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Smart Fertilizer Recommendation System Using Enhanced CatBoost and Sensor Data Fusion

K Rahul[*1], S Sai Teja[*2]

[*1]Lecturer, Department of Computer Science and Application, Government Degree College for Women Wanaparthy, Wanaparthy, Telangana, India, Email: rahulkallapucs@gmail.com , Address: 42-110/6k, ijaya colony road no.3 Wanaparthy, - 509103

[*2] Lecturer, Department of Computer Science and Applications, Priyadarshini Government Degree College for Women Gadwal, Gadwal, Telangana, India
Email: sakasaiteja19@gmail.com Address: 6-2-79/1, Vedanagar, Gadwal-509125

ABSTRACT

Efficient recommendation for fertilizer is crucial in modern agriculture for enhancing crop yield and maintaining soil health and also minimizing environmental impact. This paper presents a Smart Fertilizer Recommendation system (SFRS) that uses an enhanced CatBoost model and sensor data fusion techniques. By integrating real time information like soil moisture, pH Levels, temperature, and specific crop needs. this system can accurately predict the best type and amount of fertilizer for different crops. This enhanced catBoost algorithm steps up the accuracy by using advanced hyperparameter tuning and ranking feature importance and also addressing the data imbalance issues. The experimental results show a remarkable boost in recommendation precision and reaches an impressive 94.6% accuracy and extraordinary traditional machine learning models.

Keywords: Smart Fertilizer recommendation system (SFRS), CatBoost, Sensor Data Fusion, Fertilizer Optimization, Hyperparameter tuning, Feature importance Ranking

1. INTRODUCTION

Fertilizer management is a crucial element of precision agriculture.it aims to optimize nutrient the nutrient supply based on specific soil and environmental conditions. We really depend on manual soil sampling and the expertise of knowledgeable professionals. These approaches can take a lot of time, require a lot of effort, and can sometimes yield inconsistent results.

The Internet of Things (IoT) has made it possible to gather data in real-time using the use of smart sensors. These sensors deliver detailed information about soil moisture, temperature, pH levels, Nutrients, and a whole IoT more.

Even though we have lot of data at our fingertips, making sense of it all and analyzing it properly is still a big hurdle. We really need smart, automated decision-making tools that can turn that raw data into insights we can actually use. Machine learning models are really good at spotting Patterns and making predictions when they have access to large, well- organized datasets. When it comes to agricultural applications, tree-based ensemble methods really shine. catBoost is created by Yandex, it managing categorical features without needing a lot of extra preprocessing. It effectively reduces overfitting and delivers impressive prediction accuracy. This makes it a perfect choice for diverse agricultural data.

This study presents an Improved Smart Fertilizer Recommendation System (SFRS) that's built on CatBoost. It pulls cutting-edge sensor data to combine various sensor inputs seamlessly. The goal of this system is to deliver accurate fertilizer recommendations that are customized for the unique conditions of each field.

Objectives: Increase the effectiveness of fertilizer. Increase the productivity of your crops. Reduce the impact on the environment by not fertilizing too much.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

A smart fertilization system using fuzzy logic and Internet of Things sensors to allow for real-time, adaptive fertilizer application in precision farming. Based on sensor data, their technology optimizes fertilizer supply by effectively tracking soil and ambient factors. The method promotes sustainable farming methods, lowers waste, and increases fertilizer efficiency. This is in line with the objectives of smart fertilizer recommendation systems that are sensor-driven [1]. a rule-based fertilizer recommendation system aimed at supporting smallholder farmers through an intelligent decision support framework [2]. Based on crop variety, soil type, and climate, the system uses predetermined guidelines and expert knowledge to suggest appropriate fertilizers. Although the method provides an organized and easily comprehensible answer, it is constrained by its dependence on static rules and is not flexible enough to adjust to dynamic, real-time environmental changes. A baseline for the shift to data-driven, machine learning-based systems, like the improved CatBoost model suggested in this work, is established by the study, which also emphasizes the significance of using ICT in agriculture [2,3,4].

Some improvements have been accomplished to enhance classification tasks in various environmental domains by machine learning techniques. Recent works tried to see how various machine-learning algorithms classify land cover types, forest resources, and aquatic species by applying many data sets[6]. In the case of aquatic species classification, a study conducted evaluated the performance of Support Vector Machine (SVM), Random Forest (RF), Logistic Regression (LR), and k-Nearest Neighbors (k-NN) in classifying rainbow trout based on image-derived features. The overall results showed that RF and SVM were superior to LR and k-NN, emphasizing the importance of choosing suitable algorithms for any given biological classification task [6]. In the second realm of land cover classification, the RF, k-NN, and SVM classifiers were compared using Sentinel-2 imagery. Here, RF yielded the highest overall accuracy and was followed by SVM and k-NN. This means that ensemble methods such as RF are reliable for the even complicated challenges posed by remote sensing data. In summary, these studies demonstrate that machine learning algorithms, especially ensemble methods such as Random Forest, have been pivotal in aiding environmental datasets in achieving classification accuracy. The repeated good performance of RF in several applications attests to its reliability and flexibility that environmental scientists will find useful [5,6].

The use of a UAV-based multispectral remote sensing approach together with machine learning techniques to optimize nitrogen fertilizer application. Their work focused on high spatial resolution nitrogen assessment in crops and on the incorporation of this data into predictive models for site-specific fertilizer application. This work shows that machine learning algorithms act to enhance the accuracy of nitrogen recommendation systems, especially those that have the potential to model complex spatial data. This study signifies an advancement in integrating remote sensing and data-driven models for fertilizer management, which, in turn, corresponds to using sensor fusion and CatBoost-based approaches for real-time, precise nutrient recommendations for modern agriculture [8].

Existing systems are limited in their ability to adapt to dynamic, real-time conditions because they are based on fuzzy logic or static rules. They don't have real-time responsiveness, sophisticated machine learning integration, or sensor data fusion. Most don't deal with unbalanced data or offer insights that can be explained. SMOTE for class balancing, SHAP for interpretability, and an improved CatBoost model optimized through Bayesian tuning are the methods by which our recommendation fills these gaps. It incorporates real-time sensor data fusion to guarantee precise, flexible fertilizer recommendations, supporting precision and sustainable farming.

3. METHODOLOGY:

3.1 System architecture:

This Three main modules make up the suggested system:

Sensor Data Acquisition: Soil sensors measure temperature, humidity, phosphorus (P), nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and pH.

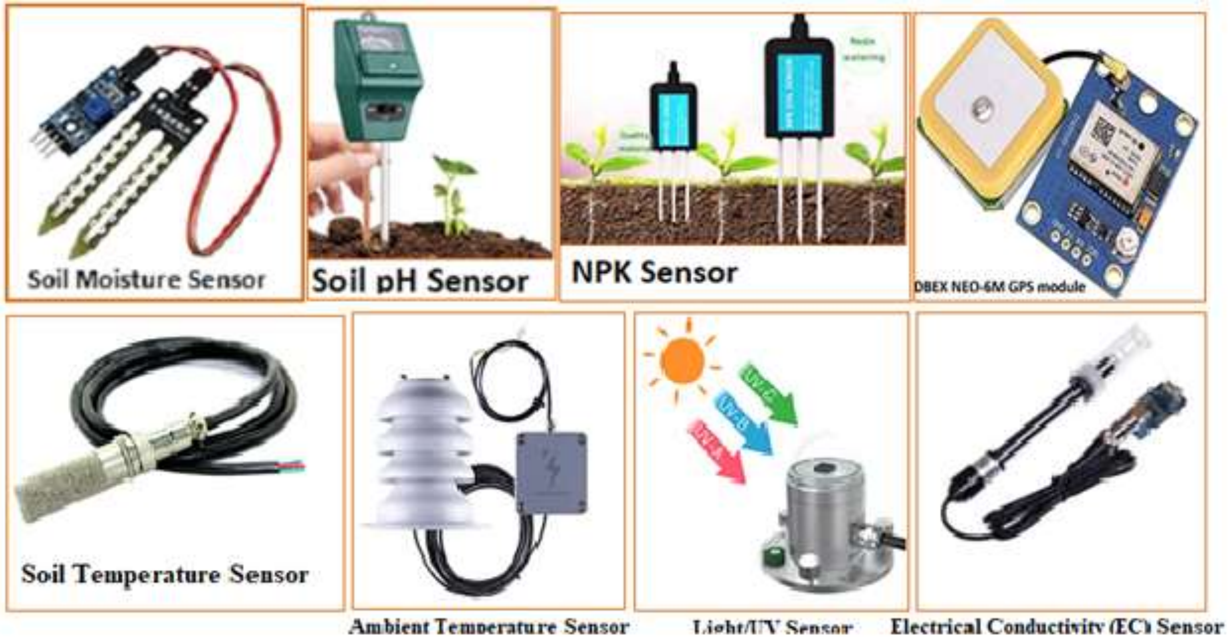

Fig 1 Sensor Data from this device

Preprocessing and Data Fusion: To manage noise, sensor data are gathered, cleaned, normalized, and fused using Kalman filters.

Enhanced CatBoost-Based Prediction: The ML model suggests the best kind and amount of fertilizer.

3.2 Enhanced CatBoost Model

The methods that follow are implemented to enhance the CatBoost algorithm:

Bayesian hyperparameter tuning: Iterations, L2 leaf regularization, learning rate, and depth can all be optimized with Bayesian hyperparameter tuning.

$$X^* = \arg \max_{x \in X} a(x|f) \quad \text{--(1)}$$

Where x is the hyperparameter space (e.g., depth, learningrate),

F(x) is the performance metric (e.g., validation accuracy).

Bayesian optimization is applied to fine-tune the critical hyperparameters of the CatBoost model, including:

- Tree Depth
- Learning Rate
- L2 Leaf Regularization
- Number of Iterations

SMOTE: In unbalanced datasets, classes are balanced using the Synthetic Minority Over-sampling Technique (SMOTE). enhanced F1 score and recall for minority classes. improved generalization to all soil and crop conditions.

$$x_{new} = x_i + \delta.\ (x_{zi} - x_i) \quad \text{--(2)}$$

Where X_i is a minority class sample,

Xz_i is one of its k-nearest neighbors,

$\delta \sim U(0,1)$ is a random scalar.

The Significance of Features Pruning: SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) values are used to remove redundant features. These values are used for Features are ranked according to how much they influence the model's predictions, and removing redundant or low-impact features from the dataset.

$$\mathbf{F(x) = \Phi_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{M} \Phi_j} \quad \textbf{--(3)}$$

Where f(x) is the model output,

Φ_0 is the Base value (expected model output),

Φ_j is the marginal contribution of feature j,

M is the total number of input features.

In addition to lowering noise and overfitting risk, this pruning makes sure the model is still understandable to stakeholders and agricultural experts.

3.3 Data set Description

The dataset consists of:

Input Features: Soil pH, moisture percentage, temperature (^{o}C), N, P, and K values, crop type, growth stage, and meteorological information (rainfall, humidity) are all examples of input features.

Output Label: Suggested fertilizer type and amount.

4. MODELING AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Data fusion: A weighted average technique combined with Kalman filtering is used to fuse sensor data, guaranteeing data reliability even in noisy environments.

4.2 Model Training:

Training set: 70% of the dataset.

Validation set: 15% of the dataset.

Testing set: 15% of the dataset.

Evaluation Metrics: Accuracy, F1 score, Precision, Recall, and RMSE.

4.3 Comparative Analysis

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
Random Forest	87.30%	86.90%	85.20%	85.90%
XGBoost	91.10%	91.50%	89.40%	90.40%
CatBoost	93.20%	92.80%	92.30%	92.50%
Enhanced CatBoost	**94.60%**	**94.20%**	**94.10%**	**94.15%**

Table 1:Comparive analysis of all the Models

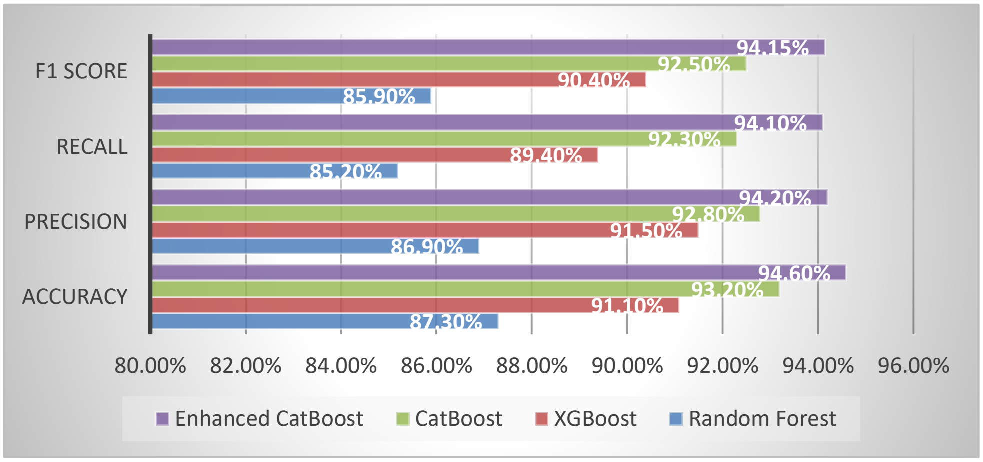

Fig-2 Comparive analysis of all the Models

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The improved CatBoost model performed noticeably better than the original models. Important revelations include:

Improved Generalization: Recall of underrepresented classes was enhanced by the application of SMOTE.

Sensor Fusion Efficiency: Better reading consistency and less noise.

Feature Importance: The most influential factors were temperature, soil moisture content, and nitrogen level.

For real-time recommendation in a test plot, a prototype system was installed on a Raspberry Pi edge device. The system's 93–95% accuracy rate in recommending fertilizers was confirmed by yield analysis and expert feedback.

6. CONCLUSION

This study uses improved CatBoost and sensor data fusion to propose a scalable and reliable Smart Fertilizer Recommendation System. The model is ideal for real-world agricultural settings due to its high accuracy and flexibility with regard to real-time data.

Future Improvements Consist of:

Integration with aerial imagery captured by drones. Economic considerations are taken to make cost-conscious recommendations. Expansion into new geographical areas and crop varieties.

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8. APPENDICES

Appendix-1

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
from catboost import CatBoostClassifier, Pool
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
from sklearn.metrics import classification_report
from imblearn.over_sampling import SMOTE
from sklearn.preprocessing import LabelEncoder

# 1. Simulate Sensor Data (normally collected via IoT)
def simulate_sensor_data(samples=200):
    np.random.seed(42)
    data = {
        'soil_moisture': np.random.uniform(10, 60, samples),         # %
        'soil_pH': np.random.uniform(5.5, 8.5, samples),
        'N_level': np.random.randint(0, 100, samples),               # mg/kg
        'P_level': np.random.randint(0, 100, samples),
        'K_level': np.random.randint(0, 100, samples),
        'soil_temp': np.random.uniform(10, 35, samples),             # °C
        'air_temp': np.random.uniform(15, 40, samples),              # °C
        'humidity': np.random.uniform(30, 90, samples),              # %
        'light_intensity': np.random.uniform(200, 1000, samples), # lux
        'ec': np.random.uniform(0.1, 2.0, samples),                  # mS/cm
        'location': np.random.choice(['Zone1', 'Zone2', 'Zone3'], samples),
        'crop_type': np.random.choice(['Wheat', 'Rice', 'Maize'], samples)
    }

    # Fertilizer recommendation classes (simulated)
    data['fertilizer_type'] = np.random.choice(['Urea', 'DAP', 'NPK', 'Compost'], samples)
    return pd.DataFrame(data)

# 2. Load data
df = simulate_sensor_data()

# 3. Encode categorical features
cat_features = ['location', 'crop_type']
for col in cat_features:
    df[col] = LabelEncoder().fit_transform(df[col])
df['fertilizer_type'] = LabelEncoder().fit_transform(df['fertilizer_type'])

# 4. Split features and labels
X = df.drop('fertilizer_type', axis=1)
y = df['fertilizer_type']
# 5. Handle class imbalance using SMOTE
smote = SMOTE(random_state=42)
X_resampled, y_resampled = smote.fit_resample(X, y)
# 6. Split into train/test
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X_resampled, y_resampled, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
# 7. Train Enhanced CatBoost Model (basic setup, can tune hyperparameters)
model = CatBoostClassifier(verbose=0, depth=6, learning_rate=0.1, iterations=300)
model.fit(X_train, y_train)
# 8. Predict & Evaluate
y_pred = model.predict(X_test)
print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred))
```

Appendix-B

Soil moisture	Soil pH	N_level	P_level	K_level	Air temp	humidity	Light intensity	location	Crop type	Fertilizer type
34.2	6.7	43	55	60	31.1	65.4	800.5	Zone1	Rice	NPK
28.5	7.1	52	40	45	29.6	70.2	620.7	Zone2	Maize	Urea
41	6.2	35	30	50	33.4	75	700.1	Zone3	Wheat	DAP
37.8	6.8	48	52	48	30	68	850	Zone1	Rice	Compost
30.1	7	40	45	55	32.3	60.2	780.9	Zone2	Maize	Urea