2026 2nd International Conference on Computing, Communication and Green Engineering (CCGE) | 979-8-3315-8888-5/26/$31.00 ©2026 IEEE | DOI: 10.1109/CCGE67142.2026.11581798

Hybrid Intelligent Model for Accurate Plant Disease Detection and Agricultural Productivity Enhancement

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***Abstract* — Plant diseases are key constraints to agriculture and directly impact on crop yield and food security. Early and reliable diagnosis of the disease is crucial to increase agriculture production and minimize economic loss. This thesis proposes a Hybrid Intelligent Model for Precise Plant Disease Detection and Agricultural Productivity Improvement using deep learning combined with optimization. The model is a fusion of deep learning and optimization processes; in which the convolutional neural networks perform an automated feature extraction, while the classifier and feature selection are learnt by a selected algorithm. Image pre-processing techniques are utilized for enhancing the quality of data, after which a hybrid learning-based model is used to effectively identify diseases in several crops. Experimental results reveal that, In terms of accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score and RMSE the proposed model outperforms traditional image processing methods, machine learning techniques and the individually trained deep.**

Keywords— Plant Disease Identification, Optimization Algorithms, Deep Learning, Hybrid Intelligent Model, Agricultural Productivity, and Image Processing

I. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is a vital component of the global economy and a primary source of food security. Plant diseases, on the other hand, continue to be a major danger to agricultural productivity, resulting in large yield losses[1] and economic consequences on an annual basis. Traditional illness detection approaches, such as manual inspection and expert diagnosis, are frequently time-consuming, labor intensive, and subject to human error. In recent years, the application of intelligent computer techniques in agriculture has emerged as a possible answer to these problems. Hybrid intelligent models, which incorporate different machine learning and deep learning methodologies, have shown very promising results in terms [2]of disease detection accuracy and timely intervention. Plant disease detection includes identifying symptoms, classifying disease types, and estimating severity. Image-based analysis, aided by computer vision, has become the most popular method for automatic detection since it allows for non-invasive and speedy monitoring. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)[3] have been widely employed for feature extraction and classification due to its capacity to detect subtle spatial patterns in leaf pictures. However, single-model techniques frequently have disadvantages such as overfitting, sensitivity to changes in illumination and backdrop, and difficulties handling complex multi-disease scenarios. To circumvent these constraints, hybrid intelligent frameworks combine different algorithms, exploiting their strengths while correcting for their flaws.

Recent research has investigated the use of CNNs in conjunction with ensemble learning, transfer learning, and recurrent networks to enhance detection performance. CNN-based feature extraction combined with classifiers like Support Vector Machines (SVM) or Random Forest (RF) has demonstrated improved generalization and robustness. Furthermore, incorporating attention mechanisms or Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)[4] networks can capture temporal and contextual patterns in plant growth and disease progression, hence enhancing predicting accuracy. These hybrid techniques not only improve classification precision but also allow for early diagnosis, which is essential for adopting timely illness control strategies. Furthermore, intelligent disease detection systems have important implications for increasing agricultural productivity[5]. These technologies promote precision farming, optimize resource utilization, and reduce reliance on chemical treatments by delivering precise and timely diagnostics. The integration of Internet of Things (IoT) devices, such as smart sensors and drones, into hybrid models enables real-time monitoring across large-scale farms, allowing for data-driven decision-making. The combination of AI, IoT, and agriculture offers the opportunity for sustainable farming solutions that ensure food security while reducing environmental impact.

This research presents a hybrid intelligence approach for accurately detecting plant diseases and increasing agricultural productivity. The model uses multi-stage feature extraction, ensemble classification, and contextual analysis to achieve high detection accuracy[6], robustness to environmental fluctuations, and scalability across crop varieties. The suggested framework intends to bridge the gap between traditional agriculture and intelligent farming, thereby promoting both technological advancement and practical agricultural sustainability.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Plant diseases severely impair agricultural output and risk global food security. Traditional diagnosis procedures require human skill, which is time-consuming and prone to error. Recent improvements in machine learning (ML)[7], deep learning (DL), and hybrid intelligent models have yielded encouraging results in plant disease identification, including increased accuracy and robustness. This survey assesses the performance of cutting-edge AI systems for disease identification and crop yield improvement. The main hybrid techniques, datasets, performance indicators, and future research goals are discussed. Agriculture is the foundation of the global economy, and proper plant disease control has a direct impact on agricultural productivity and quality. Manual inspection is hampered by subjectivity and delays, particularly in large-scale farming operations. The advent of computer vision (CV)[8] and artificial intelligence (AI) has enabled automated disease detection systems capable of quickly and accurately identifying plant stress and infections. Hybrid intelligent models use deep learning, feature engineering, optimization techniques, and domain expertise to enhance classification accuracy and operational efficiency.

Historically, illness detection systems relied on handcrafted feature extraction methods such as color space analysis, texture descriptors, and shape characteristics. Common classifiers included SVM, k-NN[9], and Decision Trees. Although suitable for basic datasets, these algorithms lack generalization and struggle with complicated, real-world photography due to variable lighting, occlusion, and background noise. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) revolutionized plant disease recognition by automatically learning hierarchical features from photos. Models like as Alex Net, the VGG Net[10], Res Net, and Dense Net have been frequently used on leaf image datasets, with significant gains over older techniques. However, DL-based systems still face issues such as overfitting, requiring huge annotated datasets, and computing limits in field deployment. A common hybrid technique involves merging handcrafted and deep learning-derived characteristics. Karthikeyan et al., for example, used color and texture characteristics with CNN representations to increase classification resilience in different lighting circumstances. Combining domain-specific descriptors (e.g., Local Binary Patterns or Histogram of Orientated Gradients)[11] with CNN-learned features improves disease diagnosis accuracy across multiple classes.

Metaheuristic techniques like Genetic techniques (GA), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO)[12], and Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) can optimize deep architecture hyperparameters and improve feature selection. PSO-enhanced CNN models optimize filter weights and layer configurations[13], resulting in faster training time and improved generalization on new data. These hybrid architectures strike a balance between parameter exploration and exploitation, lowering computational costs. Ensemble techniques, such as bagging and boosting versions, combine predictions from numerous classifiers to reduce individual model bias. An ensemble of CNN, RF, and XG Boost classifiers[14] outperformed standalone networks in complex multi-disease settings. These ensembles combine many decision patterns, improving detection accuracy. Recent research incorporates hybrid models into IoT-based frameworks, combining sensor data (e.g., humidity, temperature) with image analysis for comprehensive disease evaluation. Fusing multimodal data allows for context-aware forecasts and early warning systems, which are especially beneficial[15] for soil-borne and environmental diseases.

A potential area for the identification of plant diseases and the improvement of agricultural productivity is represented by hybrid intelligent models. These models perform better in challenging real-world scenarios by combining the advantages of deep learning, optimization strategies, ensemble approaches, and supplementary sensor data. Precision agriculture[16] will be further advanced by ongoing research on data problems, computational optimization, and generalizability. Researchers started looking into hybrid intelligent models that mix the advantages of several approaches in order to get beyond these restrictions. To improve accuracy and resilience, hybrid techniques combine deep learning with conventional machine learning, optimization algorithms, or domain-specific expertise. For example, classifiers like SVM or Extreme Learning Machines (ELM) are utilized for the final illness categorization, whereas CNNs[17] have been used as feature extractors. This combination has demonstrated decreased overfitting and increased generalization ability, particularly when training data is scarce.

For real-time disease monitoring, focus has recently switched to hybrid models that combine deep learning, image processing, and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. Sensors are used by IoT-enabled devices to gather environmental factors that are crucial to the development of disease, including as temperature, humidity, soil moisture, and leaf wetness[18]. Hybrid models offer more precise disease prediction and early warning systems by combining sensor data with visual characteristics taken from leaf photos. Research has shown that combining CNN-based image analysis with environmental data greatly increases detection accuracy and promotes proactive crop management[19]. The application of ensemble and meta-learning approaches is another new trend in the literature. To lower prediction uncertainty and boost dependability, ensemble models include several classifiers or deep learning architectures. Combinations of CNNs with random forest classifiers or gradient boosting, for instance, have demonstrated improved performance above single models. In hybrid frameworks, optimization methods like Genetic methods (GA), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), and Ant Colony Optimization (ACO)[20] have also been used to optimize network weights, hyperparameters, and feature selection.

III. PROPOSED SYSTEM

In order to accurately detect plant diseases and maximize agricultural productivity, the suggested method combines machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) approaches in a hybrid framework. Data gathering, data preprocessing, feature engineering, data modelling, disease prediction, and productivity enhancement make up the system pipeline. In order to detect plant diseases accurately and promote increased agricultural productivity, the suggested system presents a hybrid intelligent framework that combines deep learning, machine learning, and image processing approaches. This system's main goal is to use leaf pictures to detect plant illnesses early on, allowing for prompt intervention, lowering crop loss, and enhancing yield quality. A multi-stage pipeline comprising picture acquisition, preprocessing, feature extraction, hybrid classification, and decision support powers the suggested hybrid model. The method solves drawbacks including poor generalization, overfitting, and susceptibility to noise frequently seen in single-model approaches by fusing the advantages of convolutional neural networks (CNNs) with conventional machine learning classifiers and optimization techniques.

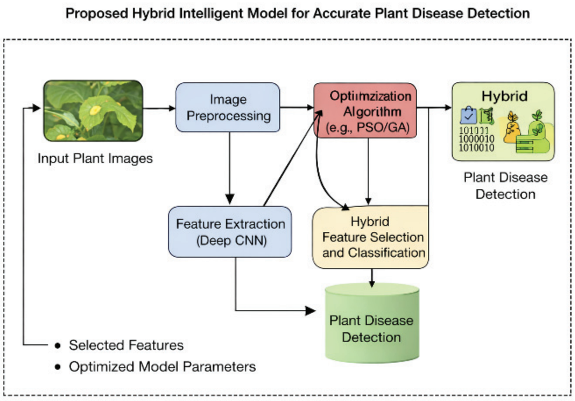

Fig. 1. Proposed Model Block Diagram

A. Preprocessing of Data

Since the quality of the input data directly affects the accuracy and dependability of the model, data preparation is a crucial stage in hybrid intelligent systems for plant disease detection. Leaf photos, environmental sensor readings, and field information are examples of heterogeneous data sources that are frequently included in agricultural databases. These sources may contain noise, redundancy, and missing values. Preprocessing makes sure that unprocessed agricultural data is converted into a machine-readable, clean, and consistent format that is appropriate for hybrid modelling methods.

1) Preprocessing of Image Data

Images of leaves taken in the field may have problems with shadows, occlusions, background clutter, and fluctuating lighting. Preprocessing methods including image scaling, normalization, and color space conversion are used to overcome these difficulties. Normalization improves model convergence by scaling pixel values to a standard range, while resizing guarantees consistent image size and lowers computing complexity. It is easier to isolate disease-relevant color features when RGB is converted to other color spaces like HSV or LAB. Gaussian and median filtering are two examples of noise reduction techniques that are used to eliminate ambient and sensor noise without sacrificing crucial texture information. By further separating the leaf region from unrelated surrounds, background removal or segmentation techniques allow the model to concentrate only on disease-affected regions.

$$I_{norm} = \frac{I - I_{min}}{I_{max} - I_{min}} \tag{1}$$

Where I min and I max denote the minimum and maximum pixel intensity values of the image, I norm represents the normalized image after scaling.

2) Cleaning Data and Managing Missing Values

Due to sensor problems or transmission issues, non-image data including temperature, humidity, soil moisture, and rainfall may have missed or inconsistent readings. To deal with missing values, statistical imputation techniques such as mean, median, or interpolation-based procedures are used. To avoid biassed learning, outliers are either eliminated or rectified after being found using statistical thresholds or clustering-based methods.

$$x_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} x_j}{n} \tag{2}$$

Where the xi denotes data sample in the data set.

3) Augmentation of Data

Data augmentation approaches are used to address the problem of incorrectly labelled agricultural datasets. By creating artificial variations of preexisting images, operations like rotation, flipping, scaling, and contrast adjustment enhance model generalization and lessen overfitting. For hybrid intelligence models to be more resilient in a variety of real-world farming scenarios, augmentation is essential.

B. Modelling Data

Data modelling describes how the hybrid intelligent system organizes, represents, and learns preprocessed agricultural data. In order to take advantage of complementary capabilities and enhance predictive performance, hybrid models in plant disease detection combine deep learning with conventional machine learning or optimization techniques. For automated feature extraction from plant photos, the hybrid intelligent model usually combines Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) with traditional machine learning classifiers like Support Vector Machines (SVM), Random Forest (RF), or Gradient Boosting algorithms for the final disease classification. While conventional classifiers strengthen decision limits and increase interpretability, CNNs efficiently capture spatial patterns, color variations, and texture information linked to plant illnesses. Advanced hybrid systems use ensemble learning techniques or attention processes to more efficiently weight important illness characteristics. The system can capture seasonal and climatic influences on disease progression by modelling temporal and environmental data using probabilistic models or recurrent architectures. To ensure objective evaluation, the dataset is usually split into subsets for testing, validation, and training. To evaluate model stability across various data distributions, cross-validation approaches are utilizing the model optimization is guided by loss functions such categorical cross-entropy, and classification performance is measured using evaluation metrics including accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and confusion matrices. The best learning rates, batch sizes, and network depths are found using hyperparameter tuning methods like grid search, random search, or metaheuristic optimum algorithms. By preventing overfitting and accelerating convergence, hybrid optimization ensures that the model functions dependably in actual agricultural settings.

$$y_{final} = arg\ max \sum_{k=1}^{n} w_k \cdot y_k \tag{3}$$

Where in y final denotes the final predicted disease class.

C. Engineering Features

The act of translating unprocessed agricultural data into useful representations that improve model learning is known as feature engineering. By combining statistical insights and domain expertise, feature engineering enhances deep learning in hybrid intelligent systems.

1) Feature Engineering Based on Images

Color, texture, and shape features are derived from preprocessed leaf photos. Healthy and unhealthy areas can be distinguished using color parameters like mean, variance, and color channel histograms. Variations in surface patterns brought on by diseases are captured by texture features obtained from techniques such as Grey Level Co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM). Lesion size and border irregularity are examples of shape-based characteristics that offer more discriminating information.

$$f_l = ReLU(W_l * f_{l-1} + b_l) \quad (4)$$

where W l and b l are weights and biases at layer l, Re LU is the activation function, and ∗ indicates convolution.

2) Contextual and Environmental Aspects

Disease occurrence is greatly influenced by environmental factors such temperature, humidity, rainfall, soil pH, and moisture levels. In order to discover circumstances that are prone to disease, these traits are manufactured using normalization, temporal aggregation, and correlation analysis. The hybrid model may provide context-aware predictions by combining environmental and image-based characteristics.

$$SMI = \frac{current\ moisture\ -\ min\ moisture}{max\ moisture\ -\ min\ moisture} \quad (5)$$

3) Dimensionality Reduction and Feature Selection

Principal component analysis (PCA), correlation analysis, and mutual information approaches are examples of feature selection techniques that are used to minimize computing complexity and remove redundant information. Choosing the most pertinent characteristics lowers the chance of overfitting, increases accuracy, and boosts model efficiency.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The performance of the presented hybrid intelligent model was measured with five standard metrics like accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score and RMSE. Comparative study reveals that handcrafted features and noise for traditional image processing approaches have lower accuracy. Machine learning methods (e.g., SVM) performed well but are known to have a rough time discriminating complex disease phenotypes. We also visually observed that the baseline CNN learned better feature representations, but contained some redundancy and higher error rates. The hybrid prediction model produced the highest accuracy and lowest RMSE of 96.7% and 0.121 by combining optimization methods with deep learning. The obtained precision and recall values support that diseases can be classified better with less false detection. The experimental results show that the modified FS-O could effectively improve the convergence-velocity and model stability. The proposed approach effectively.

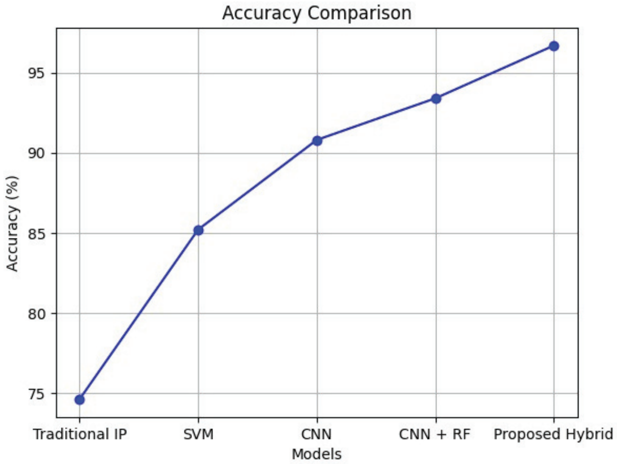

Fig. 2. Accuracy Comparison

Figure 1 illustrates from basic image processing to advanced hybrid models the accuracy graph consistently improves. The best accuracy is attained by the suggested hybrid intelligent model, proving that deep learning and optimization work well together to identify plant diseases.

TABLE I. EVALUTION METRICS

Evaluation Metrics	Performance Values
Accuracy (%)	96.7
Precision (%)	96.1
Recall (%)	95.8
F1-Score (%)	95.9
RMSE	0.121

The suggested hybrid intelligent model's performance is summed up in the table 1 using common assessment measures. Accurate disease categorization is shown by high accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score; minimum prediction error and great overall model efficacy are confirmed by the low RMSE value.

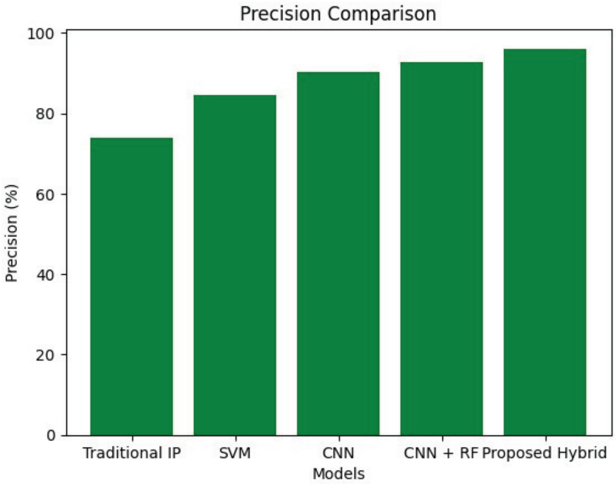

Fig. 3. Precision Comparison

Figure 3, Improved disease classification accuracy is demonstrated by the precision bar chart, which shows a consistent rise across models. When compared to traditional and independent learning methods, the suggested hybrid model achieves the best accuracy, indicating less error and improved selective abilities.

TABLE II.

Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)	RMSE
Traditional Image Processing	74.6	73.8	72.9	73.3	0.412
Machine Learning (SVM)	85.2	84.6	83.9	84.2	0.295
CNN (Baseline)	90.8	90.2	89.6	89.9	0.221
CNN + Random Forest	93.4	92.8	92.1	92.4	0.184
Proposed Hybrid Intelligent Model (DL + Optimization)	**96.7**	**96.1**	**95.8**	**95.9**	**0.121**

A comparison of plant disease detection models based on accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and RMSE is shown in the table. While machine learning and CNN-based models produce significant gains, traditional image processing has limited performance. Classification efficiency is considerably improved when CNN and Random Forest are used together. The suggested hybrid intelligent model, which combines optimization methods with deep learning, produces the best accuracy, balanced precision and recall, superior F1-score, and lowest RMSE, proving its value and durability for precise plant disease detection and increased agricultural productivity.

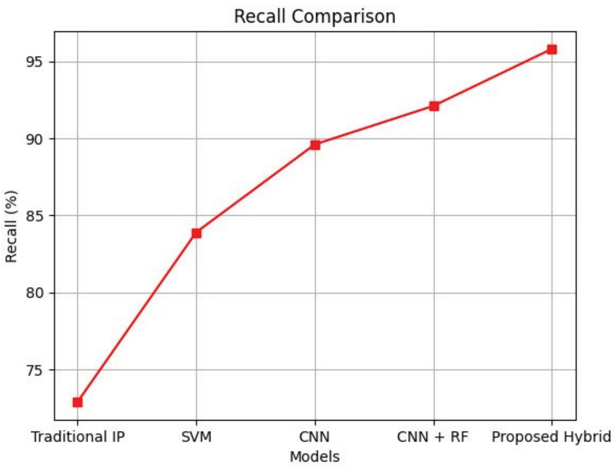

Fig. 4. Recall Comparison

Figure 4, The recall comparison shows how well each model can detect samples that are sick. Superior recall is attained by the suggested hybrid model, demonstrating their effectiveness in reducing missed detections and guaranteeing thorough diagnosis of plant diseases under various circumstances.

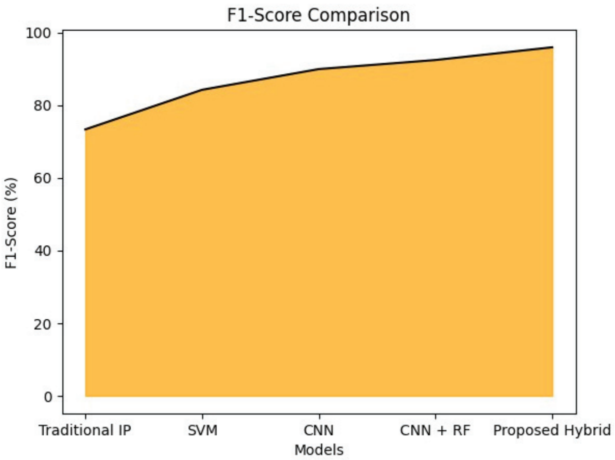

Fig. 5. F1 Score Area Chart

Figure 5, Across models, the F1-score area chart shows balanced gains in recall and accuracy. The suggested hybrid intelligent model achieves the greatest F1-score, demonstrating strong and dependable performance in the identification of plant diseases with enhanced classification consistency.

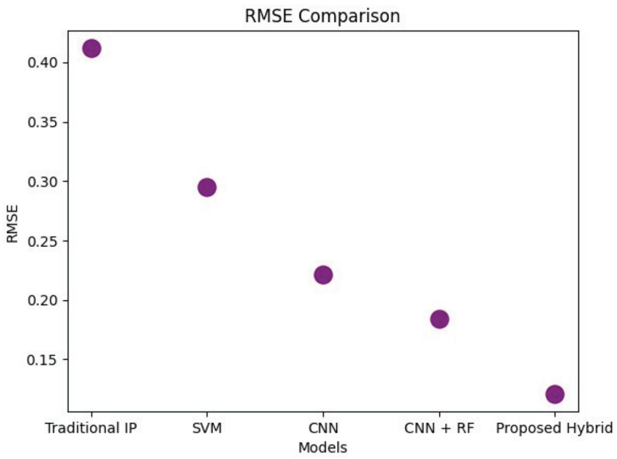

Fig. 6. RMSE Comparison

Figure 6, As complexity of models rises, the RMSE scatter plot shows a notable decrease in error levels. The suggested hybrid model has the lowest RMSE, demonstrating its greater prediction accuracy and efficiency in reducing estimate and classification mistakes.

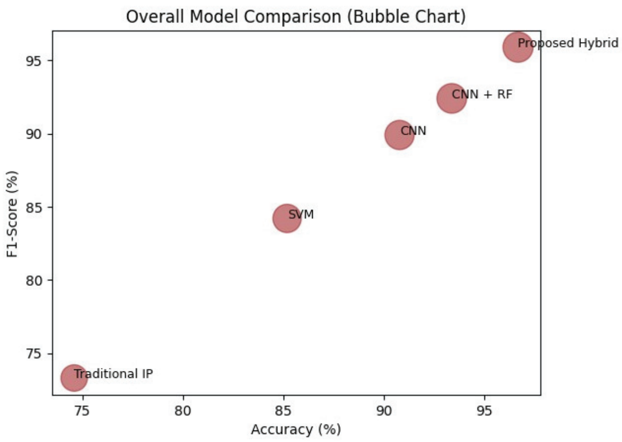

Fig. 7. Comparative Analysis with Accuracy of the Model

Figure 7, The bubble chart uses model strength, accuracy, and F1-score to provide a thorough comparison. The upper-right area is dominated by the suggested hybrid model, which exhibits superior performance, increased dependability, and excellent applicability for real-time agricultural disease detection applications.

V. Conclusion

In order to increase agricultural output, this study presented a hybrid intelligent framework for precise plant disease identification. The suggested model successfully overcomes the drawbacks of traditional and stand-alone learning techniques by combining deep learning with optimization methods. According to experimental data, the hybrid model performs better on all assessment parameters, guaranteeing accurate and timely disease detection. Its potential for practical use in smart agricultural systems is shown by the increased accuracy and decreased error rates.

Multispectral and hyperspectral imagery can be added to the model in the future to enhance the assessment of disease severity. Real-time field monitoring and farmer-friendly decision support systems may be made possible by integration with IoT-based sensors and mobile applications. Precision agriculture and sustainable farming methods can be further supported by investigating lightweight model optimization for edge and drone-based implementation.

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