

Coding Challenge: Crop Yield Forecasting

The Scenario

You are a data analyst for "Agro-Solutions," a company that provides data-driven insights to farmers. Your task is to develop a crop yield forecasting model for wheat. Your Analysis will help farmers make informed decisions about planting, harvesting, and resource allocation.

You've been given a dataset containing historical data on wheat crop yields from various farms. The dataset includes the following variables:

- FarmID: A unique identifier for each farm.
- Year: The year the data was recorded.
- Rainfall_mm: The total rainfall in millimeters for the growing season.
- Temperature_C: The average temperature in Celsius during the growing season.
- Fertilizer_kg/ha: The amount of fertilizer applied in kilograms per hectare.
- Pesticide_L/ha: The amount of pesticide applied in liters per hectare.
- SoilType: The type of soil (e.g., Clay, Loam, Sandy).
- Yield_Tons/ha: The actual wheat yield in tons per hectare (this is the target variable you need to predict).

The Challenge Task

Your task is to use Excel to analyze this dataset and present your findings in a clear, actionable report.

Task Requirements

- Part 1: Data Cleaning and Preparation:
 - Identify and handle any missing or inconsistent data (e.g., fill in missing values, correct typos).
 - Use a suitable Excel function, such as IF or VLOOKUP, to create a new column called Yield_Category. The categories should be "High Yield" (above 5 tons/ha), "Medium Yield" (3-5 tons/ha), and "Low Yield" (below 3 tons/ha).
 - Data Aggregation: Summarize the data by SoilType. Calculate the average rainfall, average temperature, and average fertilizer usage for each soil type.

- Part 2: Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA):
 - Create pivot tables to answer the following questions:
 - What is the average yield for each SoilType?
 - Which Yield_Category had the highest average Fertilizer_kg/ha?
 - What was the average yield per year, broken down by SoilType?
 - Use conditional formatting to highlight farms with a Yield_Tons/ha of over 6.
 - Create a clustered column chart to visualize the average Yield_Tons/ha for each SoilType alongside the average Fertilizer_kg/ha for that soil type.
 - Part 3: Final Report and Recommendations:
 - Based on your analysis, create a summary report using text boxes in Excel. The report should answer the following questions:
 - Which SoilType appears to be the most productive? Provide data to support your conclusion.
 - What is the relationship between Fertilizer_kg/ha and Yield_Tons/ha? Do higher fertilizer amounts consistently lead to higher yields?
 - Are there any other variables that seem to have a strong impact on yield?
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Deliverables

Submit Excel workbook containing:

- The raw data sheet.
- A "Cleaned Data" sheet with all the preprocessing and the new Yield_Category column.
- A "Data Analysis" sheet with all the pivot tables, charts, and conditional formatting.
- A "Final Report" sheet with the written summary and recommendations based on their findings.