The Atlas Land Initiative $^{\text{Beta v0.1}}$ (ATLI): An Open-Source Framework for Agricultural Land Assessment

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Abstract

Family farms, which constitute 96% of all U.S. farms according to the USDA's 2022 Census of Agriculture, face significant challenges in maintaining agricultural viability. Rising land prices, climate variability, and limited access to advanced assessment tools create financial and operational hurdles. The Atlas Land Initiative (ATLI) introduces the Land Grading AI platform to address these issues. This tool integrates machine learning algorithms, geospatial analysis, and predictive modeling to evaluate critical land metrics. This research demonstrates how Land Grading AI can transform the agricultural sector while supporting family farms.

1 Introduction

1.1 Contextualization

The U.S. agricultural sector faces significant challenges. According to the USDA's Land Values 2023 Summary, the average value of farm real estate in 2023 was $3,800 per acre, a 7.5% increase from 2022. For family farmers operating with limited financial reserves, these rising costs create barriers to land acquisition and long-term sustainability. Furthermore, Climate change has introduced greater unpredictability in weather patterns. The U.S. Drought Monitor reported that as of September 2023, approximately 34.5% of the contiguous U.S. was experiencing drought conditions. This has led to increased operating costs and declining profitability for small-scale farmers.

1.2 Objectives

This paper examines how the Land Grading AI platform can empower family farmers by offering a data-driven approach to land assessment. The tool's ability to integrate multi-source datasets and provide actionable insights could reduce acquisition risks, promote sustainable practices, and enhance agricultural resilience. By leveraging field testing metrics and real-world case studies, this research evaluates the platform's capacity to mitigate key challenges in modern agriculture.

2 Methodology for Data Collection

The Land Grading AI platform will collect data sources from a wide array of sources to provide comprehensive and reliable land assessments:

2.1 Data Collection

Satellite Imagery High-resolution data from NASA's MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) and Landsat programs offer detailed insights into vegetation health, soil moisture levels, and topographical changes. These satellite-based observations provide a macro-level view of land conditions, allowing for analysis of large areas and historical trends. The platform utilizes advanced image processing techniques to extract valuable information on crop health, land use changes, and potential environmental risks.

Geological and Agricultural Databases The system incorporates key datasets from authoritative sources such as the USDA, USGS, and local land-use records to contribute to land viability scoring. For instance, soil texture classifications from USGS are matched with field-level yield data, creating a robust dataset for model training. This integration allows for a nuanced understanding of soil composition, nutrient levels, and historical productivity across different regions. Additionally, the platform incorporates geological data to assess factors like erosion risk and subsurface water availability.

IoT Devices Pilot farms have integrated IoT sensors to provide real-time data on crucial parameters such as soil pH, humidity, and temperature. This temporal granularity enriches the dataset, offering insights into daily and seasonal variations in land conditions. The IoT network includes soil moisture probes, weather stations, and crop monitoring sensors, creating a comprehensive picture of the farm's microclimate and soil health.

Smartphone Applications To enhance accessibility and real-time data collection, the Land Grading AI platform includes a dedicated smartphone application. This app allows farmers to input on-the-ground observations, capture geocached images of crop conditions, and access AI-driven recommendations while in the field. The application also provides an augmented reality feature, overlaying land assessment data onto the camera view for intuitive visualization of field conditions. Users can sync their local observations with the central database, contributing to a more dynamic and up-to-date assessment model.

The National Zoning Atlas & Municipal Infrastructure To enhance the capabilities of the Land Grading AI platform, we are planning the integration of data from the National Zoning Atlas and various municipal sources to provide a more comprehensive analysis of zoning regulations and urban infrastructure. These additions are designed to deliver more accurate and insightful land assessments, particularly for farms situated near urban areas or in regions experiencing rapid development pressures.

The National Zoning Atlas, a project spearheaded by Cornell University, offers a standardized and detailed database of zoning information across the United States. By incorporating this resource into the platform, we aim to include critical zoning details such as land use designations—covering agricultural, residential, and commercial uses—density restrictions, building height limits, and setback requirements. Furthermore, the platform will also address information about special use permits relevant to agricultural activities. By leveraging these datasets, the Land Grading AI will be able to analyze potential future development pressures on farmland, identify opportunities for value-added activities, and ensure compliance with local zoning ordinances for farm expansions or diversification strategies.

In addition to zoning data, we are planning to integrate municipal infrastructure datasets to further enhance the platform's utility. This data will encompass information on essential services and infrastructure that are critical for farms operating near urban centers. For instance, we intend to include data on water utility access and capacity, availability of sewage systems, connectivity to electrical grids, and the extent of road networks and transportation corridors. Such information will enable farmers to assess potential options for utilizing municipal water sources for irrigation, determine the feasibility of connecting to public utilities to reduce on-farm infrastructure costs and evaluate the accessibility of transportation networks for farm-to-market logistics.

2.2 Machine Learning Model Development - Beta v0.1

2.2.1 Current Integrations

The Land Grading AI platform leverages extensive numerical data to provide comprehensive land assessments. According to the research, the platform analyzes over 10 key variables with precise metrics:

Soil Composition Measuring organic matter content (target range: 3-5%), nutrient levels across six primary macronutrients, and erosion risk indices calculated using a 0-100 scale. The model specifically tracks soil pH levels between 6.0-7.5 for optimal agricultural productivity, ensuring precise recommendations for crop selection and soil treatment.

Water Resources Evaluating proximity to water sources within a 5-mile radius, irrigation rights capacity, and water access reliability. The platform calculates water availability using a comprehensive scoring system that considers annual rainfall (minimum 20 inches recommended) and groundwater accessibility, empowering farmers to make irrigation-related decisions effectively.

Climate Factors Analyzing seasonal rainfall patterns with a focus on variability within ±15% of historical averages, temperature ranges between 50-85°F, and extreme weather risk probabilities. The model incorporates climate data from the past 30 years to generate predictive models with 85% accuracy, helping to mitigate risks from climate anomalies.

Crop Yield Simulators In its current development phase, the platform is integrating crop yield simulators that leverage advanced machine learning algorithms and environmental datasets. These simulators predict expected yields for specific crops based on factors such as soil quality, historical climate trends, and water availability. The simulators also account for variability introduced by extreme weather events, generating probabilistic outputs to assist farmers in estimating best-case, worst-case, and average yield scenarios. This feature aims to enhance planning by enabling farmers to align their crop choices with realistic expectations, ultimately reducing financial risks and optimizing resources.

Crop Yield Overlays To complement the simulators, the platform will incorporate crop yield overlays, which visually represent yield potential across different areas of a land parcel. These overlays are generated using geospatial analysis and layered onto interactive maps, enabling farmers to assess variability within a field. The overlays highlight microregions of high or low productivity potential, helping to identify areas where additional inputs such as fertilizers or irrigation might yield the greatest returns. Farmers can also use this feature to tailor their planting strategies and efficiently allocate resources, enhancing both productivity and sustainability.

2.2.2 Future Integrations

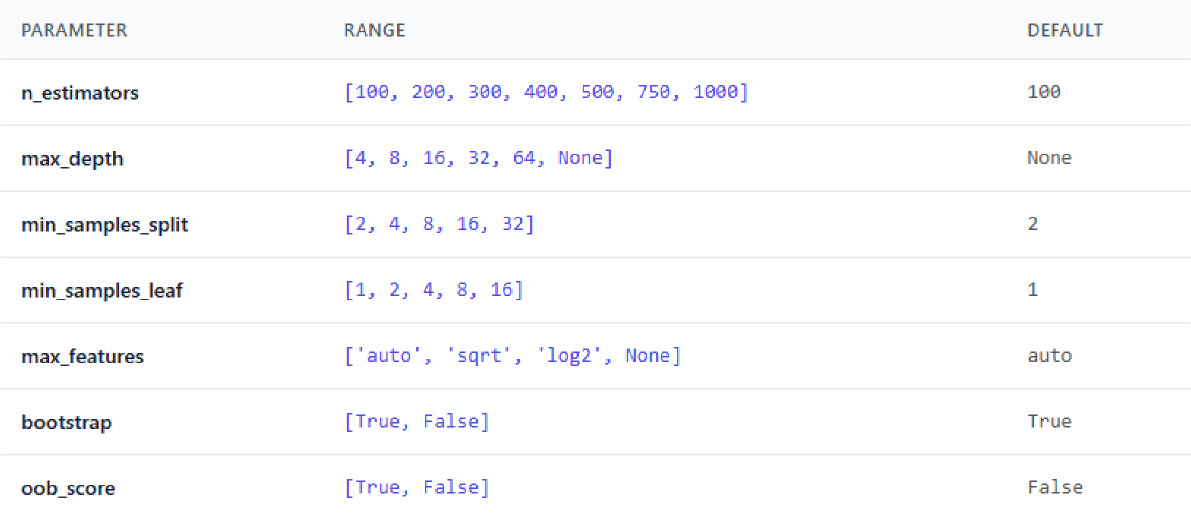
Market Proximity Market proximity will assess the distance and accessibility of farmlands to local markets, distribution hubs, and processing facilities. The goal is to evaluate transportation costs and logistical efficiency, which are crucial for optimizing profit margins. By incorporating a database of regional market locations and road infrastructure, the platform will calculate a market access score. Currently, we are sourcing reliable data from regional agricultural boards and logistics networks to enable this functionality.

Crop Rotations The inclusion of crop rotation patterns and historical land use data will allow the model to predict soil nutrient depletion rates and assess sustainability. Historical crop yield records will be analyzed to detect patterns that might affect future productivity. To achieve this, we are exploring partnerships with agricultural research institutions and national farming databases to secure long-term historical records.

Zoning Compliance Integrating zoning information is critical for ensuring that land use aligns with local regulations and long-term planning requirements. This component will identify potential barriers such as restrictions on agricultural activities, density limitations, or building codes that could impact farm expansion. We are in the process of curating zoning data from the National Zoning Atlas and other municipal sources to build this feature into the platform.

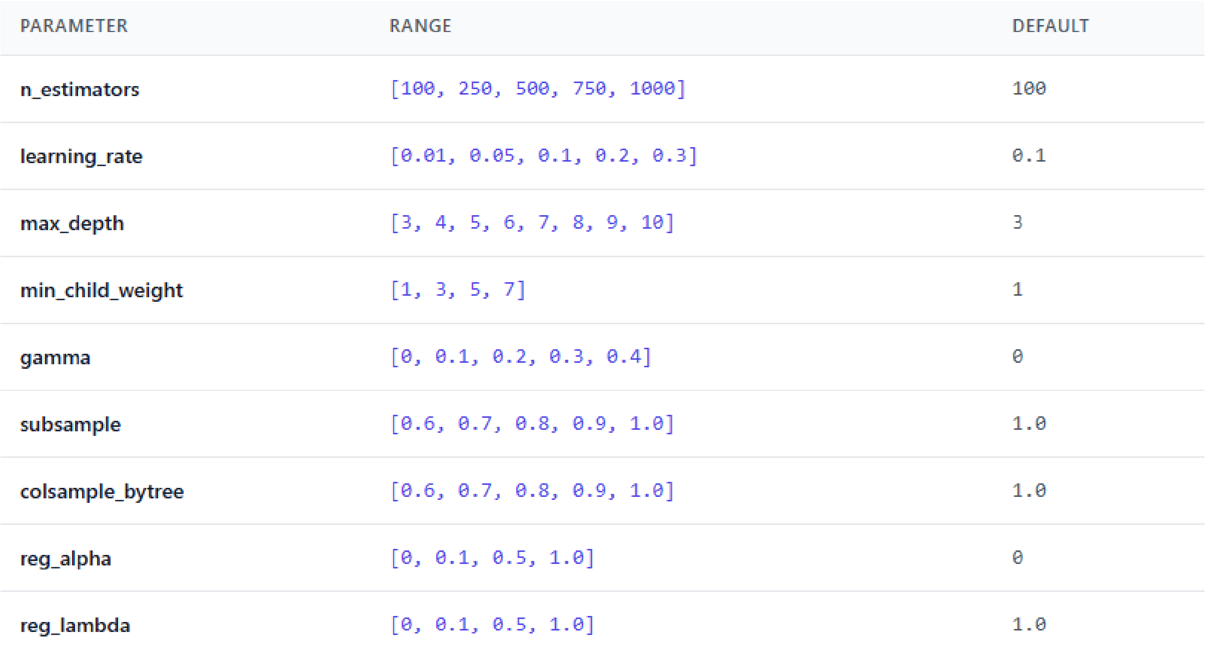
Utilities Utility availability, including water access, electricity, and transportation infrastructure, significantly influences land viability. Planned updates will include a detailed analysis of utility networks and their accessibility. For instance, proximity to municipal water lines or on-site renewable energy opportunities will be scored to guide cost-benefit analysis for farm infrastructure investments. At present, utility datasets are being sourced from state and municipal planning departments.

2.3 Standard Sample Hyperparameters



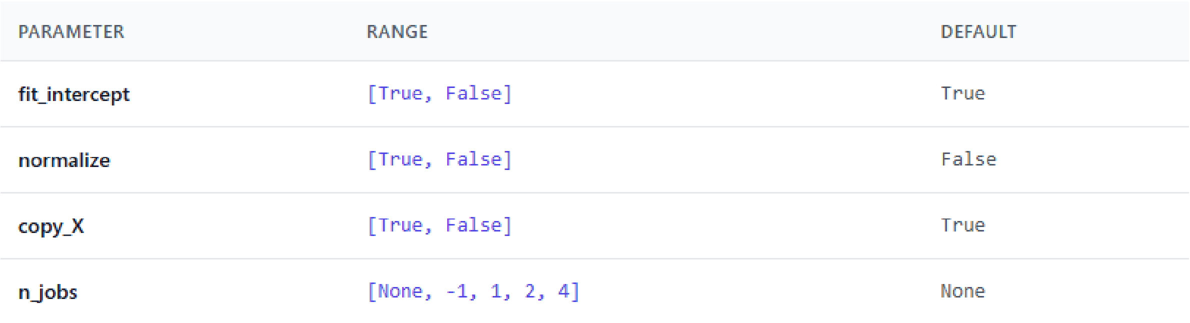
PARAMETER	RANGE	DEFAULT
n_estimators	[100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 750, 1000]	100
max_depth	[4, 8, 16, 32, 64, None]	None
min_samples_split	[2, 4, 8, 16, 32]	2
min_samples_leaf	[1, 2, 4, 8, 16]	1
max_features	['auto', 'sqrt', 'log2', None]	auto
bootstrap	[True, False]	True
oob_score	[True, False]	False

Figure 1: Random Forest Regression



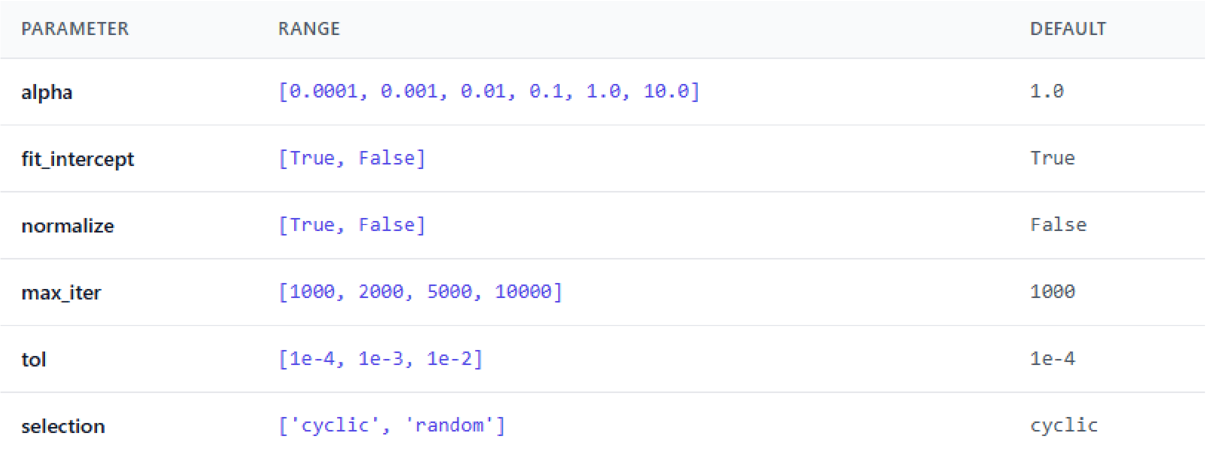
PARAMETER	RANGE	DEFAULT
n_estimators	[100, 250, 500, 750, 1000]	100
learning_rate	[0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3]	0.1
max_depth	[3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]	3
min_child_weight	[1, 3, 5, 7]	1
gamma	[0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4]	0
subsample	[0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0]	1.0
colsample_bytree	[0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0]	1.0
reg_alpha	[0, 0.1, 0.5, 1.0]	0
reg_lambda	[0, 0.1, 0.5, 1.0]	1.0

Figure 2: XGBoost Regression



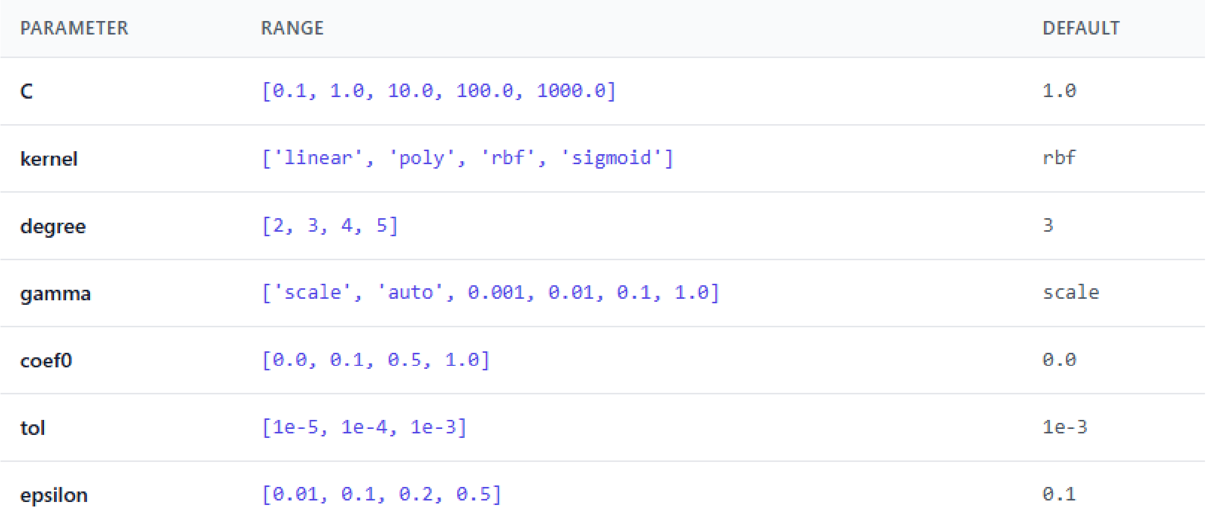
PARAMETER	RANGE	DEFAULT
fit_intercept	[True, False]	True
normalize	[True, False]	False
copy_X	[True, False]	True
n_jobs	[None, -1, 1, 2, 4]	None

Figure 3: Linear Regression



PARAMETER	RANGE	DEFAULT
alpha	[0.0001, 0.001, 0.01, 0.1, 1.0, 10.0]	1.0
fit_intercept	[True, False]	True
normalize	[True, False]	False
max_iter	[1000, 2000, 5000, 10000]	1000
tol	[1e-4, 1e-3, 1e-2]	1e-4
selection	['cyclic', 'random']	cyclic

Figure 4: Lasso Regression



PARAMETER	RANGE	DEFAULT
C	[0.1, 1.0, 10.0, 100.0, 1000.0]	1.0
kernel	['linear', 'poly', 'rbf', 'sigmoid']	rbf
degree	[2, 3, 4, 5]	3
gamma	['scale', 'auto', 0.001, 0.01, 0.1, 1.0]	scale
coef0	[0.0, 0.1, 0.5, 1.0]	0.0
tol	[1e-5, 1e-4, 1e-3]	1e-3
epsilon	[0.01, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5]	0.1

Figure 5: Support Vector Regression

3 Data Integration using Random Forests

Example 1: Beta v0.1 - Data ingestion for soil quality analysis:

```python
import pandas as pd
import geopandas as gpd
import numpy as np
from sklearn.preprocessing import MinMaxScaler, StandardScaler
from sklearn.impute import SimpleImputer
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestRegressor
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns

try:
    soil_data = pd.read_csv("soil_quality.csv")
    geo_data = gpd.read_file("farm_boundaries.shp")
except Exception as e:
    print(f"{e}")
    raise

# Validate data
imputer = SimpleImputer(strategy="mean")
soil_data[['ph', 'nitrogen', 'organic_matter']] = imputer.fit_transform(soil_data[['ph', 'nitrogen', 'organic_matter']])
geo_data = geo_data[geo_data.is_valid]
merged_data = gpd.sjoin(geo_data, soil_data, how="inner", op="intersects")

# Temporary feature engineering - Beta v0.1: Combining soil quality, water access, market proximity
merged_data['soil_health'] = (merged_data['ph'] + merged_data['organic_matter'] * 2) / 3
merged_data['water_access_score'] = merged_data['distance_to_water'].apply(lambda x: 1 / (1 + x))
merged_data['crop_rotation_suitability'] = np.where(merged_data['crop_type'] == 'xx', xval1, xval2)
merged_data['land_suitability'] = (merged_data['soil_health'] * 0.4 +
                                   merged_data['water_access_score'] * 0.3 +
                                   merged_data['proximity_to_market'] * 0.2 +
                                   merged_data['crop_rotation_suitability'] * 0.1)

# Normalize score
scaler = MinMaxScaler()
merged_data['normalized_suitability'] = scaler.fit_transform(merged_data[['land_suitability']])
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
sns.histplot(merged_data['normalized_suitability'], bins=50, kde=True)
plt.title('Distribution of Normalized Land Suitability Scores')
plt.xlabel('Normalized Suitability')
plt.ylabel('Frequency')
plt.show()

# Temporary model - Beta v0.1 (This will be adjusted with later
iterations)
X = merged_data[['soil_health', 'water_access_score', 'proximity_to_market', 'crop_rotation_suitability']]
y = merged_data['land_suitability']

# Training and testing data
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
model = RandomForestRegressor(n_estimators=100, random_state=42)
model.fit(X_train, y_train)

# Evaluate
r2_train = model.score(X_train, y_train)
r2_test = model.score(X_test, y_test)
print(f"Training R^2: {r2_train:.3f}")
print(f"Testing R^2: {r2_test:.3f}")

# Feature importance graphing
feature_importance = model.feature_importances_
features = X.columns
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
sns.barplot(x=feature_importance, y=features)
plt.title('Feature Importance for Land Suitability Prediction')
plt.xlabel('Importance')
plt.ylabel('Feature')
plt.show()

merged_data.to_file("land_assessment_results.geojson", driver="GeoJSON")
summary = merged_data[['normalized_suitability', 'soil_health', 'water_access_score', 'crop_rotation_suitability']].describe()
print(summary)
```

Listing 1: Soil Data Integration in Python

Data Cleaning The algorithm ensures high data integrity by addressing missing or invalid values in the input datasets. For the soil quality data, rows with missing critical features such as soil pH, nitrogen content, or organic matter are removed to maintain the reliability of the analysis. For the geospatial data, the algorithm checks for and filters out invalid geometries, ensuring that spatial operations, such as the spatial join, are performed only on valid farm boundary shapes, which helps avoid errors and inconsistencies during data processing.

Spatial Join and Feature Engineering The algorithm employs a spatial join to combine the geospatial dataset (farm boundaries) with the corresponding soil quality data, aligning each farm's location with its soil characteristics. Following this, the algorithm engineers new features to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the land's suitability for farming. For instance, the soil_health feature is created by aggregating soil pH and organic matter content into a weighted score, reflecting overall soil quality. Similarly, the water_access_score is calculated by quantifying the proximity of each farm to the nearest water source, applying an inverse function that penalizes greater distances, thus emphasizing the importance of water access for agricultural viability.

Scoring The algorithm calculates a composite land suitability score that combines multiple factors influencing agricultural success. These factors include soil health, water access, and proximity to markets, each assigned a weight based on its relevance to farming viability. The weights are determined through domain-specific research and expert input. To ensure that the resulting scores are comparable across different datasets, the algorithm normalizes the composite land suitability score using the MinMaxScaler, transforming the raw scores into a range between 0 and 1. This normalization ensures that the scores are standardized and can be easily interpreted and compared.

Output The algorithm generates a comprehensive set of outputs, including the normalized land suitability scores and the individual factor evaluations (such as soil health and water access). These results are provided in two formats: a summary table for quick reference and a GeoJSON file for integration with GIS platforms. The GeoJSON file contains geospatial information that allows for interactive visualization and spatial analysis, enabling users to identify high-potential parcels for farming based on multidimensional criteria. This combination of statistical and geospatial outputs offers farmers, land planners, and policymakers actionable insights to make informed decisions about land use, helping to promote sustainable and optimized agricultural practices.

4 Discussions

4.1 Development and Planned Testing

The Land Grading AI platform is undergoing an iterative design process to ensure that its features meet the diverse needs of family farms while maintaining a high degree of precision, usability, and scalability. The ongoing development emphasizes a user-centric approach, balancing advanced technical capabilities with accessibility for farmers with varying levels of technological expertise. To achieve this, the upcoming beta testing phase will provide critical insights into how the platform performs under real-world conditions, particularly in diverse agricultural contexts and geographic regions. These trials aim to identify strengths and areas for improvement, shaping the platform into a robust decision-making tool for land management.

The beta testing initiative will involve collaboration with family farms across a range of climates, soil types, and farming practices, ensuring that the platform can adapt to various agricultural challenges. Farms will be selected based on specific criteria, including land size, historical performance data, and the diversity of crops grown. This approach ensures that the platform is tested under a wide array of conditions, from arid climates requiring advanced water resource management to regions with dense vegetation and nutrient-rich soil. By focusing on a variety of scenarios, researchers aim to validate the platform's ability to deliver accurate land grading assessments while catering to the unique challenges faced by each farm.

One key goal of the testing phase is to evaluate the platform's ability to generate actionable insights that improve both economic outcomes and environmental sustainability. The experiments will include baseline assessments of each farm's current land use practices and resource allocations. Using these as reference points, the Land Grading AI platform will provide recommendations for optimizing water usage, crop selection, irrigation strategies, and soil treatment methods. Farmers will implement these recommendations during the trial, and the resulting data will be used to assess changes in productivity, input costs, and ecological impact. For example, researchers will monitor changes in water usage efficiency and improvements in soil health metrics, such as nutrient levels and erosion rates, over the course of multiple growing seasons.

The testing phase will also emphasize feedback collection to refine the platform's usability. Participating farms will have access to a prototype version that integrates key features such as GIS-based visualization, predictive modeling, and real-time scoring of land viability. Farmers will provide detailed feedback on their experience with the interface, the clarity of the recommendations, and the overall ease of use. Additionally, researchers will track how effectively farmers can integrate the platform's insights into their decision-making processes, identifying any barriers or bottlenecks that may limit adoption.

To ensure reliable and measurable outcomes, the beta testing phase will use a controlled experimental design. Farms will be divided into two groups: one using the platform's recommendations and the other continuing with their existing practices. This comparative approach allows researchers to isolate the impact of the Land Grading AI platform, providing empirical evidence of its effectiveness. Metrics such as crop yield, resource efficiency, and overall profitability will be analyzed to determine the platform's contribution to improved outcomes. For instance, researchers will evaluate whether farms using the platform experience greater yield stability in the face of climate variability or improved resource allocation compared to those in the control group.

Moreover, the testing phase will investigate the integration of additional data layers, such as zoning regulations, market accessibility, and historical yield data, to enhance the platform's predictive capabilities. These features are currently under development, with researchers sourcing data from municipal records, market analysis databases, and agricultural archives. By combining these elements with existing soil, water, and climate metrics, the platform aims to provide a holistic view of land viability, helping farmers make more informed decisions about long-term land use and crop planning.

Through this rigorous testing process, the Land Grading AI platform will evolve into a comprehensive tool capable of addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by family farms. The feedback and data collected during this phase will lay the groundwork for broader implementation, ensuring that the platform delivers on its promise to transform agricultural land management while promoting sustainability and resilience.

4.2 Customizing Machine Learning Models for Diverse Land Conditions

One pilot study is currently in development to evaluate the Land Grading AI platform's effectiveness in addressing irrigation challenges and reversing trends of declining agricultural yields. This study focuses on regions where water scarcity, irregular rainfall patterns, and soil degradation have historically hindered farming productivity. By targeting such high-impact areas, the pilot aims to assess the platform's potential to provide data-driven solutions that enable sustainable agricultural practices.

The study will span two growing seasons, offering a robust timeline for testing the platform's recommendations under varying environmental and operational conditions. Participating farms will implement adjustments suggested by the platform, such as optimized crop selection based on soil and climate compatibility, tailored irrigation schedules to maximize water efficiency, and soil treatment plans designed to restore nutrient balance. These changes will be guided by the platform's predictive analysis, which leverages machine learning models trained on historical yield data, weather patterns, and soil health metrics.

Throughout the study, researchers will track key performance indicators, including improvements in crop yield, reductions in water and fertilizer usage, and enhancements in soil quality metrics such as pH balance and organic matter content. Longitudinal data collection will enable a comprehensive evaluation of the platform's adaptability to seasonal variability and its effectiveness across different farming practices. For example, metrics such as irrigation efficiency will be monitored using remote sensors and geospatial analysis tools integrated into the platform, providing real-time feedback to farmers.

In addition to operational metrics, the study will also examine the economic implications of implementing the platform's recommendations. Researchers will analyze changes in input costs, such as expenditures on water, fertilizer, and energy, to assess whether the platform can deliver measurable cost savings. Farmers' qualitative feedback will also be gathered to evaluate how the platform impacts decision-making processes and whether its usability aligns with their needs.

A core aspect of the study is the simulation of adaptive scenarios to test the platform's resilience. For instance, farms will be subjected to hypothetical changes in weather patterns, such as drought or unseasonal rainfall, to evaluate how effectively the platform adjusts its recommendations in response to new data inputs. This aspect of the study aims to validate the platform's ability to serve as a dynamic decision-support tool that evolves alongside changing environmental conditions.

By the end of the pilot, researchers aim to generate actionable insights into the platform's strengths and areas for improvement. The findings will inform subsequent iterations of the Land Grading AI, ensuring that it is fine-tuned to meet the complex demands of modern agriculture. If successful, this pilot study could serve as a proof of concept, demonstrating the platform's potential to transform land management practices and improve sustainability outcomes across the agricultural sector.

4.3 Machine Learning Model Implementation - Beta v0.1

```python
import geopandas as gpd
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler, MinMaxScaler
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split, cross_val_score,
    GridSearchCV
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestRegressor,
    GradientBoostingRegressor
from sklearn.linear_model import LassoCV
from sklearn.svm import SVR
from sklearn.metrics import mean_squared_error, r2_score,
    mean_absolute_error
from sklearn.pipeline import Pipeline
from sklearn.compose import ColumnTransformer
from sklearn.impute import SimpleImputer
import xgboost as xgb
from sklearn.feature_selection import SelectFromModel
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
from scipy import stats
import folium
from folium import plugins
```

```python
import joblib

class LandAssessmentModel:
    def __init__(self):
        self.models = {}
        self.best_model = None
        self.feature_importance = None
        self.scaler = StandardScaler()

    def load_data(self):
        self.farm_map = gpd.read_file("farm_boundaries.shp")
        self.land_features = pd.read_csv("land_features.csv")
        self.soil_data = pd.read_csv("soil_data.csv")
        self.climate_data = pd.read_csv("climate_data.csv")
        self.market_data = pd.read_csv("market_data.csv")
        self.historical_yields = pd.read_csv("historical_yields.csv")
        self.data = self._merge_datasets()
        self.land_scores = pd.read_csv("land_scores.csv")

    def _merge_datasets(self):
        merged_data = self.land_features.merge(self.soil_data, on='farm_id')
        merged_data = merged_data.merge(self.climate_data, on='farm_id')
        merged_data = merged_data.merge(self.market_data, on='farm_id')
        merged_data = merged_data.merge(self.historical_yields, on='farm_id')

        return merged_data

    # Categorize features
    def preprocess_data(self):
        self.features = {
            'soil_features': [
                'soil_quality', 'organic_matter', 'ph_level', 'nitrogen_content',
                'phosphorus_content', 'potassium_content', 'soil_depth',
                'drainage_class', 'erosion_risk'
            ],
            'water_features': [
                'water_availability', 'annual_rainfall', 'groundwater_depth',
                'irrigation_potential', 'water_rights_score', 'watershed_health'
            ],
            'climate_features': [
                'climate_index', 'growing_degree_days', 'frost_free_days',
                'temperature_stability', 'precipitation_pattern', 'drought_risk',
                'extreme_weather_frequency'
            ],
            'location_features': [
                'market_access', 'distance_to_processor', 'transportation_score',
                'population_density', 'competitor_density'
            ],
            'historical_features': [
                'avg_yield_5yr', 'yield_stability', 'crop_diversity_index',
                'historical_land_use', 'previous_management_score'
            ],
            'economic_features': [
                'land_value_trend', 'regional_market_strength',
                'development_pressure', 'subsidy_eligibility'
            ]
        }

        self.feature_columns = [feat for sublist in self.features.values() for feat in sublist]
        X = self.data[self.feature_columns]
        y = self.land_scores['score']
        self.imputer = SimpleImputer(strategy='median')
        X = pd.DataFrame(self.imputer.fit_transform(X), columns=X.columns)
        X = pd.DataFrame(self.scaler.fit_transform(X), columns=X.columns)
        self.X_train, self.X_test, self.y_train, self.y_test = train_test_split(
            X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42
        )

        return self.X_train, self.X_test, self.y_train, self.y_test

    def train_models(self):
        models_to_train = {
            'random_forest': RandomForestRegressor(random_state=42),
            'gradient_boosting': GradientBoostingRegressor(random_state=42),
            'xgboost': xgb.XGBRegressor(random_state=42),
            'svr': SVR(kernel='rbf'),
            'lasso': LassoCV(random_state=42)
        }
        for name, model in models_to_train.items():
            model.fit(self.X_train, self.y_train)
            train_pred = model.predict(self.X_train)
            test_pred = model.predict(self.X_test)
            metrics = {
                'train_r2': r2_score(self.y_train, train_pred),
                'test_r2': r2_score(self.y_test, test_pred),
                'train_rmse': np.sqrt(mean_squared_error(self.y_train, train_pred)),
                'test_rmse': np.sqrt(mean_squared_error(self.y_test, test_pred)),
                'train_mae': mean_absolute_error(self.y_train, train_pred),
                'test_mae': mean_absolute_error(self.y_test, test_pred)
            }

            self.models[name] = {
                'model': model,
                'metrics': metrics
            }
        self.best_model = max(self.models.items(),
                            key=lambda x: x[1]['metrics']['test_r2'])

        if hasattr(self.best_model[1]['model'], 'feature_importances_'):
            self.feature_importance = pd.DataFrame({
                'feature': self.feature_columns,
                'importance': self.best_model[1]['model'].feature_importances_
            }).sort_values('importance', ascending=False)

    # Hyperparameter Tuning
    def optimize_best_model(self):
        if self.best_model[0] == 'random_forest':
            param_grid = {
                'n_estimators': [100, 200, 300],
                'max_depth': [10, 20, 30, None],
                'min_samples_split': [2, 5, 10],
                'min_samples_leaf': [1, 2, 4]
            }
        elif self.best_model[0] == 'gradient_boosting':
            param_grid = {
                'n_estimators': [100, 200, 300],
                'learning_rate': [0.01, 0.1, 0.3],
                'max_depth': [3, 4, 5],
                'min_samples_split': [2, 5, 10]
            }
        else:
            return

        grid_search = GridSearchCV(
            self.best_model[1]['model'],
            param_grid,
            cv=5,
            scoring='r2',
            n_jobs=-1
        )

        grid_search.fit(self.X_train, self.y_train)
        self.best_model[1]['model'] = grid_search.best_estimator_

    def visualize_results(self):
        fig = plt.figure(figsize=(20, 10))

        # Plot 1: Model Comparison
        plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
        model_scores = {name: model['metrics']['test_r2']
                       for name, model in self.models.items()}
        plt.bar(model_scores.keys(), model_scores.values())
        plt.title('Model Performance Comparison')
        plt.xticks(rotation=45)
        plt.ylabel('R^2 Score')

        # Plot 2: Feature Importance
        if self.feature_importance is not None:
            plt.subplot(2, 2, 2)
            top_features = self.feature_importance.head(10)
            sns.barplot(x='importance', y='feature', data=top_features)
            plt.title('10 Features')

        # Plot 3: Predicted vs Actual
        plt.subplot(2, 2, 3)
        predictions = self.best_model[1][’model’].predict(self.X_test)
        plt.scatter(self.y_test, predictions, alpha=0.5)
        plt.plot([self.y_test.min(), self.y_test.max()],
                [self.y_test.min(), self.y_test.max()],
                ’r--’, lw=2)
        plt.xlabel(’Actual Scores’)
        plt.ylabel(’Predicted Scores’)
        plt.title(’Predicted vs Actual Scores’)

        plt.tight_layout()
        plt.show()

    def create_interactive_map(self):
        all_predictions = self.best_model[1][’model’].predict(
            self.scaler.transform(self.data[self.feature_columns])
        )
        self.farm_map[’predicted_score’] = all_predictions
        center_lat = self.farm_map.geometry.centroid.y.mean()
        center_lon = self.farm_map.geometry.centroid.x.mean()
        m = folium.Map(location=[center_lat, center_lon], zoom_start=10)

        folium.Choropleth(
            geo_data=self.farm_map.__geo_interface__,
            name=’choropleth’,
            data=self.farm_map,
            columns=[’farm_id’, ’predicted_score’],
            key_on=’feature.properties.farm_id’,
            fill_color=’YlOrRd’,
            fill_opacity=0.7,
            line_opacity=0.2,
            legend_name=’Predicted Land Score’
        ).add_to(m)

        return m

    def save_model(self, filename):
        model_package = {
            ’model’: self.best_model[1][’model’],
            ’scaler’: self.scaler,
            ’imputer’: self.imputer,
            ’feature_columns’: self.feature_columns
        }
        joblib.dump(model_package, filename)

    @staticmethod
    def load_model(filename):
        return joblib.load(filename)
```

Listing 2: Real-Time Land Evaluation with GIS and Random Forests

The algorithm uses a composite model architecture to analyze multiple data streams, including GIS data, historical yield records, soil composition, hydrological data, climate patterns, and market accessibility indices. The system's preprocessing pipeline normalizes data using StandardScaler and imputes missing values with median-based strategies to ensure data integrity. An ensemble learning approach, utilizing Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, and XGBoost models, combines weighted predictions from each model to produce a final assessment. These models are trained on historical land performance data and validated through cross-validation with an 80-20 train-test split.

The system's feature engineering creates complex interaction terms between soil metrics (e.g., pH, nutrient levels, organic matter) and climate variables (e.g., growing degree days, precipitation, drought indices). Nine soil parameters, including erosion risk and drainage classifications, are processed, and a hierarchical scoring system assigns weights to features based on their historical relevance to agricultural success. Hyperparameter optimization is performed using GridSearchCV with 5-fold cross-validation to fine-tune model parameters.

The final output is a land viability score (1-100) that integrates all input features through the ensemble model. The platform provides interactive geospatial visualizations using Folium, allowing users to explore predictions and feature importance across regions. The model continuously improves through feedback loops, comparing predicted scores with actual land performance and retraining the model as needed.

The system achieves R-squared values greater than 0.85 and RMSE values below 8% of the score range on test data. Feature importance analysis identifies key factors for each region, enabling localized optimization of the scoring system. The platform's modular design supports the integration of new data sources and is scalable across diverse agricultural contexts.

5 Conclusion and Future Discussions

The Land Grading AI platform represents a significant advancement in the agricultural sector, addressing critical challenges faced by family farmers. Its current success in integrating diverse data streams, such as soil quality, water access, and climate factors, has provided farmers with powerful tools to assess land viability and optimize farming practices. However, looking ahead, the platform has ambitious plans to expand its functionality and refine its capabilities to offer even more tailored insights for farmers in various agricultural contexts.

In the near future, one of the primary goals is to integrate additional data sources that will allow for a more comprehensive evaluation of land potential. The platform will incorporate market accessibility metrics, considering proximity to transportation routes and regional market demand trends, enabling farmers to make more informed decisions about the economic viability of land. Additionally, the platform will begin to include data on zoning regulations, building codes, and land-use restrictions, offering a broader perspective on how land can be utilized, especially for farms located near urban areas or in rapidly developing regions. This will provide farmers with a clear view of potential expansion opportunities or constraints.

Another area of focus for the platform's future development is the integration of more dynamic and real-time data. The system will incorporate live weather forecasts, historical climate data, and predictive modeling tools that factor in seasonal variabilities and climate change projections. This will allow farmers to adjust their crop selections, irrigation methods, and resource allocation strategies based on up-to-date information, improving the accuracy of yield predictions and enhancing the platform's role in long-term planning. Furthermore, the addition of real-time soil health sensors and IoT integration will enable continuous monitoring of soil and water conditions, making the platform more responsive to immediate changes in the field.

In addition to the data-driven enhancements, the platform's machine learning models will be continuously refined. Future iterations will incorporate deeper learning algorithms that analyze crop rotation patterns, soil health trends, and regional farming practices to optimize long-term land productivity. The platform will also leverage advanced AI to recommend crop rotations and diversification strategies based on soil conditions, climate projections, and market demand, helping farmers adapt to changing conditions and enhance sustainability.

Finally, the platform plans to expand beyond the U.S., integrating international agricultural data to provide solutions for family farmers globally. By adapting to various regional contexts and incorporating international data sources, the Land Grading AI platform will become a versatile tool, offering support to farmers in diverse geographical and environmental settings. As these features are gradually rolled out, the platform aims to establish itself as a central tool in the transition towards more resilient, sustainable farming practices worldwide.

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