ISSN: 2096-3246
Volume 58, Issue 02, May, 2026

PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS FOR SMART FARMING: INTEGRATING IOT SENSOR DATA WITH MACHINE LEARNING MODELS

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Abstract

Smart farming is a modern approach to agriculture that uses advanced technologies to enhance farming processes and boost productivity. In this research, we develop a smart farming system that integrates IoT sensors and machine learning to support farmers in making informed decisions. Sensors are deployed in the field to gather real-time data on soil moisture, temperature, humidity, and other environmental parameters. Additionally, weather forecast data is incorporated to anticipate future conditions. The collected data is cleaned to eliminate errors and then analyzed using machine learning algorithms such as Decision Tree and Random Forest. The system can predict crop conditions and irrigation needs and provides actionable recommendations to farmers. For instance, if the soil is dry but rainfall is anticipated, the system advises delaying irrigation, thereby conserving water. By merging sensor data and weather insights, the system achieves higher accuracy and utility. It minimizes manual labor and optimizes resource utilization, including water and fertilizers. Results indicate that this system delivers more accurate predictions and enables farmers to make timely and effective decisions compared to traditional methods. In summary, this study demonstrates that integrating IoT, machine learning, and intelligent recommendations can establish an efficient and smart farming solution for modern agriculture.

Keywords: Smart Farming, Internet of Things (IoT), Machine Learning, Predictive Analytics, IoT Sensors, Soil Moisture, Temperature, Humidity, Weather Forecast Data, Decision Tree, Random Forest, Smart Irrigation, Crop Prediction, Precision Agriculture, Data-Driven Agriculture

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture remains crucial for food security and global livelihoods. However, reliance on traditional farming often leads to inefficiencies and resource waste, including water, energy, and time. Modern agriculture faces challenges such as climate change, unpredictable weather, and limited knowledge of soil conditions and irrigation requirements. Agriculture requires modern techniques and technologies to improve productivity and reduce resource wastage. Despite its importance, which are

Traditional farming practices are often inefficient, leading to low productivity and waste of resources such as water, energy, and time. Additionally, agriculture faces major challenges like climate change, unpredictable weather, limited soil knowledge, and poor irrigation management.

Addressing these challenges requires technology-driven solutions. This study proposes a smart agriculture system using IoT sensors to monitor key environmental parameters such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity. Continuous real-time data helps farmers gain timely insights and make better decisions [1][2][25][28].

Furthermore, the proposed system integrates weather forecasting data to support more accurate and future-oriented decisions. For example, if rainfall is expected, irrigation can be postponed even when soil moisture is low, reducing water wastage. A rule-based automation mechanism is also implemented to control irrigation based on predefined conditions. In addition, the system provides smart recommendations to reduce manual effort and improve efficiency [3][4][30][24]. This approach enhances resource utilization and promotes sustainable farming practices.

With the rapid growth of digital technologies, agriculture is undergoing significant transformation. Smart agriculture uses technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML) to improve productivity and efficiency. IoT devices collect real-time environmental data, while machine learning analyzes historical and current data to generate useful insights for decision-making [5][6][29][25].

The combination of IoT and machine learning is transforming traditional farming into an intelligent system. Machine learning models identify patterns in environmental data to predict crop requirements, irrigation needs, and potential risks. This supports precision agriculture, where decisions on irrigation, crop selection, and fertilizer use are based on insights rather than assumptions or traditional practices [7][9][23][29].

Recent studies highlight the growing importance of advanced AI-based approaches in agriculture. Predictive AI improves the accuracy of forecasting crop yield, field conditions, and resource requirements, leading to better decisions in farming systems [23]. Similarly, IoT-based smart farming combined with machine learning enhances crop productivity through continuous monitoring and intelligent data analysis [25].

Moreover, recent research highlights the integration of IoT, big data analytics, and deep learning for sustainable precision agriculture, where large-scale data is processed to enhance prediction accuracy and optimize resource use [30]. Machine learning-based croprecommendation systems help farmers select suitable crops based on environmental and soil conditions while addressing practical challenges [29]. In addition, AI and ML techniques are used for disease forecasting, enabling early detection and prevention, especially under changing climate conditions [24].

The main objective of this research is to design an efficient, intelligent, and user-friendly smart farming system that integrates IoT sensor data with machine learning models. It provides predictive analytics and recommendations to improve productivity, optimize resource use, and support farmers in adopting modern farming practices.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

In recent years, various researchers have explored smart farming systems using IoT and machine learning to enhance agricultural efficiency. A. Dahane et al. (2020) introduced an IoT-based approach that employed sensors to monitor key environmental parameters such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity. The collected information was processed using machine learning techniques to generate irrigation recommendations, which improved water management and crop productivity. However, the approach lacked advanced automation and was limited in predictive capabilities, reducing its effectiveness in fully autonomous environments.

Similarly, A. Rokade et al. (2022) developed a system based on supervised learning methods to support agricultural decision-making. Their work achieved higher prediction accuracy and improved analytical performance, but the implementation remained complex and faced challenges in real-time execution. M. Dhurgadevi et al. (2024) proposed a precision agriculture model by combining IoT with wireless sensor networks. Their approach enhanced field monitoring and supported better management practices, although large-scale deployment required efficient network coordination and stability.

In addition, W. G. Theresa (2025) designed a predictive framework focused on plant health monitoring. The system analyzed environmental and crop-related parameters to detect diseases at an early stage and provided useful recommendations for irrigation, fertilization, and crop care. While the results demonstrated improved crop management and early issue detection, the model depended heavily on continuous and high-quality input, which may not always be available.

Furthermore, M. A. Qwaid et al. (2026) presented an AI-enabled framework aimed at sustainable agriculture in arid regions. Their system integrated sensor-based inputs with intelligent models to improve productivity and resource management, but required advanced infrastructure for effective implementation. Likewise, S. A. Mohiddin et al. (2026) proposed a predictive AI-driven system that supported better planning and timely decision-making in farming activities. Although the system improved efficiency and resource utilization, it relied on reliable datasets and high computational power, which may limit its adoption for small-scale farmers.

RESEARCH GAP AND PROBLEM FORMULATION

Prior research in smart agriculture has mainly focused on environmental monitoring and limited predictive analysis using IoT and machine learning. However, these approaches often lack proper system integration, real-time decision-making, and practical usability, which reduces their effectiveness in real-world applications. This study proposes an enhanced framework that combines IoT-based sensing with advanced machine learning models to enable real-time data collection, intelligent analysis, and accurate prediction.

The framework monitors key agronomic parameters and provides data-driven recommendations for irrigation scheduling, crop selection, and fertilizer management. It is designed to be computationally efficient, cost-effective, and user-friendly, making it suitable for small- and medium-scale farmers. Overall, this work bridges the gap between traditional monitoring methods and intelligent precision agriculture, improving productivity, optimizing resource use, and supporting better decision-making.

3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The proposed smart farming framework is designed as an automated solution that integrates IoT and machine learning to improve agricultural practices. Its primary objective is to gather real-time field information, process it, and deliver useful recommendations to farmers. The workflow includes data acquisition, transmission, preprocessing, analysis, prediction, and recommendation. IoT sensors deployed in the field capture key parameters such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity. This information is then processed using machine learning models to support irrigation planning and crop management. As a result, the framework enhances productivity and promotes efficient resource utilization.

3.1 IoT-Based Data Collection

IoT sensors are deployed in the field to capture real-time environmental parameters such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity. Continuous monitoring ensures accurate and up-to-date information directly from the agricultural environment.

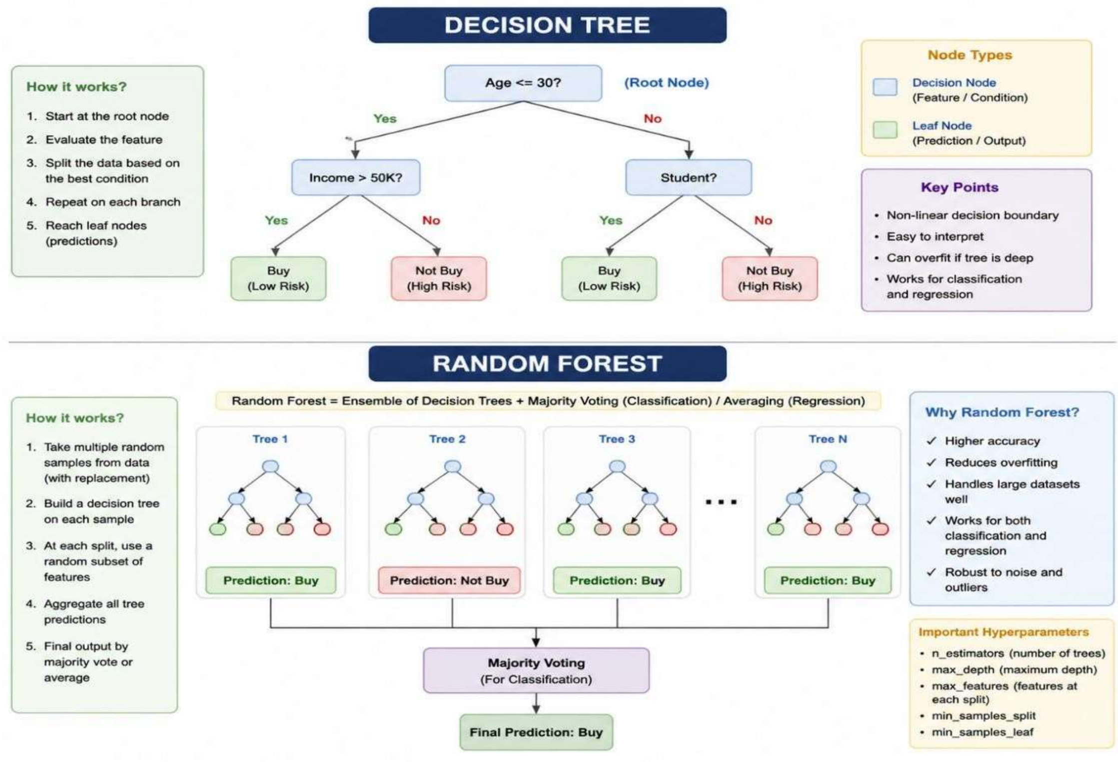
3.2 Data Storage in Cloud System

The collected information is transmitted via the internet and stored in a cloud platform. This storage approach ensures data security and allows easy access for further processing and decision-making whenever required.

3.3 Machine Learning Data Analysis

After storage, machine learning models analyze the information to identify patterns and trends. By examining both historical and current records, the models evaluate crop conditions, soil requirements, and environmental factors, enabling more accurate predictions.

3.4 Machine Learning Models (Decision Tree & Random Forest)



In the proposed framework, machine learning plays a key role in decision-making and prediction. Two supervised learning algorithms, **Decision Tree and Random Forest**, are used for analysis and classification.

The **Decision Tree algorithm** works by splitting data into different conditions based on environmental features such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity. It generates simple rule-based decisions like whether irrigation is required or not.

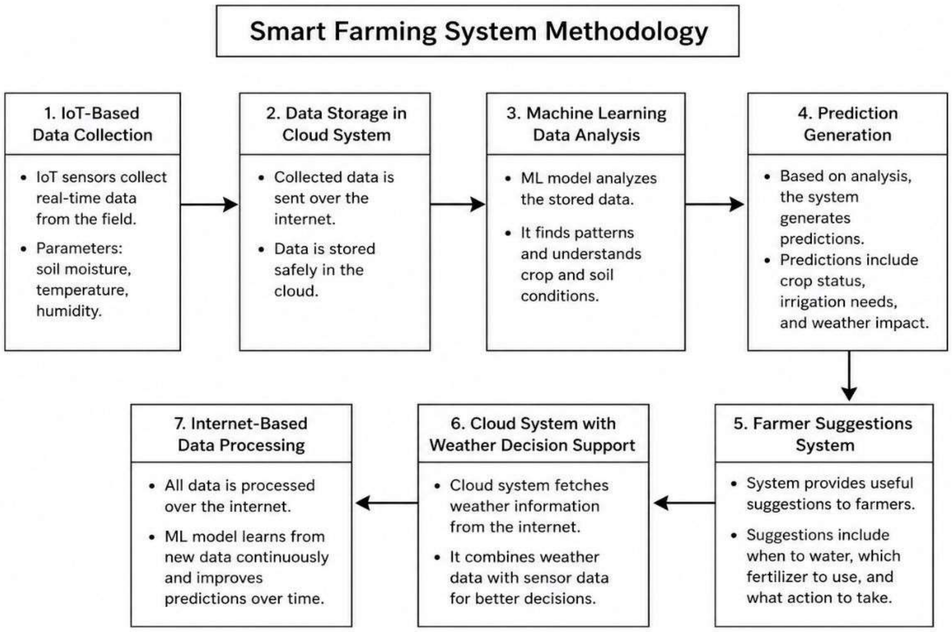
The **Random Forest algorithm** improves prediction accuracy by combining multiple decision trees and taking the majority vote of all outputs. This reduces errors and improves reliability. Both models are trained using historical and real-time sensor data to learn relationships between environmental conditions and crop requirements. These models support irrigation planning, crop prediction, and smart resource management.

3.4 Prediction Generation

Based on the analyzed IoT sensor data and machine learning output, the system generates predictions to support smart farming decisions. This module converts processed data into useful information that helps farmers in managing irrigation and crop conditions effectively. It uses real-time inputs such as soil moisture, temperature, humidity, and weather forecast data to predict future field requirements.

The system identifies patterns learned by machine learning models and applies them to current environmental conditions. For example, if soil moisture is low and temperature is high, the system predicts that irrigation is required. If sufficient moisture is available or rainfall is expected, it predicts that irrigation can be delayed, helping to save water.

The prediction module also evaluates overall crop conditions and determines whether the environment is suitable for healthy crop growth or not. By combining multiple factors, it provides more accurate and reliable results. This helps farmers make timely decisions, reduces manual effort, and improves agricultural efficiency.



3.6 Farmer Suggestion Module

At the final stage of the framework, the system provides clear and actionable recommendations to farmers based on the predictions generated by machine learning models. These suggestions are designed to help farmers make better and faster decisions in daily farming activities.

The module gives guidance on irrigation timing by analyzing soil moisture levels and weather conditions. It suggests when to start or stop irrigation to avoid water wastage. It also recommends suitable fertilizer usage based on crop needs and environmental factors. In addition, the system provides basic field action suggestions such as monitoring crop conditions and taking preventive steps when required.

Overall, this module supports farmers by reducing manual effort, improving decision-making, and increasing crop productivity.

3.7 Cloud System with Weather Decision Support

The cloud system integrates real-time weather forecast data obtained from online sources with IoT sensor readings from the field. This combination allows the system to analyze both current environmental conditions and upcoming weather changes for more accurate decision-making. By combining weather forecasts with parameters such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity, the system improves the reliability of predictions related to irrigation and crop management. For example, if rainfall is expected, the system can suggest delaying irrigation even if soil moisture is low, helping to conserve water and avoid over-irrigation.

Overall, this integration enhances the accuracy of smart farming decisions, improves resource utilization, and supports better crop protection against changing weather conditions.

3.8 Internet-Based Data Processing

All information in the proposed framework is managed and processed through an online platform, where IoT sensor data and weather information are continuously transmitted and updated in real time. The machine learning models operate on this cloud-based system, allowing efficient storage, processing, and analysis of large amounts of agricultural data.

This internet-based processing enables the system to continuously learn from new incoming data and improve its prediction accuracy over time. As new sensor readings are received, the models automatically update their understanding of environmental patterns such as soil moisture changes, temperature variations, and humidity levels.

The adaptive nature of this system ensures that predictions remain accurate under changing environmental conditions. It also supports faster data access, remote monitoring, and seamless communication between field devices and the central system. As a result, this approach enhances overall system performance, reliability, and supports intelligent decision-making in smart farming applications.

Smart Farming Monitoring Module

1. Soil Moisture (SM) → Irrigation Decision Soil moisture is a critical parameter in smart farming as it directly influences crop water requirements. Sensors measure the volumetric water content in soil, which serves as a key input for the machine learning model. When moisture levels fall below a predefined threshold, it indicates dry conditions and triggers irrigation. In contrast, adequate moisture levels prevent unnecessary watering.

From a machine learning perspective, soil moisture acts as a dominant feature during training. The Decision Tree algorithm often selects it as a primary splitting factor due to its strong impact on irrigation decisions. This enables accurate, data-driven water management, reducing wastage and improving crop productivity.

Temperature (T) → Evaporation and Water Requirement

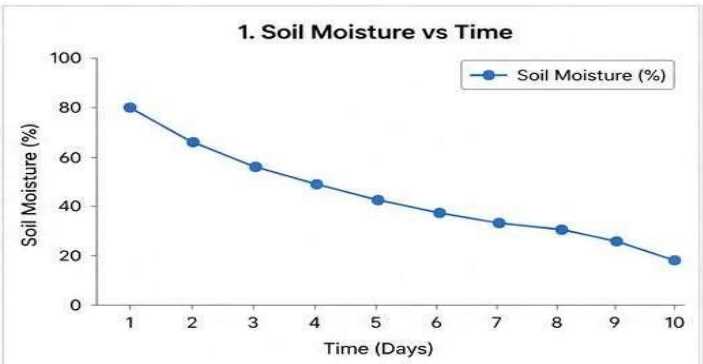


Figure 1: Soil moisture levels observed over 10 days.

Temperature significantly affects evaporation and transpiration rates in crops. Higher values increase water loss from the soil, leading to faster depletion of moisture. As a result, crops may require more frequent watering under such conditions.

In the proposed framework, temperature readings are considered along with soil moisture to improve irrigation predictions. For instance, even when moisture levels are moderate, elevated temperature can still initiate watering due to increased water loss. Machine learning models learn this relationship during training and adjust outputs accordingly. Thus, temperature acts as a supporting factor that improves the accuracy and reliability of irrigation decisions.

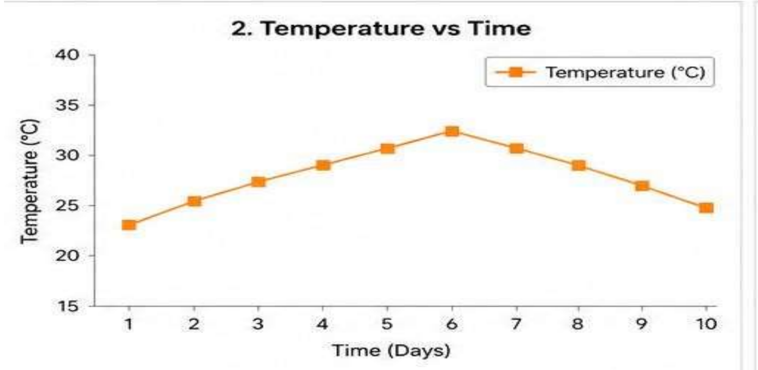


Figure 2: Temperature variation recorded over 10 days.

Humidity indicates the amount of water vapor in the air and plays a key role in crop health and soil water retention. Higher levels slow down evaporation, allowing the soil to retain water for a longer time, whereas lower levels accelerate drying.

In this framework, humidity is used as a supporting factor to refine irrigation decisions. For example, when humidity is high, watering can be delayed even if soil moisture is slightly low, since water loss occurs more slowly. Machine learning models analyze humidity patterns along with temperature and soil moisture to generate more accurate and context-aware predictions. This ensures balanced crop conditions and efficient use of water resources.

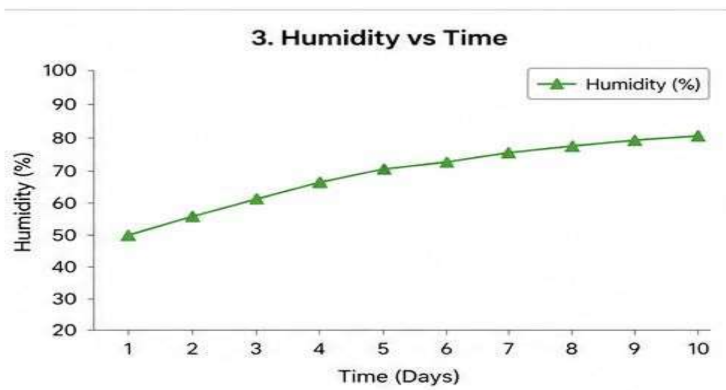


Figure 3: Humidity levels observed over 10 days.

Architecture

IoT Sensors in Field (Data Collection)

At the first stage, different IoT sensors are installed in the agricultural field. These sensors collect real-time environmental data such as:

- Soil moisture
- Temperature
- Humidity
- Weather conditions

This is the **data collection layer** of the system.

2. Data Transmission

After collecting data, IoT devices send it to a centralized system or cloud using wireless communication.

This ensures **real-time data transfer from field to system/database**.

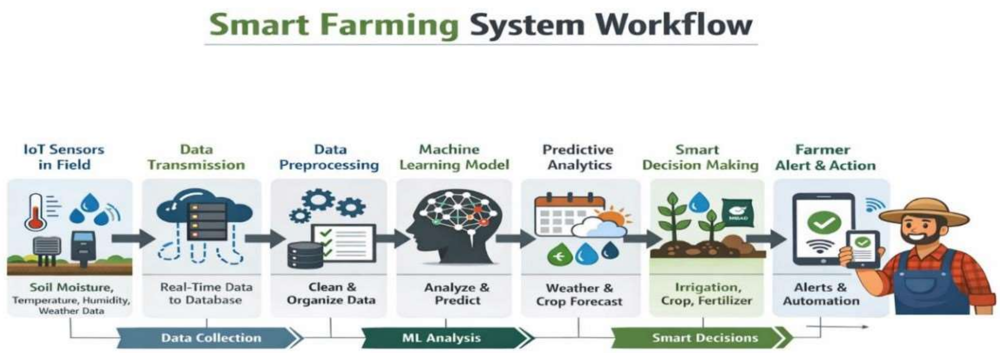
ISSN: 2096-3246
Volume 58, Issue 02, May, 2026

3. Data Preprocessing

The received raw data is not directly used. It is cleaned and organized by:

- Removing noise
- Handling missing values
- Formatting data properly

This step improves **data quality for analysis**.



4. Machine Learning Model (ML Analysis)

Now the processed data is given to a machine learning model. The model:

- Analyzes patterns
- Learns from historical + real-time data
- Predicts crop behavior and field conditions

This is the **intelligence core of the system**.

5. Predictive Analytics (Weather & Crop Forecast)

Machine learning results are combined with weather forecast data. It helps in predicting:

- Crop growth
- Rainfall impact
- Irrigation requirements

This makes the system more **accurate and future-ready**.

6. Smart Decision Making

Based on predictions, the system takes automated decisions like:

- When to start irrigation
- When to stop irrigation
- Fertilizer requirement suggestions

This is where **AI logic converts data into actions**.

7. Farmer Alert & Action (Output Layer)

Finally, the system sends results to farmers through a mobile app or dashboard. Farmers receive:

- Alerts
- Notifications
- Automatic system updates

Example:

Soil is dry → Irrigation ON

ISSN: 2096-3246
Volume 58, Issue 02, May, 2026

Rain expected → Irrigation
OFF

4. PROPOSED ALGORITHM AND WORKING MECHANISM

The proposed smart farming framework operates as an intelligent and automated solution that integrates IoT, machine learning, and predictive analytics. It follows a structured workflow in which each component performs a specific role, starting from data acquisition to final decision-making. This approach is particularly useful for farmers in India.

Step 1: IoT Sensor Deployment and Initialization

IoT sensors, including soil moisture, temperature, and humidity sensors, are deployed across the agricultural field. These devices are strategically placed to ensure accurate and reliable measurements. Each sensor is connected to a microcontroller or IoT module that enables communication with the processing unit. Proper calibration is performed to maintain consistency under varying environmental conditions.

Function:

Initializes infrastructure and enables continuous environmental monitoring.

Step 2: Real-Time Data Collection

Sensors continuously capture environmental parameters at regular intervals. Soil moisture measures water content, temperature reflects atmospheric conditions, and humidity indicates air moisture levels.

Mathematically:

$$X(t) = \{SM(t), T(t), H(t)\}$$

Function:

Provides real-time input for analysis.

Step 3: Data Transmission via IoT Network

Captured readings are transmitted to a central unit through communication technologies such as Wi-Fi or wireless sensor networks, ensuring timely availability of field information.

Function:

Enables real-time data transfer.

Step 4: Cloud-Based Data Storage

The transmitted information is stored in a cloud platform, allowing scalable storage and remote accessibility for monitoring and analysis.

Function:

Ensures secure storage and easy access.

Step 5: Data Preprocessing and Cleaning

Raw inputs undergo preprocessing, including noise removal, missing value handling, and normalization.

$$X_{norm} = \frac{X - X_{min}}{X - X}$$

$max \quad min$

Function:
Prepares high-quality input for modeling.

Step 6: Integration of Weather Forecast Data
Weather parameters such as rainfall, temperature, and humidity forecasts are incorporated to improve prediction accuracy.

$$X = \{SM, T, H, W\}$$

Function:
Combines present and future conditions.

Step 7: Machine Learning Model Training
Processed data is used to train models such as Decision Tree and Random Forest. Decision Trees use entropy and information gain:

$$H(S) = -\sum p_i \log_2(p_i)$$

$$IG = H(S) - \sum \frac{|S_v|}{|S|} H(S_v)$$

Random Forest improves accuracy by combining multiple trees.
Function:
Learns patterns between environmental factors and irrigation needs.
Step 8: Machine Learning-Based Data Analysis
Trained models analyze new inputs. Decision Trees apply rule-based splits, while Random Forest aggregates multiple outputs:

$$Output = Mode(T_1, T_2, \ldots, T_n)$$

Function:
Applies learned logic for decision-making.

Step 9: Prediction Generation (Predictive Analytics)
Predictions are generated for irrigation and crop conditions:

$$Y = f(SM, T, H, W)$$

Example:
- SM < threshold & high temperature → Irrigation required
- SM ≥ threshold → No irrigation

Function:
Produces predictive outputs.

Step 10: Intelligent Decision Making
Predictions are refined using weather forecasts to improve accuracy.
Example:
- Expected rainfall → Delay irrigation

Function:
Optimizes decisions using combined inputs.

Step 11: Smart Irrigation and Action Execution

Automated actions such as switching irrigation ON/OFF are performed based on decisions, ensuring efficient water use.
Function:
Executes automated control.

Step 12: Output Display and User Interaction
Results and recommendations are presented through a user-friendly dashboard for monitoring and action.
Function:
Communicates outputs to users.

Step 13: Continuous Monitoring and Learning
A feedback loop updates models continuously:

$$Model_{new} = Model_{old} + \Delta(Data)$$

Function:
Improves accuracy over time.

5. SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION
Hardware Design
The hardware layer consists of IoT devices installed in the field to capture environmental conditions. Key components include soil moisture, temperature, and humidity sensors along with a microcontroller.
The soil moisture sensor measures water content in soil, temperature sensors track atmospheric conditions, and humidity sensors monitor air moisture. These devices are deployed across different locations to ensure accurate readings. The microcontroller gathers sensor outputs and transmits them to the cloud via the internet, enabling real-time monitoring.

Software Design
The software layer manages data processing, analysis, and output generation. It consists of multiple modules working sequentially.
The data collection module receives sensor readings, followed by preprocessing where noise and missing values are handled. Machine learning models then analyze the processed inputs to identify patterns and generate predictions related to irrigation and crop conditions.
A user interface or dashboard displays results in an understandable format. Farmers can view insights and recommendations easily. The system can be developed using programming languages such as Python along with machine learning libraries.

6 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION / CONFUSION MATRIX ANALYSIS

To evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed prediction approach, confusion matrix analysis is used along with standard performance metrics. A confusion matrix is a tabular representation that compares predicted outcomes with actual values, providing a clear understanding of classification performance.
The matrix consists of four components:

- True Positive (TP): Correctly identified positive cases (e.g., irrigation required and correctly predicted)
- True Negative (TN): Correctly identified negative cases (e.g., irrigation not required and correctly predicted)

- False Positive (FP): Incorrect positive prediction
- False Negative (FN): Incorrect negative prediction

Using these values, several evaluation metrics are calculated. Accuracy represents the proportion of correctly classified instances:

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

In addition to accuracy, other important metrics are considered. Precision indicates the correctness of positive predictions, while recall measures the ability to identify actual positive cases. The F1-score combines precision and recall to provide a balanced evaluation of performance.

These metrics collectively offer a comprehensive assessment of the model. High accuracy along with balanced precision and recall indicates reliable performance and suitability for real-world agricultural applications.

7 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the proposed smart farming framework demonstrate that the integration of IoT and machine learning significantly improves decision-making in agriculture. The framework continuously collects real-time environmental parameters such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity, and processes this information to generate accurate predictions related to irrigation and crop conditions. The findings indicate that the use of predictive models helps in optimizing water usage by ensuring irrigation is applied only when required, thereby reducing unnecessary wastage. In addition, the approach minimizes the need for manual monitoring in the field, which saves time and reduces labor effort. The system also performs effectively under varying environmental conditions, as the machine learning models continuously learn from new inputs and adapt their predictions accordingly. This adaptive capability enhances the reliability and consistency of results over time. Furthermore, when compared with traditional farming practices, the proposed approach provides faster, more accurate, and data-driven outcomes, leading to improved productivity and efficient resource utilization. The integration of real-time monitoring, predictive analysis, and automated decision support creates a practical and effective solution for modern agriculture, making it suitable for real-world implementation.

5. FUTURE WORK

The proposed smart farming framework can be further improved to enhance its accuracy and efficiency. Advanced machine learning models can be used to provide better predictions for crop conditions and irrigation needs. The integration of real-time weather forecasting can help in making more reliable and timely decisions. In addition, the framework can be extended to support automatic irrigation, where water supply is controlled based on predictions, reducing manual effort and saving resources. A mobile or web-based application can also be developed to allow farmers to easily access data, receive alerts, and follow recommendations. Furthermore, techniques such as edge computing can be applied to reduce delay and improve system performance, especially in remote areas. These improvements will make the framework more practical, efficient, and suitable for real-world agricultural applications.

6. COMPARATIVE SYSTEM ANALYSIS

A comparison with existing studies highlights the evolution of smart farming from basic monitoring to advanced predictive solutions. Previous research has applied IoT and machine learning in agriculture, but several limitations remain.

For instance, Araby et al. (2019) focused primarily on environmental monitoring with limited predictive capability. Bhavana and Rao (2025) applied advanced machine learning techniques for crop prediction, achieving high accuracy but with increased complexity. Theresa (2025) proposed a plant health prediction approach for early disease detection.

In contrast, the proposed framework integrates IoT sensing with machine learning to provide real-time predictions and actionable recommendations. It not only monitors field conditions but also supports decision-making through clear guidance such as irrigation control. This makes the approach more practical, user-friendly, and suitable for real farming environments.

7. CONCLUSION

This study presents a smart farming solution based on IoT and machine learning. The framework collects real-time parameters such as soil moisture, temperature, and humidity to generate accurate predictions for irrigation and crop management. This improves overall agricultural efficiency.

The approach contributes to water conservation, reduced wastage, and increased crop yield. Automation minimizes manual effort and human error, demonstrating how modern technologies can enhance traditional farming practices.

Future enhancements may include additional sensors, advanced learning models, and weather data integration. Overall, the proposed approach offers a practical and effective solution for smart and sustainable agriculture.

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