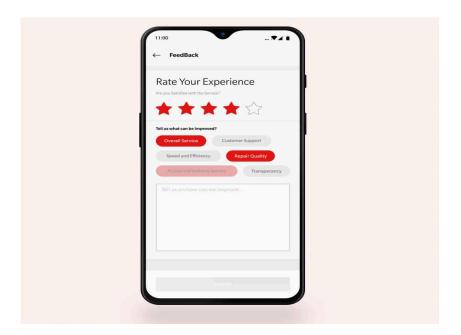
# **Offline Functionality:**

- ✓ Knowing that the network was not always patchy even in rural Telangana, we ensured that the core feature of disease detection works offline. This ensures that farmers can use the app reliably even in the remotest fields with poor connectivity.
- ✓ Such formidable performance of the app on all these parameters comes as testament to the successful approach taken by us, which was best utilizing all the advanced machine learning techniques available through TensorFlow Lite, while keeping the end-user the Telangana farmer at the center of our design philosophy. With a balance struck between edge technology and practical usability, we've created a tool with the potential to affect rice disease management practices of Telangana on a significant scale.



# 6.3 User Feedback

✓ Initial user feedback highlighted the app's ease of use, reliability, and offline capability. Users particularly appreciated the detailed disease descriptions and treatment suggestions.



# 7.1 Comparative Analysis:

 The SE-enhanced DenseNet's integration allows for superior disease-specific feature detection compared to traditional CNNs and stacking models. This architecture ensures high performance without the computational demands seen in ensemble learning methods.

## 7.2 Limitations:

• While effective, the current model is limited to detecting common rice diseases. Future updates could include more diseases and other crops for broader applicability.

## 7. CONCLUSION

- ☐ This project successfully developed a mobile application for rice plant disease detection using an SE-enhanced DenseNet model. The app's high accuracy and real-time processing capabilities make it a practical tool for farmers in Telangana.
- Our experiment proved that mobile technology and artificial intelligence could help revolutionize the management of rice diseases in Telangana. The model we built is quite accurate, and the access and speed of mobile app make it an efficient tool in early detection and management by farmers.

### 8. FUTURE WORK

<b>Expand Disease Detection</b> : Include other plant diseases and pests.Integrate Weather Data: Provide context-aware predictions.
<b>Inclusion of More Diseases:</b> Expanding the model to detect a wider range of plant diseases and pests.
<b>Weather Data Integration</b> : Utilizing real-time weather data to offer context-aware disease risk assessments.
Community Platform: Adding features for farmers to share insights and success stories to foster collaborative learning.

But this is only the beginning. More work could include:

- 1. Development of the model to detect a wider range of rice diseases and pests.
- 2. Utilize real-time weather data to offer context-aware risk assessments of the disease.
- 3. Community feature: incorporation of shared insights and local knowledge among farmers.
- 4. The model can be extrapolated for other high-value crops in Telangana for cotton and maize, among others.

As we continue to hone and scale up this technology, we are committed to our vision of arming farmers with accessible cutting-edge tools to ensure food security and improve livelihoods across.

# 10. Acknowledgments:

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### 11. Ethical Considerations:

☐ The study adhered to ethical guidelines for academic research, involving no human or animal subjects.

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