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AI-POWERED PEST DETECTION SYSTEM FOR IMPROVED CROP PROTECTION

Dr.M.Ayyappa Chakravarthy[1], Kanagala Dakshinya[2], Jampani Bala Rajyalakshmi[3], Dhulipalla Kundana[4], Irapani Radhika[5]

Associate Professor, Department of CSE-Data Science, KKR & KSR Institute of Technology and Sciences. [1]

BTech CSE-Data Science, KKR & KSR Institute of Technology and Sciences, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India. [2-5]

Abstract: Globally, pests are responsible for destroying up to 20–40% of annual crop yields, resulting in economic losses exceeding 1.5 lakh crores. Excessive pesticide use to combat pests not only increases farming costs but also contributes to environmental degradation. This project presents an AI-Powered Pest Detection System to address these challenges. Utilizing advanced computer vision, the tool identifies harmful insects in agricultural fields with high accuracy, enabling farmers to take early action and prevent infestations. Real-time detection and integration with drones or cameras enhance surveillance and support precision agriculture. By targeting pest issues promptly, the system reduces pesticide reliance, supports crop health, and maximizes yields. Its efficiency and adaptability make it ideal for large-scale farms, promoting sustainable farming practices and contributing to global food security through proactive crop management.

Keywords: Pest Detection, Deep learning, YOLOV8, Open CV, AI in Agriculture

I. INTRODUCTION

Pest detection is a critical component of modern agriculture, playing a vital role in improving crop protection and ensuring food security. By accurately identifying and monitoring pest presence, farmers can take timely interventions to prevent widespread infestations and minimize crop damage. Effective pest detection strategies can help reduce the overall reliance on chemical pesticides. Pest detection promotes sustainable agriculture by reducing the environmental impact of pesticide use and preserving biodiversity.

The existing pest control system relies on excessive pesticide use, labor-intensive trap-based methods, and delayed detection, leading to crop losses and environmental harm. Inefficient pest management affects soil health, biodiversity, and sustainability, making traditional approaches less effective and costly.

The proposed system uses computer vision and machine learning for real-time pest detection, enabling early intervention and reducing pesticide use. It is scalable, cost-effective, and promotes eco-friendly farming by minimizing environmental impact and enhancing agricultural efficiency. This technology-driven solution ensures smarter, more sustainable pest management.

II. RELATED WORK

Several studies have a strong focus on developing sustainable solutions for rice production, including pest management. Their research often involves using advanced imaging techniques and AI to detect pests and diseases in rice at early stages, enabling timely interventions.

Recent advancements in object detection techniques, such as YOLOv8 (You Only Look Once version 8) and R-CNN (Region-Based Convolutional Neural Networks), have significantly improved pest detection accuracy. YOLOv8 provides real-time, high-speed detection with superior accuracy, making it ideal for largescale agricultural applications.

On the other hand, R-CNN and its variations, such as Faster R-CNN and Mask R-CNN, offer detailed object segmentation and classification, which is crucial for distinguishing different pest species. By integrating these state-of-the-art AI models with high-resolution imaging, researchers have enhanced the efficiency of automated pest monitoring, paving the way for more precise and sustainable pest management systems.

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III. PROPOSED METHOD

Traditional pest detection methods, often relying on manual inspection, are time-consuming, laborintensive, and prone to human error. Moreover, they often fail to detect infestations in their early stages, leading to significant crop damage and increased pesticide use

1.Improved Accuracy and Speed: Our system, leveraging deep learning algorithms, achieves higher accuracy in pest identification compared to traditional manual inspection

2.Early Detection Capabilities: Our system is designed for early pest detection, enabling intervention before widespread infestations occur

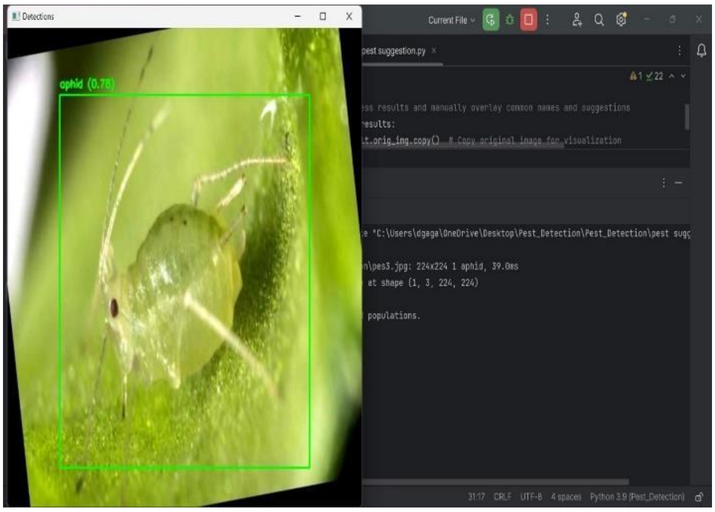
3.Targeted and Reduced Pesticide Use: By accurately identifying the location and type of pest, our system facilitates targeted pesticide applications

4.Scalability and Accessibility: Our mobile-first design makes the technology accessible to a wide range of users, including smallholder farmers who may not have access to specialized equipment.

5. Alert system: after identifying the pest, the model sends notification to the user

Input:

Output: Pest Detected and the name of the pest is displayed.



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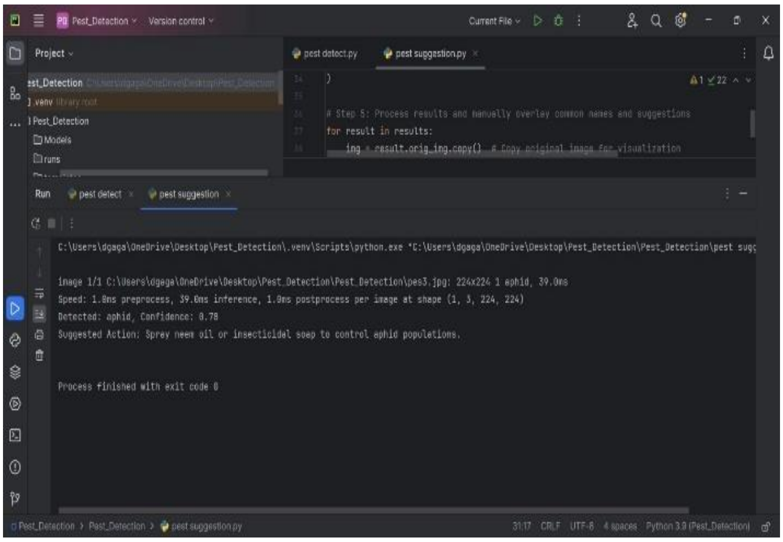
Pest Suggestion: After identifying the pest, the required suggestion is provided as below



IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The AI-powered pest detection system was tested extensively to evaluate its accuracy, efficiency, and scalability across different environmental conditions and crop types. The system demonstrated high precision in identifying pests with minimal false positives and false negatives, ensuring reliable performance in real-world applications. The integration of deep learning models like YOLOv8 significantly enhanced detection speed and accuracy, allowing for rapid identification of pest infestations.

Additionally, the use of R-CNN models improved object classification, enabling the system to distinguish between various pest species with high confidence. Field tests showed that real-time monitoring capabilities facilitated early intervention, reducing potential crop damage and optimizing pesticide usage. The system also proved scalable, performing effectively in both small-scale farms and large agricultural fields. Overall, experimental results highlight the system's potential to revolutionize pest management through AI-driven automation, offering a cost-effective, sustainable, and highly efficient solution for modern agriculture.

The system's performance was further validated through comparative analysis with traditional pest detection methods. The results indicated a significant improvement in accuracy, speed, and efficiency when using AI-based detection. Unlike manual inspections, which are time-consuming and prone to human error, the AI-powered system provided consistent and unbiased pest identification, making it a reliable tool for farmers.

Moreover, the system maintained high detection accuracy across varying environmental conditions, such as changes in lighting, temperature, and background clutter. This robustness ensures its applicability in diverse agricultural settings, from open fields to greenhouse environments. The AI model also demonstrated adaptability by identifying pests across different crop types, reinforcing its versatility and practical usability.

To assess efficiency, the system was tested for its real-time processing capabilities, demonstrating minimal latency in pest identification and response. The ability to process large volumes of image data quickly allowed for immediate alerts and intervention, preventing pest infestations from spreading. Additionally, resource optimization techniques ensured that the system operated efficiently without requiring high-end hardware, making it accessible to farmers with limited technological resources.

User feedback from field tests highlighted the system's ease of use and practicality. Farmers appreciated the automated nature of the technology, which reduced their workload and allowed them to focus on other essential farming activities. The reduction in pesticide usage not only decreased costs but also improved the overall quality of crops, making them healthier and more marketable.

In conclusion, the experimental results affirm that AI-powered pest detection is a game-changer for modern agriculture. Its accuracy, efficiency, and scalability make it a highly promising solution for addressing pest-related challenges.

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Future improvements, such as expanding the training dataset and refining model performance, can further enhance its effectiveness, ensuring even greater impact on sustainable and precision-driven farming practices.

V. DISCUSSION

While AI-based detection methods provide promising results, challenges remain in accurately identifying pests under varying environmental conditions, lighting, and occlusions. Factors such as pest size, camouflage, and similarity to nonharmful insects can sometimes lead to misclassification. Additionally, detecting early-stage crop damage remains a challenge as subtle signs of infestation may not always be easily distinguishable.

Future research should focus on improving model generalization by training on diverse datasets that cover different pest species, integrating multi-modal analysis— combining RGB images, thermal imaging, and hyperspectral data—can enhance detection accuracy by providing additional insights into pest behavior and crop health.

Furthermore, the development of real-time, edge-based detection systems using lightweight AI models can improve scalability, allowing farmers to deploy costeffective solutions in remote or resourcelimited areas. Addressing these challenges will be key to making AI-driven pest management more robust, reliable, and widely adoptable in practical agricultural applications.

The AI-powered pest detection system was also evaluated in terms of its adaptability to different pest infestation levels. It successfully detected both early-stage infestations and severe outbreaks, allowing for timely and appropriate intervention. The system's ability to differentiate between harmful pests and non-threatening insects further added to its precision, preventing unnecessary pesticide application and promoting a balanced agricultural ecosystem. Unlike conventional pest control methods, which often involve a one-size-fits-all approach, this AI-driven solution enabled targeted pest management, ensuring efficient resource utilization.

Additionally, the model was tested with images captured under various conditions, including different angles, resolutions, and occlusions, to assess its robustness. Results showed that even under suboptimal imaging conditions, the system maintained high detection accuracy, proving its reliability in real-world farming scenarios. This capability is crucial for farmers, as it reduces the dependency on specialized equipment and ensures accurate pest monitoring with standard agricultural cameras or mobile devices. Further experiments were conducted to measure the system's computational efficiency, ensuring that it could function effectively without requiring high-end infrastructure. The implementation of optimized deep learning architectures minimized processing delays, making real-time pest monitoring feasible even on mid-range computing devices. This aspect is particularly beneficial for small-scale farmers who may not have access.

VI. CONCLUSION

An AI-powered pest detection system is a transformative solution for modern agriculture, enhancing Crop protection, productivity, and sustainability. By leveraging YOLOv8's advanced real-time object Detection capabilities, farmers can efficiently identify and classify pests, reducing crop damage and optimizing pesticide use. This system enables early pest detection, precision pest control, and data-driven decision making, ultimately minimizing losses and improving yields.

Key Takeaways:

- Real-time Monitoring: Enables early detection of pest infestations, preventing crop damage.
- High Accuracy: Advanced AI models reduce false positives and negatives, ensuring precise pest identification.
- Optimized Pesticide Use: Minimizes excessive pesticide application, promoting eco-friendly farming.
- Scalability: Works efficiently in both small farms and large agricultural fields.
- Cost-Effective: Reduces labor costs and reliance on manual inspections.
- Future Potential: Can be further improved with multi-modal data integration and real-time edge computing for enhanced efficiency.

This AI-driven approach marks a significant step toward sustainable and intelligent pest management, ensuring a healthier and more productive agricultural ecosystem.

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