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Designing Interpretable and Explainable AI Frameworks for Smallholder Agriculture

Ramesh Yegireddi [1 *], **Sivaneasan Bala Krishnan** [2] , **Reddi Kiran Kumar** [3] , **Prasun Chakrabarti** [4]

[1] Post-Doctoral Research Scholar, Singapore Institute of Technology, Singapore ; rameshyegireddi@gmail.com
[1] Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Aditya Institute of Technology and Management, Tekkali 532201,
[2] Singapore Institute of Technology, Singapore, sivaneasan@singaporetech.edu.sg
[3] Department of Computer Science, Krishna University, Machilipatnam-521004, India
[4] Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Sir Padampat Singhania University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

** Corresponding Author: Ramesh Yagireddi ; rameshyegireddi@gmail.com*

Abstract: Agriculture is finest reforms in one of revolutionary sector. In this environment Small-Scale farmers are play a notable role in the food production and allow access to connected though AI tools for better quality outcomes enhancement for decision making. This AI supported guided tools to boost the yields enabling better outcome through predictable to identifying early stage diseases, and analyses exact results on premature, and existing resources. Proposed system to drive into this challenges to resolve unpredictable solution to combines various techniques using decision trees and rule-based classifiers, with post-hoc explanation tools include SHAP and LIME, XAI. Our proposed mechanism allow to systematic approach user-friendly interfaces and guided right pathway to connect system better understanding with predictable decision-making solutions for small-scale farms.
Keywords: Framers, Agriculture, EAI, Decision Tree, Rule-based Classifiers, SHAP, LIME.

1. Introduction

AI is the biggest revolution human creation and the notable can change the agricultural sector and a huge changes to making crop outcome to analyze the yield prediction with more accurate, diagnosing concerned diseases at their early stages, and analyzing that decease to controlling through pest management system, and analyze managing soil moisture, and resounding out precision irrigation mechanism. Enhance cutting-edge AI models to analyze, can handle the systematic analysis of large scale, and diverse datasets which may include sensor connected channels to outcome , climatological analyzed information, and farm management records to provide up-to-date insights based on data integrity that help in making informed decisions timely.

Although, trained data models with high predictive power management system usually sacrifice interpretability because they are frequently measured as mysterious black-boxes which give accurate results without interrupt. To make decisions, small-scale farmers want both specific guidance and the assurance that comes from knowing they can trust their advisors.

More than three quarters of the world's farmers are small-scale operators, and they face unique challenges. Because of restricted infrastructure, a lack of digital resources, or a lack of technical expertise, these groups often aren't able to fully benefit from AI-driven models. Problems with language, education, and agriculture necessitate solutions that are applicable to the situation at hand, accessible to everybody, and based on sound technical principles. Less adoption of AI-driven model recommendations due to a lack of clarity increases the risk that people would view them as unreliable and random, reducing the potential for these technologies to enhance quality, productivity, sustainability, and people's capacity to make a living. One possible solution to the problem stated before is to use reasonable AI techniques. In order to bridge the gap between human understanding and prediction performance, XAI provides interpretable models, such as post hoc explanations of complicated models. You can get a sense of the decision-making process via decision trees, rule-based systems, complicated models, GAMs, and Bayesian neural networks. In contrast, you can gain insight into the inner workings of complicated models by employing post-hoc methodologies such as Shapley

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Additive Explanations and Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations. When these proposed techniques are combined to existing system, that can be create learning systems can generate reliable exact predictions to useful data transactions convey their logic information sharing to farmers. Mainly predictive crafting user-oriented interface platforms to allowing equally opportunity to developing transparent models identification to guarantee the experimental adoption and usability of Intelligent systems. The proposed system mainly aims to develop an XAI system that tailored for small scale agriculture, and data integrating interpretable models using API integrations, post-hoc explanations, and Complex and Additive Models for customized channel allocations. By valuating the system through form field studies and participatory assessments, this research work seeks to measure impacts on trust, decision-making, and usability. finally, the study aspires to empower smallholder farmers with transparent AI models that support sustainable farming practices, improve productivity, and strengthen food security universally.

2. Related Work

Latest studies have highlighted the importance of combining explainability into AI systems for farming field. Interpretable Machine Learning methods for an Advanced Crop Recommendation Model (2024) presented a crop recommendation framework that applies interpretable ML methods to improve transparency, testing the approach on environmental and crop yield datasets[1]. The study employed Decision Tree and Random Forest along with SHAP and LIME to generate both global and local explanations. Similarly, AgroXAI: Explainable AI-Driven Crop Recommendation System for Agriculture 4.0explored an IoT-enabled, edge-computing crop recommendation system that incorporated SHAP, LIME, ELI5, and counterfactual explanations, enabling another agriculture field and region-specific suggested[2]. In the domain of pest and disease prediction,

A Generalizable and Interpretable Model for Early Warning of Pest-Induced Crop Diseases Using Environmental Data used SHAP to highlight the contribution of environmental factors such as rainfall and humidity in predicting outbreaks of pests like the Green Leafhopper and Yellow Stem Borer in India[3].For plant disease detection, multiple works have emphasized visual interpretability of deep learning models. Interpretable CNN Architectures for Rice Leaf Disease Detection: A Grad-CAM and LIME-Based Explainability Approach compared several CNN architectures, applying Grad-CAM and LIME to highlight image regions influencing disease classification [4]. Complementing this, A Lightweight and Explainable CNN Model for Empowering Plant Disease Diagnosis introduced Mob-Res, a mobile-optimized CNN model that balances accuracy with interpretability, supported by Grad-CAM, Grad-CAM++, and LIME visualizations [5]. Extending explainability to hybrid ML techniques, An Explainable AI-Based Hybrid Machine Learning Model for Interpretability and Enhanced Crop Yield Prediction combined Random Forest, LSTM, and XGBoost, with SHAP, LIME, and counterfactuals to interpret yield predictions on Indian datasets[6]. In addition, Analyzing and Assessing Explainable AI Models for Smart Agriculture Environments provided a comparative study using a crop recommendation dataset, applying SHAP and LIME to interpret different model outputs[7]. Similarly,

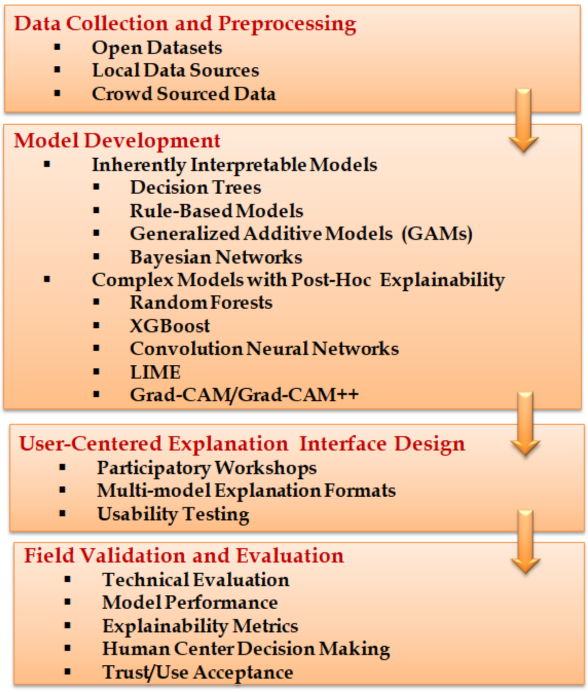

Figure. 1 Workflow of the Proposed Explainable AI Framework for Smallholder Agriculture

Next-Gen Agriculture: Integrating AI and XAI for Precision Crop Yield Predictions investigated the effects of agronomic and climate variables on yield, employing Decision Trees, Random Forest, and LightGBM with SHAP and LIME for interpretability. For the diagnosis of crop-specific diseases[8], recent frameworks have integrated IoT sensors with interpretable machine learning approaches[9] to improve enhanced outcome analysis to predict accuracy and lucidity. In pearl millet, fusion of sensor data and imagery enables superior models includes Custom-Net and transfer learning schemes to exploit Grad-CAM for clarifying critical image feature extraction. In early detection phases of sugarcane diseases detection on payback from explainable AI, where DenseNet architectures to connects to achieve feature extraction and SVM classifiers handle prediction, with LIME[10] provided that understandable outputs, and that implies simplify

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disease prognosis, and post-hoc explanation contributes measurably to user trust and informed decision-making in precision agriculture.

3. Methodology

Our proposed system method adopts a inclusive methodology to create user-friendly environment, and that integrates concerned field wise evaluation, and human-centric system design, and technical domain model implementation. This process fully phase wise channelled to structured communication into various stages, which includes data acquisition, data pre-processing, model kit development, guided user interface design, and empirical evaluation through operational environments. The entire procedural workflow environment is shown in Fig. 1.

3.1. Data Pre-Processing

Every dataset undergoes a comprehensive set of pre-processing procedures mainly aimed at ensuring the focused reliability of the data integrity and compatibility with ROI outcome analytics. The scope of every phase is the evaluate analyze performance and the necessary procedures to connect on various operations including data cleaning, API integration, feature extraction and selection, and the proper guided imputation of missing phases to connect on entire module clearance to expected outcome. In order to analyze and increase the model's exist transparency, concern dimensionality reduction methods , which includes Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and ROI modules are used to remove unnecessary attributes that are redundant, but need to save for future needs for better quality enhancement.

3.2. Model Development

The model evaluate on final phase is essentially to analyze about the focused finding the best possible ways to compromise in between interpretability and predictive performance scenarios. The expected outcome, may be possible two different ways, but synergistic modeling paradigms have been used to deal with this trade-off.

3.2.1. Inherently Interpretable Models

Models whose supervisory process is unwrap and apparent, like:

Decision Trees and Rule-Based Models: Used for crop recommendation and pest risk classification.

Generalized Additive Models (GAMs): Capture non-linear feature relationships while maintaining interpretability.

Bayesian Networks: Recommend probabilistic reasoning useful for uncertainty-based agricultural decision support.

3.3. Dynamic Models with On-the-Fly Explanation

Advanced algorithms such as Decision Trees, Random Forests, XGBoost, and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are leveraged for applications that require robust representational power, including disease image classification and multivariate yield prediction tasks. These complex models are further augmented with post hoc explainability mechanisms to improve the transparency of predictive outcomes.

SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations): Provides global and local feature attributions across models.

LIME(Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations): Generates localized explanations for individual predictions.

Grad-CAM and Grad-CAM++: Applied to CNN-based disease detection models to visualize image regions influencing classification.

Each model's identity interpretability was examined through numerical indicators on depends on focused ROI, that measure how examine the current situations model prediction with data consistency, fidelity, and comprehensibility with accountability.

3.4. User-Centered Explanation Interface Design

Current research focused to highlights on the necessity of creating user-friendly interfaces that can effectively convey every stage to how the model insights in a formatting and easy to understand operations and implement on paddy fields on real-time operations based on our proposed guidelines. In-built user friendly interfaces to communicate on majority of small-scale farmers, and but easily understand the familiar with our concerned platform runs through efficient user. The development process on various stages are :

Participatory Workshops: Engaging farmers, agricultural officers, and local experts to understand information needs, language preferences, and decision-making patterns.

Multimodal Explanation Formats: Incorporating visual (icons, heat maps, charts), textual (simplified natural language explanations), and auditory cues (voice prompts in local languages) to communicate AI outputs.

Usability-Centric Prototyping: Developing mobile and dashboard interfaces using iterative user feedback loops.

To determine an interface's transparency, usefulness, and

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clarity, researchers employ heuristic values, qualitative input, and structured usability testing.

3.5. Field Validation and Evaluation

To analyze and evaluate the expected outcomes towards a real-world challenges, to connected small farming communities and engaged in pilot trials on specific targeted locations and locations only. The evaluation system analyze the framework consideration both human-centred and technical side feedbacks, and its helpful to better outcome expectations:

3.5.1. Technical Evaluation

Model Performance: Different performance measures for evaluation such as Accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC for predictive methods.

Explainability Metrics: Agreement between model and explanation, robustness to perturbations and user interpretability results.

3.5.2. Human-Centered Evaluation

Trust and Adoption: Calculations via pre- and post-deployment tests assessing perceived transparency and willingness to adopt Artificial Intelligent recommendations.

Decision-Making Impact: It's accessed ROI platform through various behavioral indicators like improved pest management system, analyzed optimized fertilizer use.

Participatory Feedback: Mainly focused on group discussions on particular problem arises and semi-structured interviews timely to capture farmer perceptions on current situation and immediate clarity and usefulness on it.

3.5.3. Ethical Considerations and Sustainability

The conduct and data collection are in accordance with strict ethical research regulations. To create an atmosphere, where every user implies connected and trusted, concerned agricultural authorities and officials to encouraged participate on it.

Capacity building enables farmers to embrace and comprehend AI methods outside the realm of research, with an importance on long-term feasibility.

3.5.4. Expected Outcomes

The following domains are anticipated to benefit from the suggested methodology:

(a). A comprehensible set of AI and XAI methods for detecting diseases, pests, and agricultural yields.

(b). An architecture for collaborative context-aware explanations designed for farmers with low literacy levels.

(c). Data suggests that small-scale farmers who are good at explaining things have more faith in and are more likely to use technology.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Dataset Description

This research makes use of a dataset that compares crop cultivation statistics in India over two consecutive agricultural years (2021–22 and 2022–23). For both food and non-food crops, it provides quantitative data on production, cultivated area, and yield in real time, allowing one to examine trends in productivity and changes between years.

4.2. B. Dataset Overview

Food grains, oilseeds, commercial crops, horticultural crops, rice, wheat, jowar, etc. are among the 46 crop categories included in the dataset.

The following characteristics are documented with every harvest: For more in-depth study, it is possible to generate the following derived qualities from the raw data:

Production Growth (%) = ((Production 2022–23 – Production 2021–22) / Production 2021–22) × 100

Area Growth (%) = ((Area 2022–23 – Area 2021–22) / Area 2021–22) × 100

Yield Growth (%) = ((Yield 2022–23 – Yield 2021–22) / Yield 2021–22) × 100

Table 1 represents the growth rate in terms of production, area and yield. As evidenced by the growth rate in Fig. 2 and the crop metrics in Fig. 3, these characteristics permit the measurement of productivity gains or losses across different crop categories.

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Table.1 In detailed Output Analysis of Proposed Mechanism

Crop	Production 2021-22	Production 2022-23	Area 2021-22	Area 2022-23	Yield 2021-22	Yield 2022-23
Total Food grains	159.4	178.9	126	131.5	126.5	135.9
Rice	191.6	206.4	161.2	164.8	118.9	125.2
Wheat	140.3	150.8	116.9	119.5	120	126.3
Jowar	116.5	121.8	111.2	105.2	105	115.8
Bajra	105.4	167.9	88.5	95.6	119	175.8
Maize	220.2	286	163.4	169.1	134.7	169.1
Ragi	73.4	85.2	64.8	65.8	113.2	129.6
Small millets	42.9	83	41.8	45	102.7	182.4
Barley	89.9	110.3	70.2	79.4	127.9	138.9
Groundnut	128.4	195.6	121.1	129.5	106.2	151.2
Sesamum	90.8	137.9	84.6	90.7	107.4	151.9
Rapeseed & Mustard	123.2	152.5	88.1	108.8	139.9	140.2
Linseed	51.2	48.8	37.5	39.4	136.5	123.9
Castor seed	165	220.9	107.2	128.5	153.9	171.6
Safflower	50.1	42.1	42.6	36.1	117.5	116.7
Niger seed	53.8	58	60.6	59.9	88.8	96.9
Sunflower	111.8	85.6	119.3	75.1	93.7	114
Soyabean	285.1	364.4	260.3	256.8	109.5	141.9
Nine Oilseeds	150.7	196.7	123.4	129.4	122.1	152
Coconut	97.5	97.7	120.9	120.9	80.7	80.8
Cotton seed	197.5	271.3	134.8	149.5	146.5	181.5
Jute	239.8	213.8	106	101.1	226.3	211.5
Mesta	50.1	52.2	44.5	46.6	112.7	112
Jute & Mesta	210.4	189.1	92.7	89.3	227	211.8
Sannhamp	69	109.9	45	47.6	179.4	230.9
Tea	132	132	137.8	137.8	95.8	95.8
Coffee	154.5	161.1	123.7	125.2	125	128.5
Rubber	210.1	210.1	149.2	149.2	140.9	140.9
Black pepper	99.2	101.1	104.2	97.8	95.2	103.4
Dry chilies	158.3	160.9	84	86.8	188.4	185.5
Dry ginger	202	368.1	179.4	247.4	112.6	148.8
Turmeric	159.8	200.2	136.2	146.7	117.4	136.4
Arecanut	184.3	184.3	175.4	175.4	105.1	105.1
Cardamom	159.2	162.2	85.8	82.7	185.6	196.1
Coriander	128.5	261.3	88.8	130.7	144.7	199.9
Garlic	243	308.2	194.4	236.8	125	130.1
Potato	223.8	259.1	175.8	178.4	127.4	145.2
Tapioca	140	140.3	95.1	90.5	147.1	154.8
Sweet potato	92.1	88.1	84.6	80.4	108.8	109.6
Onion	329.1	409.1	223.6	314.7	147.1	130
Banana	301.7	339.4	189.8	204.6	159	165.9
Sugarcane	123.2	144.3	115.6	135.2	106.6	106.7
Tobacco	105.3	140.9	107.1	118.8	109.6	118.6

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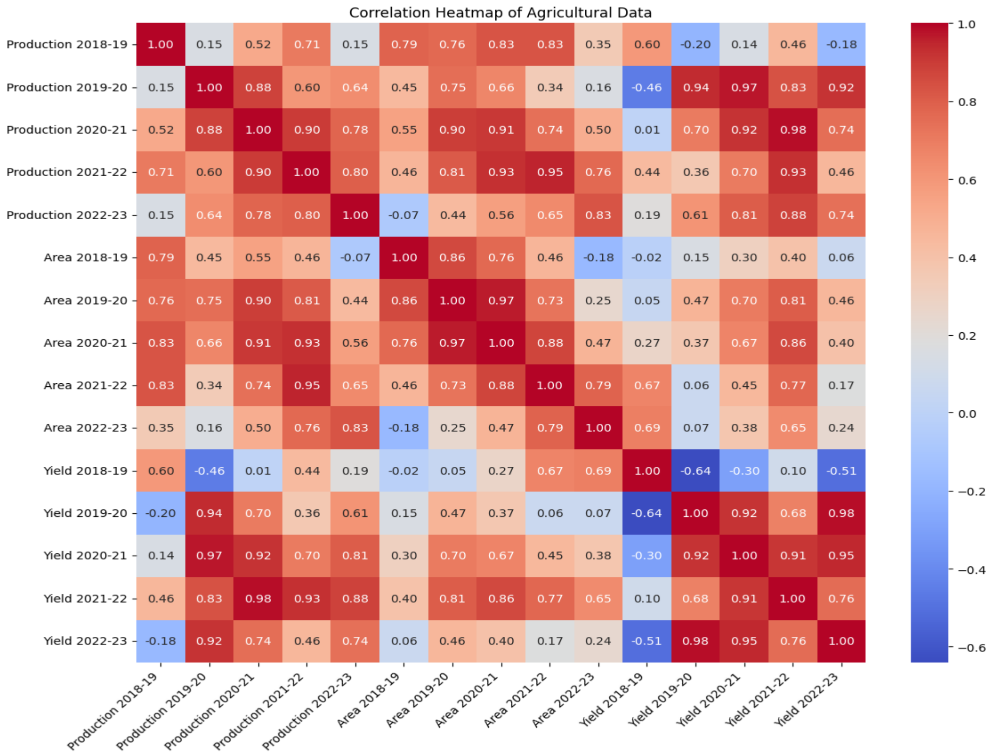

Figure.2 Graphical Display of Varieties of Crops and Their Rates of Growth

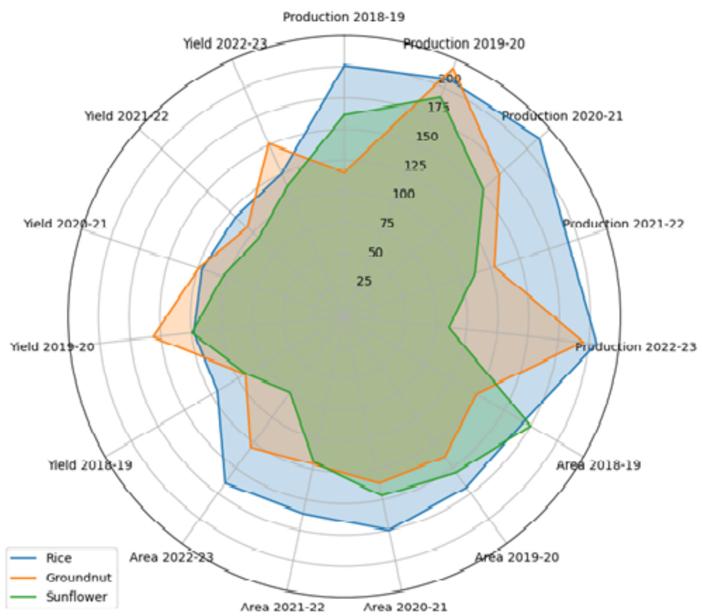

Figure.3 Radar chart for Crop Metrics

6. Conclusion

These research work identifies on the essential notable transparency and interpretability channeling towards processing to enhancement on the efficient transformation on AI revolution transform into small-scale farming methods and applications. Proposed system to analyze feed forward mechanism to combines many models and towards to process easy way to understand initial step towards to connected channels with after-the-fact environment using SHAP, LIME, and Grad-CAM. It consider to lays out a possible way to close the gap between ROI environment and other platforms, it is identifies how it is complicated on react on these algorithms get it and authenticated users to use on regular mode without interrupt. Avoid participatory designs and evaluate to focus on trusted users on decentralized environment. In the way, the outcome to analyze enhance making sense converted into local context to supported mechanism, and mostly fitted into the language used people on existing platforms, and straightforward enough environment for all users to access without interrupt.

Finally, we aimed to connected build up trust among used farmers when it comes to into existing guided platforms ad run through AI tools on right direction to decision making. On the other way to lead to better options to decision making on the various phases users on the same platforms timely. However, the connected layer to direct right way to enhance the entire platforms too covers every models though exact outcome analysis, proper channelized guidelines on FAQs based result analysis on current trends, it will most help to farmers timely depends on their needs.

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