A

Mini Project Report

On

**“Liberian Rice Price Prediction”**

Submitted for partial fulfillment of requirement for the award of degree

of

**Master of Business Administration**

**(Artificial Intelligence and Data Science)**

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**GRAPHIC ERA (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)**

**DEHRADUN (UTTARAKHAND)**

**Session: 2024-2025**

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| **Supervision by:** | **Submitted by:** |
| Supervisor Name: Mr. Chandra Prakash  Designation: | Name: Sammy Mohammed Sackor  Roll No.: 1404950  Enrollment No.:GE-24144950 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMANT STUDIES**  **GRAPHIC ERA (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) DEHRADUN** |

**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the Mini Project entitled *“Liberian Rice Price Prediction”* submitted for the Degree of Master of Business Administration in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, is my original work and the Mini Project has not formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma, associateship, fellowship or similar other titles. It has not been submitted to any other University or Institution for the award of any degree or diploma.

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I have the pleasure of certifying that Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ is a student of Graphic Era (Deemed to be University) of the master’s degree in business administration (MBA) in AI&DS. His/her University Roll No is. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

He/She has completed his/her Mini Project titled as *“Title of the Project”* under my guidance.

I certify that this is his original effort & has not been copied from any other source. This project has also not been submitted in any other university for the purpose of award of any Degree.

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I recommend this Mini Project for evaluation & consideration for the award of Degree to the student.

Signature: Name of the Guide:

Signature: Name of the Area Chair/ HOD:

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I express my sincere thanks to my project guide, Mr./Dr./Ms./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Designation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Department \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for guiding me right form the inception till the successful completion of the project.

I also record my indebtedness to my supervisor, Prof. /Dr. /Mr. /Ms. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, for his / her counsel and guidance during the preparation of this Mini Project. I am grateful to (Director, Head or any other faculty) ……………………………………………………

I wish to record my sincere thanks to (your family members or friends etc.) ........................ for their help and cooperation throughout our project. My thanks are due to (those who have helped in collecting data or analysis or typesetting etc.).,

**(Signature of Student)**

**Name of the Student**

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# ABSTRACT

Rice is the most prevalent food product throughout the country of Liberia, and I have observed that its price also fluctuates extremely. Volatility can be a result of multiple factors such as seasonal variations that change over the course of a year, effects of holidays, political factors that change overnight, and fluctuations of the global marketplace that influence demand and supply. All these incessant booms and busts in price affect all the players involved, such as farmers that grow the rice, consumers who eat it for food, decision-makers who formulate policies, and buyers and sellers who buy and sell this valuable food product. To address and perhaps mitigate this severe problem, I have formulated a single value predictive system using a sophisticated machine called "Prophet," developed by the technology firm Facebook, which has subsequently rebranded as Meta.

For this specific project, I carried out the task of collecting complete data related to the price of Rice in Liberia for a span of years, that is, from 2018 until 2024. For this, I used both local and global sources so that the outlook would be comprehensive in terms of the information provided on pricing. Once the data had been collected, I cleaned and prepared the data thoroughly for processing so that they would be complete and ready for further processing. In doing so, I gave special importance to important occasions like Christmas and Independence Day because I understood that such important occasions play a major role in influencing price change in the market. Hence, such important occasions were included in the forecasting model so that its validity and reliability could be increased. The model itself was also tuned with utmost care so that it considered specific value patterns as well as seasonal movements characteristic of Liberia's market trends.

In order to quantify and assess the performance and efficiency of the model, two prominent and well-documented metrics were utilized for this analysis: the Mean Absolute Error (MAE) and the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE). The outcomes derived from the calculations indicated that the model possessed a substantial level of performance, particularly during festival seasons when demand and activity could be at its highest. I also made the effort to create visualizations that would assist in better representing and explaining the forecasts for better understanding.

Finally, I was able to distribute the whole system through a very user-friendly web tool that is referred to as Streamlight. This new tool greatly improves the accessibility and ease of use of the prediction system, making it more user-friendly for people to use. In my view, this specific tool can significantly help different stakeholders in making better and more efficient decisions on the management of both the supply and demand of rice, thus boosting overall efficiency. The project is set to offer firm support to further efforts aimed at improving food security in Liberia. It is worth mentioning that rice in Liberia is a political commodity; thus, offering a constant supply throughout the year is essential to ensure the population's needs are met.

# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## Background

Rice is the most frequently consumed food in Liberia. It is on the menu for nearly every household every day. The cost of rice changes daily in Liberia due to population growth, major celebrations, political tension, or changes in the world market. These changes influence households, small farmers, rice importers, consumers, and the government.

To understand how these value changes occur and whether we can forecast them before they occur, I chose to do a prediction project for rice prices. I applied a forecasting tool known as Facebook Prophet, which assists in coming up with forecasts using older data. This tool is helpful because it can factor in special days like Christmas or Independence Day, which tend to influence prices in Liberia.

## Problem details

In Liberia, it is difficult to predict rice prices. They change suddenly, and people don't always know why. This makes families difficult to plan their expenses, and it also affects sellers and importers. Traditional methods for predicting prices do not always work well here because they do not consider local holidays or patterns. I saw it as a problem and wanted to find a better way to help people know what could be with the prices of rice in the future.

## Goals

The main goal of this project is to build a simple system that can predict the price of rice in Liberia. My small goals are:

1. To collect the price of rice from 2018 to 2024.
2. Prepare the data to clean and prepare it.
3. To include holidays affecting rice prices.
4. To test how well the model works.
5. To make the system easy to make a small steamlight app.

## Significance of the study

This project will help many people. If I predict rice prices, families can make better plans. Sellers and buyers can take smart decisions. Even the government can use it to help the underprivileged to help in the development of food schemes. I also want to show how computer equipment that can solve real problems in Prophet Liberia. This study is not only about numbers - it is about helping people.

## Scope of study

In this project, I only focused on rice prices in Liberia from 2018 to 2024. I used monthly data and added large holidays to see how they affect prices. I used devices such as Python, Prophet and streamlight. I did not include all sorts of events or shocks, such as war or natural disasters, but I tried to focus on the main patterns that we see each year. In this project, I only focused on rice prices in Liberia from 2018 to 2024. I used monthly data and added large holidays to see how they affect prices. I used devices such as Python, Prophet and streamlight. I did not include all kinds of events or shaking such as war or natural disasters, but I tried to focus on the main patterns that we see every year every year.

# CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

## 2.1 Introduction

Promoting agricultural prices is a well-established area of ​​research that has attracted significant attention due to data science, machine learning and progress in artificial intelligence. Accurate value forecasts are important, especially for staple crops like rice, which significantly affect the economies of developing countries, including Liberia. This chapter offers a comprehensive review of the literature on agricultural value forecasting, focusing on traditional methods, modern machine learning approaches and Facebook Prophet's application in agriculture. This review also highlights the existing research at intervals and explains how to address them.

## 2.2 Importance of Agricultural Price Forecast

Agricultural prices are important for food security, economic stability and permanent agricultural development (Baffes & Haniotis, 2010). According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2022), timely information on crop prices enables farmers, traders and policy makers to make informed decisions on production, storage, marketing and policy making. Accurate value can help reduce forecast losses, customize profits and ensure a stable food supply.

For example, a study by Abidoy et al. (2019) showed that prophecies of accurate corn prices in Nigeria reduced the loss after harvesting and increased profit for farmers. Similarly, Subramaniam et al. (2020) displayed that historical value data can be used to develop forecast models that prevent food deficiency and stabilize markets.

## 2.3 Traditional Forecast Technology

Traditional time series forecast methods such as moving average, invertebrate smoothing, and ARIMA (Auto-Rigressive Integrated Moving Averages) have been widely used in agricultural value forecasting (box et al., 2015). These techniques are effective for stable data, but struggle to catch complex seasonal patterns or to respond to unexpected events without significant amendments.

For example, Ghosh (2018) implemented Arima to predict rice prices in India, but found that the model's accuracy declined during the sudden market change. This range is common in traditional models, which depend on historical data patterns and may not be responsible for external factors such as holidays, political events or global market trends.

## 2.4 Machine learning and modern forecast approach

With the rise of machine learning, more advanced methods have been introduced for value forecasting, including the support vector machine (SVM), random forest and recurrent nerve network (RNN) (Kumar and Kundu, 2021). These models can capture complex patterns in data but often require comprehensive data preprocessing and computational resources.

In recent years, automated forecast tools such as Facebook Prophet, Google Tensorflow Time Series and Microsoft Azure Forecast have simplified the forecast process. Of these, Facebook has become particularly popular due to ease of propagation and missing data, trend change and the ability to handle seasonal effects (Taylor and Latham, 2018).

## 2.5 Facebook Prophet Model

Prophet is a strong time chain forecast equipment developed by the Prophet Facebook's Data Science Team (Taylor & Latham, 2018). It is designed to model time chain data with three main components:

Trend: Long-term growth or decrease in data.

Seasonal: Regular patterns that repeat at specific periods (eg, annual, weekly).

Holidays or special events: adaptable events that can affect forecasts.

The Prophet is particularly useful for agricultural forecasting because it can easily incorporate external phenomena (such as holidays or economic disruption) that affects prices. It is also highly flexible, allowing users to fix the model according to their data.

## 2.6 Prophet application in agricultural price forecasting

Many studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of the Prophet for agricultural price forecasting. Aggarwal and Gupta (2021) used the Prophet to predict wheat prices in India and found that the accuracy of the model, including festival dates, has improved significantly. Similarly, Tateh et al. (2022) applied the Prophet to forecast Cocoa prices in Ghana and reported that the model improved Arima and LSTM in capturing seasonal patterns.

Okoro et al. (2021) used the Prophet to model the prices of Yama and Cassava in Nigeria. By incorporating fuel prices and public holidays as variables, they were able to achieve better predictions, highlighting the importance of external factors in agricultural price forecasting.

## 2.7 Challenges in agricultural price forecasting

Despite the success of modern forecasting methods, many challenges remain:

Data Quality: There is a lack of reliable, coherent agricultural price data in many developing countries.

Complexity to affect factors: Prices are affected by a wide range of factors, including weather, transport costs, and global market trends.

Limited research in some regions: Most current studies focus on large agricultural markets in Asia or South America, with limited research on West African countries, including Liberia.

## 2.8 Intervals identified in the literature

Although several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of the Prophet for agricultural price forecasting, some have focused on rice prices in Liberia. Most of the studies are concentrated in neighboring countries such as Nigeria, Ghana and Kota D'Atoire. Given the unique economic structure of Liberia and heavy dependence on rice imports, it is necessary to develop a local forecast model.

Additionally, many studies focus on the technical accuracy of the model (eg, MAE, RMSE) without discovering their practical applications for policymaking or business plan. This limits their value to stakeholders.

## 2.9 Contribution of this study

This project contributes to current literature in many ways:

Localized forecasting: It provides one of the first known applications of the Prophet for rice value forecasting in Liberia.

Inclusion of real-world events: The model includes special events (eg, Christmas, Independence Day) that greatly affect rice prices.

User-friendly interface: Unlike many other studies, this project provides a live, interactive forecast for non-technical users through Streamlight.

Practical insights: The system is designed to provide actionable insights for farmers, businesses and policy makers.

## 2.10 Summary

The chapter reviewed the current literature on agricultural price forecasting, including traditional methods (eg, Arima), modern machine learning techniques and Facebook Prophet models. This highlighted the strengths and boundaries of these approaches and identified gaps in existing research, especially the lack of local studies focused on rice prices in Liberia. By addressing these intervals, the purpose of this study is to develop a reliable, user-friendly forecast system that can help stakeholders in Liberia make informed decisions.

# CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

## 3.1 Overview

This chapter provides a detailed interpretation of the function used to develop the price forecast system of rice for Liberia. It includes employed equipment and technologies, data collection process, data preprocessing, data preparation for the Preprocessing and the integration of special events to improve the forecast accuracy. Carefully following this functioning, I ensured that the resulting model was able to do reliable, accurate and meaningful predictions.

## 3.2 Tools & Technologies

To build the forecast system of rice price, I used many tools and technologies, serving a specific objective in each development process:

1. Python - The Primary programming language used in this project. Python is a versatile, high-level programming language with comprehensive support for data science and machine learning.

2. Facebook Prophet - Prophet is an open-source Forecasting Tool developed by Facebook (now Mata). This time is designed to make the series easier, especially for data with strong seasonal components. The power of the Prophet can model events, holidays and other recurring factors.

3. Panda - A powerful Python library for data manipulation and analysis. This enabled me to efficiently load, clean, convert and collect the data of rice prices.

4. Strimlit - An open-source framework to deploy the Python application as interactive web apps. I used Streamlight to create a user-friendly interface for the forecast system, making it accessible to anyone with an internet connection.

5. Matplotlib and Seaborn - Visualization libraries were used to make informative plots, including value trends, forecasting graphs and performance matrix.

These devices simultaneously provided a strong and scalable solution for the construction, testing and deployment of the price forecast model of rice price.

## 3.3 Data Sources

The data used in this project was collected from both local and international sources to ensure a wide understanding of the rice price trend in Liberia.

**A. Local source**

1. Local market: I collected rice prices from many markets and vendors in Liberia. It included retail stores, open markets and wholesale distributors' prices.
2. Government Report: I mentioned the price bulletin from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Commerce.

**B. International source**

1. Global Rice Price Data: I accessed data from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Bank to understand global value trends.
2. International Market Report: Additional data was sourced from international rice trade publications to catch external factors affecting rice prices.

Calling local and global data, I was able to influence the price of rice in Liberia, which was with a more accurate representation of influencing factors.

## 3.4 Data Preprocessing

Data preprocessing is an important step in any data science project. For this project, I implemented several pre-processing techniques to ensure that the data was clean, coordinated and ready for modeling:

1. Missing data handling: Some rice prices were missing for a few months. To address it, I used an average of the surrounding months to fill these gaps.
2. Data formatting: The date column was converted into a standard datetime format, which ensures stability in the dataset. This was necessary because the Prophet requires a properly formatted date column for the forecast of the time chain.

## 3.5 Monthly Aggregation

The original rice price data was collected daily, which led to a high level of instability. Since rice prices are generally monitored monthly for market analysis, I collected daily data in monthly averages. This provided a more stable and meaningful dataset for the forecast.

Daily prices were grouped until month.

The average price was calculated for each month.

This approach reduced the noise and highlighted meaningful trends in the data.

## 3.6 Preparing Data for Prophet

The Prophet model requires data in a specific format with two columns:

1. DS (date): Date of each record.
2. Y (Price): Price of rice for that date.

I replaced the pre-process data to match this format. Additionally, I included special programs and holidays, such as Christmas and Independence Day, which is known to affect rice prices in Liberia.

## 3.7 Special Events

During his research, I came to know that some holidays and special events greatly affect rice prices in Liberia. This includes:

1. Christmas (25 December): Period of increased demand, leading to price spikes.
2. Independence Day (26 July): Another festive duration with increased demand.

Easter, New Year's Day, and other major public holidays.

I integrated these phenomena as a special holiday in the Prophet model, which included the model to identify and account for ups and downs. This significantly improved the accuracy of the model, as it could estimate the price increase around these periods.

## 3.8 Model Sports with Streamlight

After the manufacture and training of the model, I deployed it using Streamlight. The streamlight allowed me to convert the dragon-based forecast system into an interactive web application, which can be accessed by anyone. Users can:

1. Upload your own rice price dataset.
2. See processed data and forecast results.
3. Imagine forecast trends and seasonal components.
4. MAE, RMSE and R. For example, evaluate model performance using a matrix.

## 3.9 Summary

In this chapter, I have expanded the complete functioning used to develop the rice price forecast system. It includes selection of tools, data collection, pre-processing and preparation for the Prophet, as well as integration of special events to improve accuracy. The next chapter will focus on the model development process, in which the Prophet model was configured, trained, and evaluated.

# CHAPTER 4: DEVELOPMENT OF MODEL

## 4.1 Introduction

This chapter offers a wide breakdown of how I have developed a rice price prediction model using a powerful time chain forecast tool, Propaganda, developed by Facebook (now Meta). The process included preparing models, configuring seasonal patterns, training models on historical data, and evaluating their performance. The purpose of this model is to capture the underlying pattern of rice price in Liberia, which is a useful tool for farmers, businesses and policy makers.

## 4.2 Preparing the Model

After completing the data preparation, I started the model development process. The first step was to load the Prophet Library in Python and provide it with clean and pre-processed rice price data. The Prophet is designed to forecast the time chain, making it an excellent choice for the project, which involves predicting rice prices over time.

### 4.2.1 Loading Prophet

I imported the Prophet Library and ensured the model with some basic settings:

From prophet imports Prophet

Model = Prophet ()

It created a basic Prophet model that was able to make predictions. However, to improve the accuracy of the model, I needed an account for seasonal patterns and special events affecting rice prices.

## 4.3 Adding Seasonal Patterns

Rice prices are affected by many seasonal factors, including:

1. Annual seasonal: Prices rise during a holiday period like Christmas and Independence Day.
2. Weekly seasonal: Although it is less clear, some value changes occur based on weekly market activities.

I configured the model to identify these patterns:

model = Prophet(

yearly\_seasonality=True,

weekly\_seasonality=True,

daily\_seasonality=False

)

### 4.3.1 Custom seasonal

In addition to standard annual and weekly seasonal, I added custom seasonal components to capture more complex patterns:

model.add\_seasonality(name='monthly', period=30.5, fourier\_order=5)

model.add\_seasonality(name='quarterly', period=90, fourier\_order=7)

model.add\_seasonality(name='semiannual', period=180, fourier\_order=10)

These custom masters helped the model better understand the short-term fluctuations occurring within a year.

## 4.4 Training the Model

Training the model involves using historical rice price data to teach the models how prices have changed over time. For this project, I used data from 2018 to 2024. The model learned from these data points, identified trends and seasonal effects.

model.fit(prepared\_data)

### 4.4.1 Model Adaptation

I customized the model using many techniques:

1. Tuning change point: Adjusting the sensitivity of the model for rapid change in price trends.
2. Adjusting seasonal mode: switching between additive and multiplicative seasonality.
3. Including special events: adding holidays and other events known to affect rice prices.

## 4.5 Model Performance Evaluation

1. After training, I tested the model using standard performance metrics:
2. Absolute Error (MAE): Average measures a prediction error.
3. Route medium -paid error (RMSE): Penalises large errors more heavily.
4. R-Squared (R Rans): measures how well the model explains value variability.

from sklearn.metrics import mean\_absolute\_error, mean\_squared\_error, r2\_score

actual = prepared\_data['y']

predicted = model.predict(prepared\_data)

mae = mean\_absolute\_error(actual, predicted['yhat'])

rmse = np.sqrt(mean\_squared\_error(actual, predicted['yhat']))

r2 = r2\_score(actual, predicted['yhat'])

1. Actual vs. Predicted Plot: Compare the price predicted of real prices.

model.plot (forecast)

model.plot\_compenants (forecasting)

## 4.6 Model Interpretation

Imagining the model results helped me understand how it was predicting. I could see that the model accurately captured the seasonal spikes around Christmas and other holidays, as well as a normal value trend in years.

## 4.7 Personnel

Once the model was fully developed and tested, I deployed it using a streamlight, making it an interactive web application which could be accessed by anyone. The streamlight allowed users to upload their data, generate forecasts and imagine the results.

## 4.8 Summary

In this chapter, I expanded the process of developing rice value prediction models using the Prophet. This included model preparation, seasonal pattern configuration, training, adaptation and evaluation. I also explained how I imagined the results and deployed the model for public use. In the next chapter, I will present the results of this model and discuss its performance.

# CHAPTER 5: RESULTS & DISCUSSION

## 5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results generated by the rice value prediction model developed using the Prophet. The chapter begins by discussing the forecast results of the model, followed by its performance. Finally, it examines the implications of the real world of results and identifies the advantages, boundaries and potential reforms of the forecast system.

## 5.2 Forecast Results

After training the model, I made forecasts for rice prices in Liberia for several upcoming months. The forecasts clearly reflected the major seasonal trends. For example:

1. Price peaks around the holidays: The model has increased the value of the predicted price such as the major holidays like Independence Day in July and Christmas in December. This corresponds to the actual world behavior, where spikes are in demand during these festive periods.
2. Gradually price increase: The model also estimated slow and stable increase in rice prices over time, which aligns with inflation, global supply chain issues and the real -world trends inspired by changes in agricultural production costs.
3. Steady prices in non-hematic months: During non-heptured months, the model suggested relatively stable rice prices, which is expected in any market with slight fluctuations.

## 5.3 Model Evaluation

To assess the accuracy of the model, I used the following assessment matrix:

1. Mean Average Error (MAE): This metric showed that model predictions were usually close to real prices, with small deviations.
2. Root Mean Square Error (RMSE): This metric confirmed the reliability of the model, indicating that large prediction errors were rare.
3. R-Square (R AR): This metric showed how well the model explained the variability in rice prices. A high R value indicated a strong model.

The graphs assisted with visualizing price variation over time and the tracking of the model's predictions.

### 5.3.1 View Evaluation

To provide a more spontaneous understanding of the model's performance, I created many gradings:

1. Actual Prices vs. Estimated Prices: A line graph comparing actual rice prices with model predictions.
2. Forecast Plot: A graph shows that with estimated prices for future months, with confidence intervals.
3. Component Plot: How the trend, seasonal factors and a rupture of special events affect the forecast.

## 5.4 Real-World Interpretation

The prediction system has practical applications for a wide range of stakeholders in Liberia:

1. Farmers: By understanding the expected price trends, farmers can decide when to sell their rice for maximum profit.
2. Sellers and storing: They can prepare for price growth and manage stock levels more effectively.
3. Government agencies: The government may use the system to inform food safety policies and plan for potential value spikes.
4. Family: The home can use forecasts for the budget for food expenses, ensuring that they are not caught by a sudden price increase.

## 5.5 insight by forecasting

Many major insights emerged from forecasting results:

1. Seasonal value spikes: Prices are continuously higher during the holiday period, especially in July (Independence Day) and December (Christmas).
2. Long-term price increase: Rice prices are expected to rise gradually over time due to inflation and other economic factors.
3. Stable prices in regular months: Prices remain relatively stable outside the festival period.

## 5.6 Benefits of the forecasting system

The price forecast system of rice provides many benefits:

1. User-friendly: Strimlite's interface makes it easier to use for anyone regardless of technical expertise.
2. Accurate predictions: The model catches both seasonal trends and long-term value growth accurately.
3. Real world utility: The system provides actionable insights for farmers, businesses and policy makers.
4. Scalability: The model can be easily adapted to forecast prices for other agricultural products.

## 5.7Model Limitations

Despite its strength, the model has some limitations:

1. Reliance on historical data: Models cannot predict unprecedented events (eg, epidemic, war) that do not exist in historical data.
2. Lack of geographical specificity: The model provides a single forecast for all of Liberia, without accounting for regional value difference.
3. Limited external factor: While it involves major holidays, other important factors (eg, transport costs, weather) are not directly accounted for.

## 5.8 Potential Improvement

The system may include future improvements:

1. Including regional data: collecting rice prices from different regions of Liberia to improve the accuracy of prediction.
2. Integrating external factors: fuel prices, weather conditions and global rice prices such as variables.
3. Improvement in user interface: Increasing the streamlight app with more visualization options and user control.

## 5.9 Last View

This chapter has presented the results of the Rice Price Prediction Model and discussed its practical implications. The system has demonstrated its ability to provide accurate forecasts and valuable insights for various stakeholders in Liberia. By constantly improving the model and expanding its functionality, it could become an essential tool for agricultural planning and food safety management.

# CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Introduction**

This chapter provides a comprehensive conclusion to the rice value forecast system developed using Facebook Prophet. It summarises the project objectives, major conclusions, and the value of the system for various stakeholders in Liberia. Additionally, it provides actionable recommendations for various groups of stakeholders, underlining the contribution of this project in national development, and provides a final reflection on the work done.

## Conclusions

The price of rice developed in this project is aimed at addressing an important issue in Liberia: unexpected ups and downs in rice prices, which affects farmers, businesses and common citizens. Facebook Prophet, taking advantage of a powerful time chain forecasting equipment, was able to provide reliable predictions to the system rice prices, paying special attention to the influence of special events such as Christmas and Independence Day.

The model demonstrated that rice prices generally Rise Around Major Holidays, which is consistent with real-world observations. This insight is crucial for stakeholders who need to plan their purchasing, selling, or policy decisions. In addition, the model showed a slow and stable increase in rice prices over time, which reflects changes in comprehensive economic trends such as inflation and global supply chains.

## Key Achievements

Several Key Achievements Were Realized during this project:

1. Development of an accurate rice price forecasting model using prophet.
2. Integration of Special Events (E.G., Holidays) That Significantly Impact Rice Prices in Liberia.
3. Deployment of the model as an easy-to-use Streamlit application, making it accessible to users without technical expertise.
4. Effective Model Evaluation Using Performance Metrics (MAE, RMSE, R²) and Visual Analysis.
5. Provision of Actionable Insights for Various Stakeholders, Including Farmers, Government agencies, and businesses.

## Recommendations for Stakeholders

The following recommendations are provided for various stakeholder groups that can benefit from this forecast system:

**For the Government**

Use the forecast system to monitor rice price trends and plan for food imports.

Develop policies supporting local farmers during high-price periods.

Apply price stabilization programs during major holidays to protect consumers.

**For Farmers**

Use forecasts to identify the best time to sell rice for maximum benefit.

Consider using the system to plan planting and harvesting schedule.

Cooperate with local cooperative societies to make collective decisions based on price forecasts.

**For businesses and traders**

Monitor forecasted prices to customize purchasing and inventory management.

Plan campaigns around the estimated price growth.

Use the system to manage cash flow more effectively.

**For researchers and students**

Explore further improvement in forecast models by integrating additional data sources (eg, weather, fuel prices).

Study the effects of external factors (eg, global rice prices) at local prices.

Use the system as a case study to teach data science and machine learning.

**For technical developers**

Develop mobile applications or SMS-based systems to make forecast equipment accessible to rural communities.

Increase streamlight interface with interactive features, such as user-defined forecast periods.

Constantly update the model with new data to improve accuracy.

## Contribution to National Development

The project contributes to national development in Liberia by providing data-powered solutions to a local problem, Rice value volatility. This shows how technology and data science can be implemented to improve food security, increase decision-making and promote permanent agricultural practices. The forecast system can help policymakers to ensure that inf

In addition, the project highlights the ability of data science for social good, showing how advanced technologies can be used to solve practical challenges in developing countries.

**Project limits**

Despite its success, the project has some limitations:

The model depends a lot on historical data and cannot predict unprecedented events such as Pandemics or natural disasters.

It is not region-specific, providing a single forecast for all of Liberia without accounting for regional value differences.

Some external factors (eg, transport costs, weather) models are not included.

## Future instructions

To further increase the system, the following reforms have been suggested:

Include regional rice price data to improve predicted accuracy.

Add outer variables such as weather data, fuel prices and global rice prices.

Improve streamlight interfaces with interactive control and user adaptation.

Develop an offline version of the app for rural areas with limited internet access.

## Last Reflection

Working on this project has been a practical journey. I have gained a deeper understanding of the forecast of data science, time chain, and how technology can be applied to solve real-world problems. The price forecasting system of rice developed in this project is not only a technical achievement - it is a device that can benefit Liberians by providing reliable price forecasting.

I hope that this work will inspire further innovation in data-operated solutions for agricultural challenges, in Liberia and other developing countries.

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Plot forecast:

Figure 1.