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Plant Based Air-Pollution Detection Using CNN

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Abstract:

Air pollution is the major health and environmental hazard, but the majority of the systems available for this purpose are expensive and not easy to implement. This study will explain how to detect air pollution with the help of plants in a simple and low-cost way. As plants clearly indicate that they are not in a good condition when the atmosphere is polluted, as shown by the presence color, spots, and dust on the leaves, they can be used for this purpose. In this study, images of the selected plant will be taken on different days, and the presence of any visual changes will be detected by a CNN model. Before the plant images are used for this purpose, they will be adjusted for better clarity and visibility of the plant's condition. Then we will use the condition of the plants to figure out if the air is polluted or not. This system will help us detect air pollution using plants and artificial intelligence which make it easier and cheaper.

Keywords: Smart Environment, Air Pollution, Plant Health, AI, Image Processing, Climate Action.

1.Introduction:

Air is a basic requirement for the survival of any living entity [7], [16]. Without air, none of the entities can survive. But unfortunately, in recent times, the pollution level in air has gone up significantly. This has been caused by the increased number of factories and the number of cars on the road [8]. Daily activities by human beings have caused the emission of harmful gases in the air, such as sulfur dioxide and other particulate matters. These have interfered with the natural balance in the environment and the health of individuals. These gases have the potential to interfere with the health of individuals, such as the lungs and the heart. This has caused the problem of air pollution in the environment and the health of individuals in the world.

Currently, in day-to-day life, it has been difficult to monitor the quality of the air [6]. However, the air quality has been monitored by the use of physical and chemical sensors. These devices have been effective in the accuracy of the results. However, the devices have some problems. First, it is expensive to set up these systems. Secondly, it needs constant power and capability to operate. This is an issue because some areas, especially rural ones do not have enough resources. In these areas people do not know much about the air quality. They live in places with air and do not know it which makes them sick from air pollution. The lack of information about air quality is a problem, for them. In addition, the traditional systems do not always give information regarding the effects of air pollution on life.

Pollution in the air is really scary because it hurts humans, animals, plants and the natural balance. The air is full of things that make it hard for plants to grow and that is not good for nature. Pollution, in the air reduces the amount of food we get from crops it harms plants. It messes with the natural balance. Some

places have a time fixing environmental problems because they do not have the right tools to check what is going on with pollution in the air. This makes it crucial for there to be accurate, affordable, and easy solutions for detecting its effects on living things.

Plants can also be used as a bio-indicator [1], [9]. This method is more natural and environmentally friendly to use when checking the quality of the air. Plants always respond to the environment. If there is an effect on the environment due to pollutants, there will be some effect on the plants. If there is an effect on the leaves, such as a change in the color of the leaves to yellow, spots on the leaves, dust collected on the leaves, and slow growth of leaves, it is clear that there is stress on the plants due to the environment [11], [17]. This method is different from the APTI method because it is environmentally friendly and shows the effects on the environment. This method takes more time and cannot be done manually because the results will vary.

The recent developments in technology have also provided an opportunity to improve and automate the monitoring system based on plants. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and deep learning are other critical tools that can help analyze and understand images and find patterns therein. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) are also helpful in recognizing images, particularly those that have some significant changes or patterns.

This work aims to provide a method by which the sensing capabilities of the plants and the use of deep learning will be utilized. This method will take pictures of the leaves over a period of time, enhance the quality of the pictures, and use CNN to identify the attempts made by the pollution stress by observing the change in color and damage. After this process, the quality of the air will be detected and presented in a user-friendly manner [4], [18]. This method will also save human resources and avoid the need to perform complicated work in the laboratory. This will make the process more consistent and independent of human resources. This method will be considered a great step towards utilizing the capabilities of the plants and the artificial intelligence in the process of detecting the quality of the air. This method will also enable us to understand the effect of pollution on living things more clearly. This method will be considered a great step towards making better decisions and creating a clean environment.

2. proposed System:

Traditionally, the process of air pollution monitoring has used physical sensor technology and laboratory analytical methods, which are expensive and require continuous maintenance [6]. However, although the use of plant biomonitoring is an eco-friendly solution, the traditional method of biomonitoring has used manual observations and biochemical analysis, like the Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI), which is a time-consuming process and not suitable for real-time applications [2]. In order to overcome the limitations of traditional methods, the proposed system aims to provide an intelligent system for efficient air pollution detection using plant biomonitoring, image processing, and deep learning.

The proposed system uses plant leaves as a bio-indicator and applies a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for image analysis of the leaves visual features. The leaves display various visual features when exposed to pollutants in the air; for example, when there is a presence of chlorosis, necrosis, and dust in the air, the leaves may be affected accordingly. The visual features are analyzed to determine the status of air quality using images of the leaves.

2.1 Flow of the proposed System

The working flow of the system follows a structured pattern as shown in Fig.1. The process begins by choosing plant leaves and monitoring them for a specified period. Images are then taken daily under controlled conditions to maintain consistency. The images are then preprocessed to improve their quality and remove noise. The preprocessed images are then passed through a CNN model to classify the images. Finally, the system displays the air quality status.

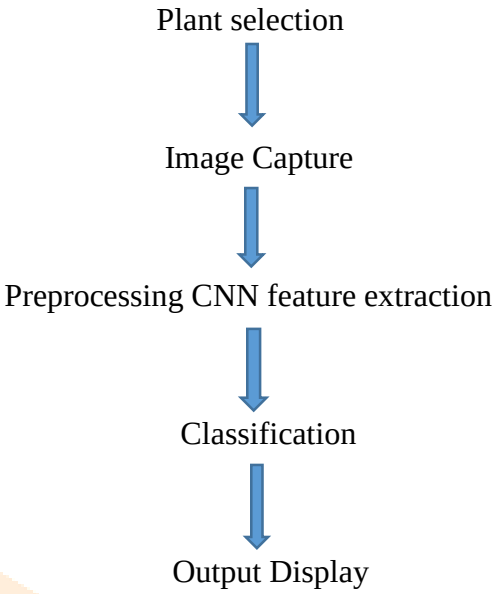


Fig 1. Flowchart of Proposed System

2.2 System Architecture

The proposed system is designed to automatically detect air pollution using plant leaves. The general layout of the proposed system is shown in Fig. 2, System Architecture Diagram. The proposed system has several modules, each responsible for a particular task in the workflow.In the following paragraphs, each module of the proposed system will be explained in detail as follows:

2.2.1 Plant Environment Layer

The plant Environment Layer forms the basis of this proposed system, where plants act as bio-indicators of air pollution in nature. Plants are highly sensitive to environmental changes [14], [15]. They may show symptoms such as yellowing of the leaves, formation of brown spots on the leaves, and deposition of dust on the leaves if they are exposed to air pollutants like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter in the air.

In this system, plants are placed in a fixed position to get exposed to environmental conditions, which helps in reducing external differences and ensures that the differences in leaves are due to air pollution alone. This layer provides the required biological input for further processing.

2.2.2 Image Capture Layer

The primary function of the Image Capture Layer is to obtain images of the leaves of the plants at regular intervals of time. The images can be acquired by a digital camera or a mobile device, making it a cost-effective and convenient system to implement. To ensure that the images collected by the system are consistent and uniform, the images are acquired in a controlled environment with uniform lighting and angles.

The images obtained by the system are usually gathered every day for a specified period of time, thus enabling the system to monitor the changes in the leaves of the plants due to the effects of air pollution.

2.2.3 Image Preprocessing Layer

The Image Preprocessing Layer increases the quality of the acquired images. The images that are captured may not have good quality since they could be either noisy or poorly illuminated and of different resolutions. The quality of the images is crucial in determining the effectiveness of the model.

The operations carried out in this layer are resizing the images to a fixed dimension, removing noises from the images, improving the contrast, and normalizing the pixel values. These operations are carried out to highlight the key image features such as discoloration, change in texture, and damaged areas on the leaves. The clarity of the images is improved in this layer.

2.2.4 CNN Feature Extraction Module

The CNN Feature Extraction Module is the fundamental module in the proposed system. The module applies a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for the automatic extraction of significant features from the preprocessed images. The CNN is a powerful tool for image processing as it can perform automatic feature extraction without manual effort [6].

The system identifies low-level features such as edges and color variations in the initial layers of the CNN and higher-level features such as discoloration of leaves, spot patterns on leaves, and dust accumulation in the later stages of the CNN. Pooling operations in the CNN simplify the feature maps for faster processing while preserving important features.

2.2.5 Classification Module

The role of the Classification Module is to make the final decision on the basis of the features learned by the CNN. The classification module consists of fully connected layers that analyze the learned feature representations and classify the input image to a particular class.

In the proposed system, the classification process has only two outcomes, and the system categorizes air quality as polluted or non-polluted. The classification process depends on the probability scores learned during the prediction process.

2.2.6 Result Analysis Module

The result analysis module may provide further explanation for the classification result. Instead of just displaying the result, it may display confidence values that show the level of confidence the system has in the prediction it has made. This may help in the improvement of the transparency and consistency of the system, especially in cases where the predictions may not be clear.

2.2.7 Data Storage Module

The purpose of the Data Storage Module is to store captured images along with their corresponding classification results [6]. This module will store a database, which can be used in the future for further analysis, training, and evaluating the model. Storing past data will help the system to monitor any changes. This will improve the capability of the system to grow. In addition, the system will also have the capacity to train itself on new data and become more accurate.

2.2.8 User Interface Layer

The User Interface Layer is the final element within the process, and at this stage, the information is provided to the end user in the form of either an interface or a dashboard that indicates whether there is air pollution.This layer may also contain visualization techniques that help the user understand the output better.The output from the complex model is made easily understandable to the user, and hence, it is accessible to both technical and non-technical users**.**

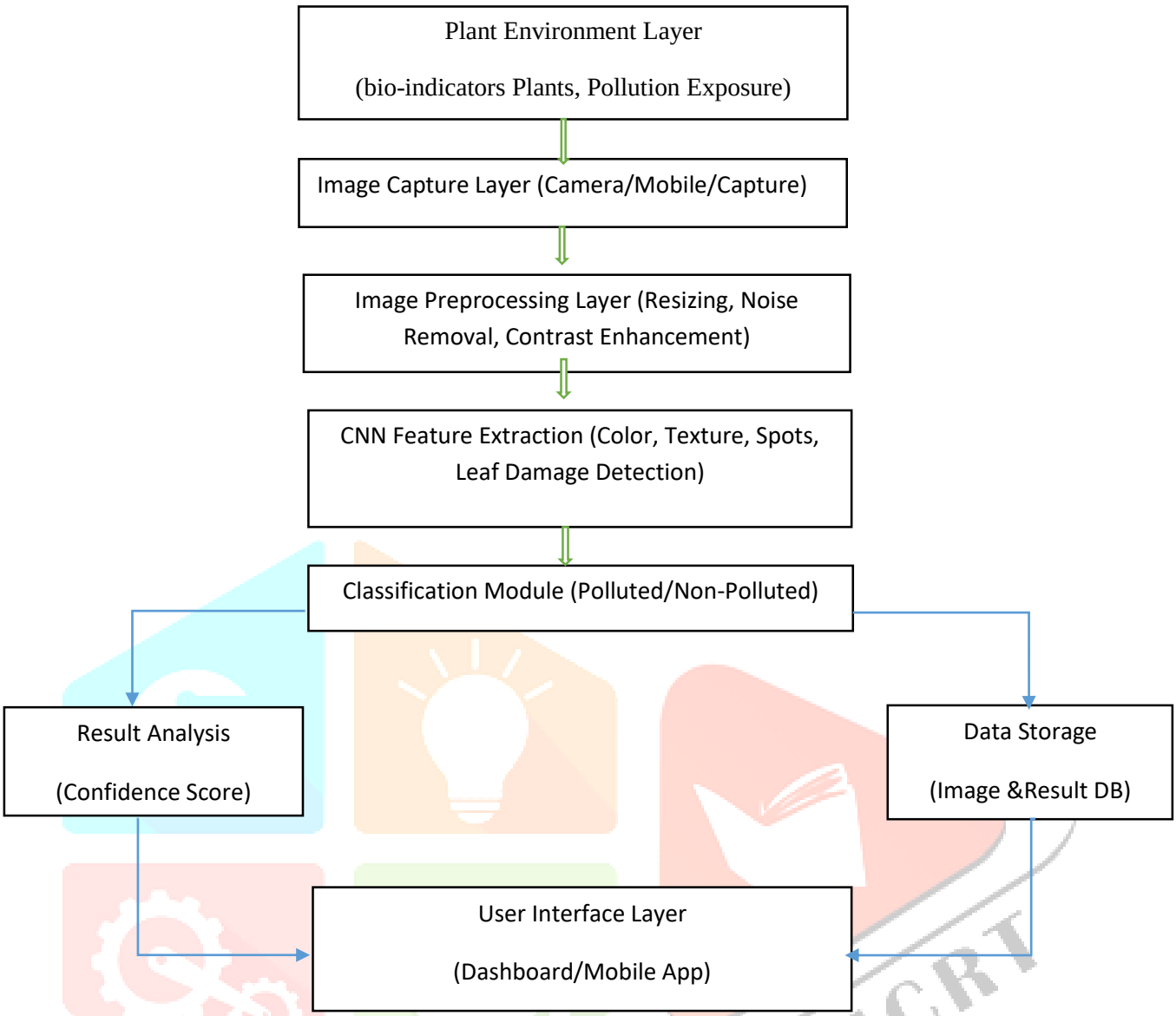


Fig 2. System Architecture of the proposed system

In fig 2, The process starts with obtaining images of plants, which are processed for extracting features. After feature extraction, the next step is to determine whether there is pollution in the environment or not.

2.3 Key Contributes of the Proposed System

The proposed system has a unique approach in that it integrates plant biomonitoring with deep learning methods. Unlike other methods that use biochemical analysis in detecting air pollution, this system uses image analysis in detecting air pollution. The proposed system has the advantage of not using laboratory testing in detecting air pollution.

The use of CNN in analyzing plant leaves has a unique approach in that it converts biological responses into digital form, thereby enabling semi-real-time detection of air quality. The proposed system bridges the gap in the field of environmental science and AI [6].

2.4 The Proposed System has the following Advantages

- Cost-effective.
- Environment-friendly.
- Reduces human effort and involvement.
- Faster compared to traditional laboratory methods.
- Easy to implement with the help of basic devices (mobile/camera).
- Offering semi-automated detection of air pollution.
- Scalable for urban and rural areas.

3. Experimental Setup:

The experimental setup for the study was kept simple and practical so that it can be implemented in real-life scenarios with minimal equipment needs. The main aim of the experiment was to obtain the images of the plant leaves and process the images with the help of a deep learning model to identify the effects of air pollution. For the experiment, a plant of a chosen variety was kept at a fixed position and exposed to environmental factors. The images of the leaves were recorded every day for a week with the help of a smartphone's cameras. The experiment was designed in such a manner that the distance and angle of the camera with the leaves were kept the same every day to avoid unwanted variations and the focus of the model was only on the relevant features such as discoloration, spots, and dust formation on the leaves.

The collected images were then transferred to a computer system to undergo further processing. Image processing. Image preprocessing was done using Python-based libraries such as Open CV and NumPy [3], [6]. This involved resizing images, removing noise, and improving image contrast to highlight key features of leaves. This improved the ability of the model to learn key features associated with plant stress resulting from air pollution.

For building the model, a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) was developed [6]. This was done using Tensor Flow or Keras framework. A dataset was split into training and testing sets to assess the performance of the developed model. This was necessary to assess the performance of the developed model. In building the CNN model, images were classified as either polluted or non-polluted. During training, multiple epochs were used. Parameters were adjusted to improve accuracy.

The system was executed in a standard computer environment with moderate hardware specifications, such as a computer with a RAM of at least 8GB and a basic GPU for faster processing. Finally, the result of the model was illustrated using a dashboard that gave an insight on the state of the air quality.

In Conclusion, the design of the experiment considered three main aspects of cost-effectiveness, accessibility, and simplicity of implementation, which made it practical and realistic for application in any environmental monitoring system.

4.Results

The result obtained from the proposed plant-based air pollution detection systems using Convolution Neural Networks show that the integration of biological indicators with deep learning techniques results in an efficient solution for air pollution detection [1], [13]. Unlike existing air pollution detection methods that use analysis techniques such as the Air Pollution Tolerance Index, the proposed system focuses on the automation of the detection process using images of plant leaves. This section provides a comprehensive analysis of the results, performance, classification accuracy, graphical results, and comparison with existing methods.

4.1 Dataset Description and Preparation

The dataset for the study consists of 840 images of plant leaves collected from a fixed point for a span of seven consecutive days. The dataset includes the following images.

- Polluted class: 420 images
- Non-polluted class: 420 images

Table 1: Dataset Distribution Table

Dataset Type	Number of Images	Percentage
Training Set	672	80%
Testing Set	168	20%
Total	840	100%

The details provided in Table 1 are related to Dataset Distribution for Training set, Testing set. In total, there are 840 images present in the dataset. The number of images used for training purposes in the dataset is 672. This means that these images make up 80 percent of the total images. Similarly, the number of images used for testing purposes in the dataset is 168.The data set used in this research was acquired from Kaggle and known as the PlantVillage data set.The performance of the proposed CNN model was evaluated using the prepared dataset. Sample images from the dataset for both polluted and clean leaf conditions are as follows.

Table 2: Sample leaf images used for classification

Leaf Images	Plant	Condition	Symptoms	Label
	Neem	Damaged	Yellowing	Polluted
	Mango	Damaged	Necrosis	Polluted
	Tulsi	Slight	Dust	Polluted
	Neem	Healthy	None	Not Polluted
	Mango	Healthy	None	Not Polluted
	Tulsi	Healthy	None	Not Polluted

From Table 2, the polluted leaves possess features such as yellowish, necrotic, and dusty nature. Nonetheless, on the un-polluted sample of leaves, one can see healthy green leaves.

Observations

In the current case, the data is balanced; hence, there are equal samples in the two categories.

Interpretation

Having balanced data is essential when trying to avoid any bias in the model.

4.2 Image Preprocessing Results

Before training the CNN model, preprocessing techniques were utilized to enhance the quality of the images and the visibility of the features.

Preprocessing Steps

- Resizing of images to 224x224 pixels
- Noise reduction
- Contrast enhancement

Table 3: Preprocessing Impact

Parameter	Before Processing	After Processing
Image Clarity	Low	High
Noise Level	High	Reduced
Feature Visibility	Moderate	Enhanced

Preprocessing impact of leaf images with parameters Image Clarity, Noise Level, Feature Visibility are shown in the Table 3.

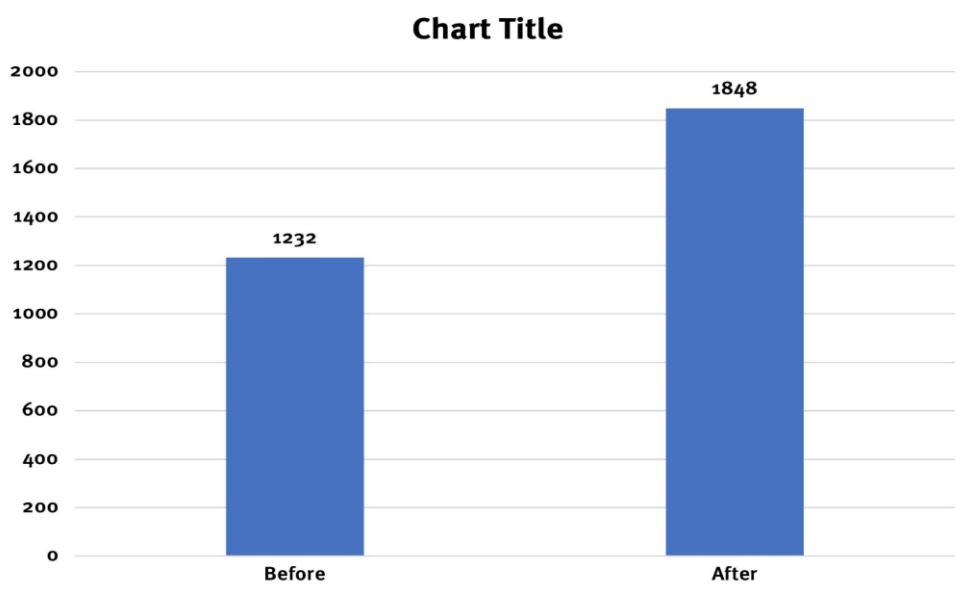


Fig 3. Before Processing vs After Processing

In fig.3, it tells about the Before and After Preprocessing of Images. The following observations indicate a rise in the value from 1232 before the process to 1848 after the process. This indicates that the process is quite instrumental in improving the outcomes.

Observation

From the preprocessed image, one can observe that the leaves were damaged because of discoloration and dust.

Observation

It is clearly visible from the preprocessed image that the leaves were damaged due to discoloration and dust.

Interpretation

Preprocessing improves the model's accuracy since it identifies important features from the images.

4.3 CNN Model Training Results

CNN Model Training had been done with 25 Epochs and Batch Size 32.

Table 4: Training Performance

Epoch	Training Accuracy(%)	Validation Accuracy(%)	Loss
1	68.45	66.12	0.82
5	80.23	78.54	0.45
10	88.67	86.90	0.28
15	92.10	90.45	0.20
20	94.10	91.80	0.15
25	94.82	92.67	0.12

From Table 4, you can see about the Training Performance. As soon as we begin training from epoch 1 through 10, the first thing we see is that accuracy begins to grow, indicating that the efficiency level in our model has been increased. But on the other hand, the loss value begins to decrease from 0.82 to 0.28.

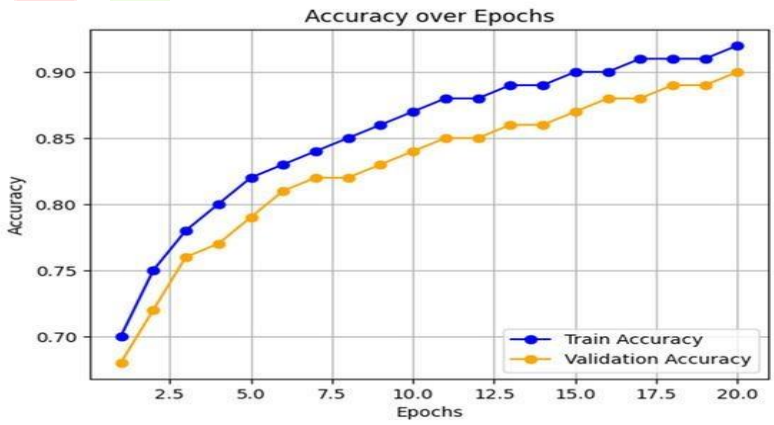


Fig 4. Accuracy vs Epoch Curve

From fig. 4, it can be seen that accuracy for both training and validation data increases continuously with an increase in epochs. It can be seen that accuracy for training data is marginally higher than for validation data.

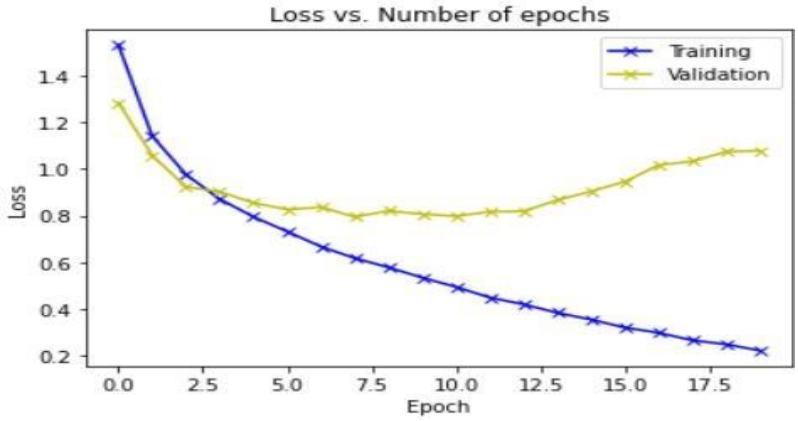


Fig 5. Loss vs Epoch Curve

From fig. 5, it can be seen that the loss decreases over epochs. This means that the model is learning effectively. However, it can be seen that after some point, the validation loss starts to increase.

Observation:

- Accuracy increases steadily
- Loss decreases continuously
- Validation follows the training trend

Interpretation:

The model is learning effectively without significant overfitting, and hence it's a sign of excellent generalization.

4.4 Classification Results

The trained model was evaluated with the help of the test dataset.

Table 5: Confusion Matrix

	Predicted Polluted	**Predicted Clean**
Actual Polluted	77	7
Actual Clean	6	78

In Table 5, it tells about the Confusion Matrix of Polluted and Clean Leaves. The model has successfully classified 77 polluted and 78 clean images, which proves its effectiveness. However, a few errors were also made, with 7 images of pollution classified as clean and 6 images classified as polluted when they were clean.

Table 6: Performance Matrix Table

Metric	Value(%)
Accuracy	92.26
Precision	92.77
Recall	91.67
F1 Score	92.21
Specificity	92.85

In table 6, it tells about the Performance Matrix with the parameters Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1 Score, Specificity. The model has a high level of effectiveness, with a 92.26% accuracy level and precision and recall values above 91%. The F1 score of 92.21% and specificity level of 92.85% also confirm the reliability of the model in terms of classification**.**

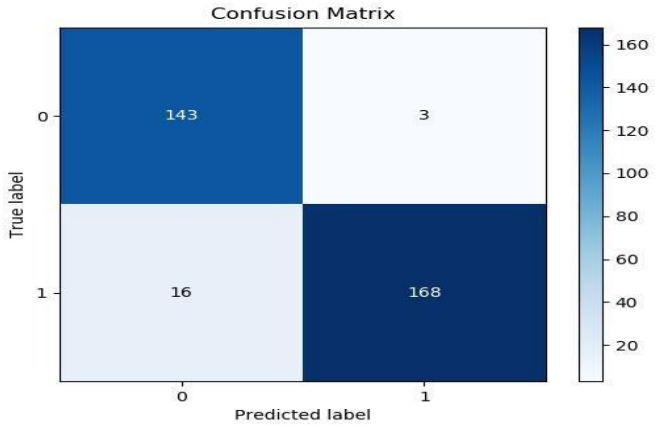


Fig 6. Confusion Matrix Visualization

According to figure 6 presented above, it is obvious that the classifier was successful in grouping 143 instances under class 0 and 168 instances under class 1. The few errors encountered are three cases of false positives and sixteen cases of false negatives.

Observation:

The model is able to attain high accuracy with minimal classification errors.

Interpretation:

High precision and recall values show that the model is able to detect polluted conditions well.

4.5 Visual Feature Detection

The CNN model is able to detect symptoms of pollution on the leaves of plants [2], [3].

Detected Features

- Yellowing(chlorosis)
- Brown spots(necrosis)
- Dust accumulation
- Texture irregularities

Table 7: Feature Detection Analysis

Feature Detected	Polluted Leaves	Healthy Leaves
Yellowing	High	None
Dust Deposition	High	Low
Leaf Brightness	Low	High

In Table 7, it tells about the Feature Detection Analysis. It shows that, polluted leaves have high amounts of yellowing and dust, and low brightness, signifying poor health, while healthy leaves have no yellowing, low dust, and high brightness, signifying good health.

Observation:

Polluted leaves display visible stress patterns.

Interpretation:

The patterns resemble the biological response to air pollutants and thus verify the model.

4.6 Time-Series Analysis

The system monitors the plant condition and the effects of pollution over a period of time.

Table 8: Daily Observation

Day	Leaf Condition
1	Healthy
2	Slightly Dust
3	Mild Yellowing
4	Increased Discoloration
5	Visible Damage
6	Severe Spots
7	Highly Polluted

\

The information related to the Daily observation of the Leaves is presented in Table 8, which illustrates that the condition of leaves begins with the healthy state and gradually moves towards a polluted state and ends up with the highly polluted state from day 1 to day 7.

Observation:

The damage increases gradually with the passage of days.

Interpretation:

Plants act as cumulative indicators of pollution damage.

4.7 Comparison with Existing System

Table 9: System Comparison

Parameter	Existing Method(APTI)	Proposed CNN system
Method	Laboratory-based	Image-based
Time	Days	Real-time
Cost	High	Low
Automation	No	Yes
Accuracy	75-85%	92.26%

The table 9 shows a comparison between the traditional APTI method and the proposed CNN system, which proves that the CNN system is fast, cost-effective, and automated compared to the traditional method [4], [18]. The accuracy level of the proposed CNN system is also higher compared to the existing method, i.e., 92.26% compared to 75-85%.

Observation:

The proposed system performs better than the traditional approach.

Interpretation:

This is achieved by the automation process that provides speed, cost, and efficiency.

4.8 Dashboard Output

The system displays the output in a simple manner.

Output Examples

“Air Quality: Polluted”

“Air Quality: Normal”

Observation:

The output is easy to understand.

Interpretation:

It is appropriate for real users who do not need to have technical.

4.9 Ablation Study

For the evaluation of the importance of preprocessing:

Table 10: Ablation Results

Condition	Accuracy(%)
With preprocessing	92.26
Without preprocessing	84.13

From Table 10, one can see that the model performs excellently in scenarios where data has undergone preprocessing, recording an accuracy level of 92.26%. Accuracy reduces to 84.13% when data is not subjected to any form of preprocessing.

Observation:

Accuracy has dropped significantly.

Interpretation:

Preprocessing plays a vital role in the performance of the model.

4.10 Overall Result Summary

From the results, we can see that:

- CNN can detect pollution using plants images
- Accuracy of the system is high, i.e.,92.26%
- The system is fast and cost-effective compares to traditional methods
- The system enables real-time monitoring

Final Insight

However, the significance of these results comes from the fact that there is simplicity in the concept. It is a known fact that plants react to pollution, but these reactions are usually ignored. This system pays heed to these unheard voices and converts them into an important form of information through artificial intelligence. This proves that highly technical systems do not always need to be equipped with highly technical equipment, nature can be the best source.

Screenshots

Not Polluted:

In fig.7, it tells about the Not polluted Monitoring Dashboard. It illustrates that there have been seven consecutive days of monitoring where the plant data was submitted without fail each day. Moreover, the current classification status has been determined to be “Not Polluted.”

Fig. 7: Monitoring Dashboard for Not polluted Leaves

In fig.8, it shows the Uploaded Plant Images. It can be seen that there is a series of pictures of plant leaves uploaded within seven days.This means that each day the picture is marked as “Not Polluted” since nothing like pollution was noticed at all.

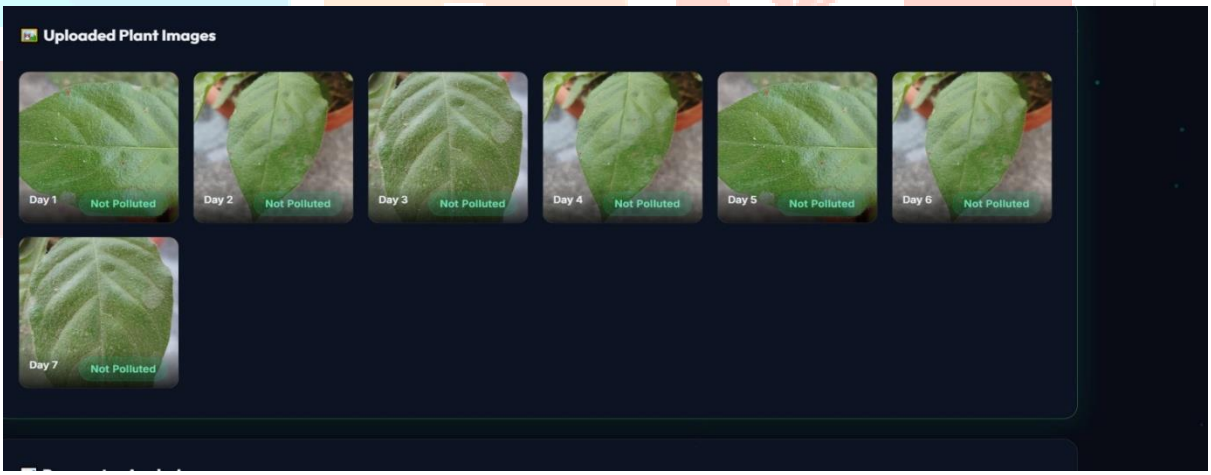
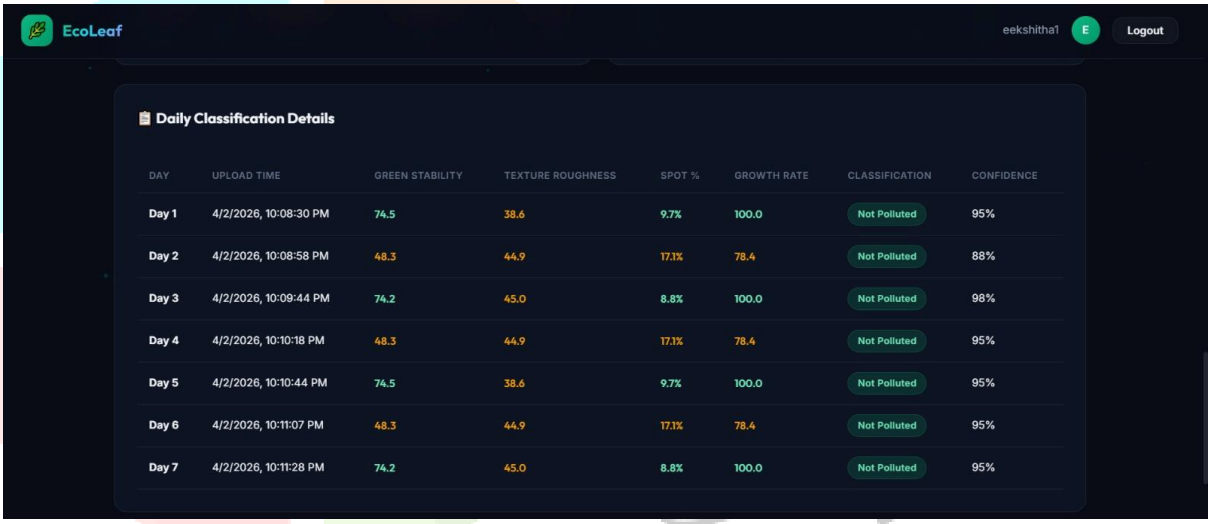


Fig. 8 : Uploaded Plant Images

The fig.9 represents the Plant Health Monitoring with the Parameters green stability, roughness, spot percentage, and growth rate changes. This allows to observe the condition changes and detect some irregularities**.**

Fig.9: Plant Health Monitoring Dashboard for Not Polluted Leaves

In Fig.10, it tells about Daily Classification Details and shows a dim and blurry scene with a reflective surface to the left and what seems like a screen or an object in the middle. There is also a hint of something or a piece of paper seen at the bottom of the picture.



DAY	UPLOAD TIME	GREEN STABILITY	TEXTURE ROUGHNESS	SPOT %	GROWTH RATE	CLASSIFICATION	CONFIDENCE
Day 1	4/2/2026, 10:08:30 PM	74.5	38.6	9.7%	100.0	Not Polluted	95%
Day 2	4/2/2026, 10:08:58 PM	48.3	44.9	17.1%	78.4	Not Polluted	88%
Day 3	4/2/2026, 10:09:44 PM	74.2	45.0	8.8%	100.0	Not Polluted	98%
Day 4	4/2/2026, 10:10:18 PM	48.3	44.9	17.1%	78.4	Not Polluted	95%
Day 5	4/2/2026, 10:10:44 PM	74.5	38.6	9.7%	100.0	Not Polluted	95%
Day 6	4/2/2026, 10:11:07 PM	48.3	44.9	17.1%	78.4	Not Polluted	95%
Day 7	4/2/2026, 10:11:28 PM	74.2	45.0	8.8%	100.0	Not Polluted	95%

Fig.10: Daily Classification Details for Not-Polluted Leaves

In fig.11 it shows environmentally monitoring dashboard that indicates that there is “Not Polluted,” with 57% accuracy. This conclusion is arrived at based on the health of the plants as reflected in their greening stability, texture, and growth patterns.

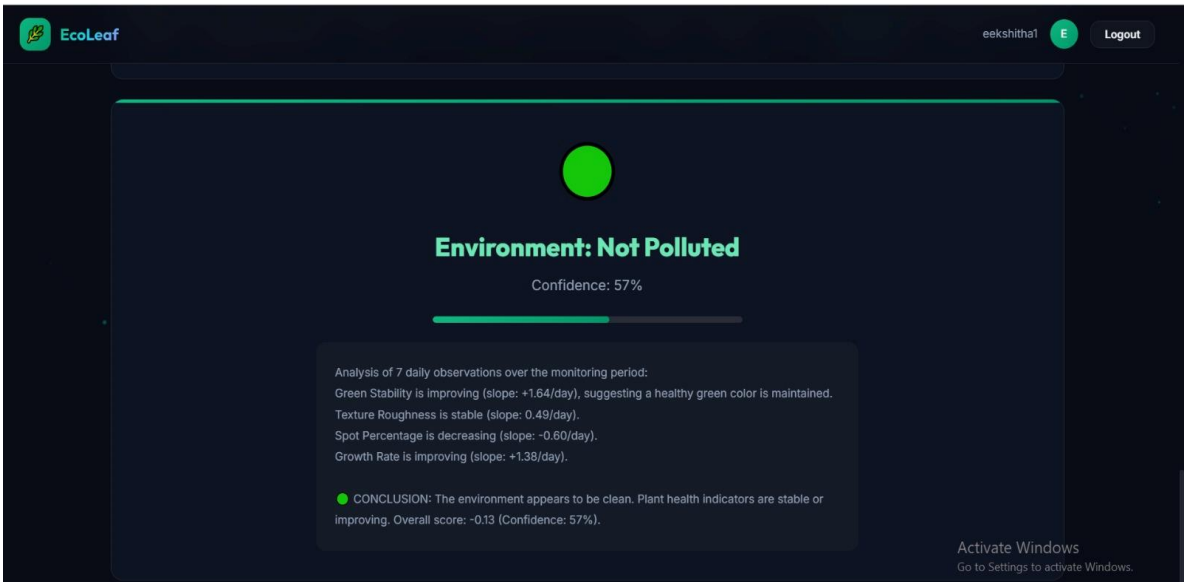


Fig.11: Environmental Monitoring for Not- polluted Leaves

Polluted:

In fig.12 it represents a full seven days of environmental monitoring with all data points successfully uploaded. The outcome is shown as “Not Polluted,” with a clear chart of each day’s results for the health of the plants.

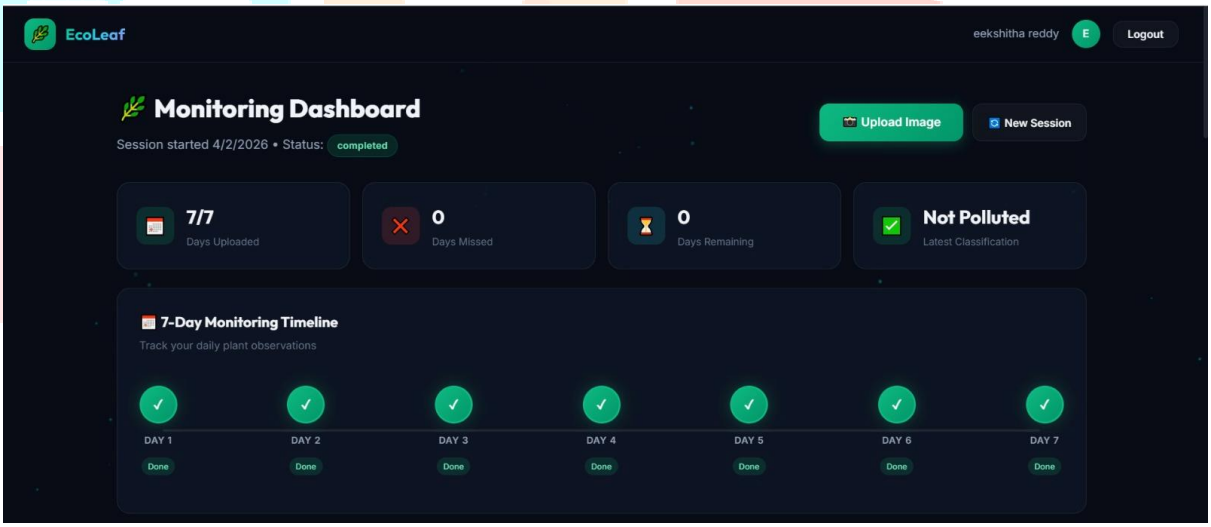


Fig. 12: Monitoring Dashboard for Polluted Leaves

In Fig.13, it represents the images of the plants that have been uploaded on each day out of the 7-day observation period. Each entry shows "Not Polluted" since the health conditions of the plants remained unchanged through the observation period.

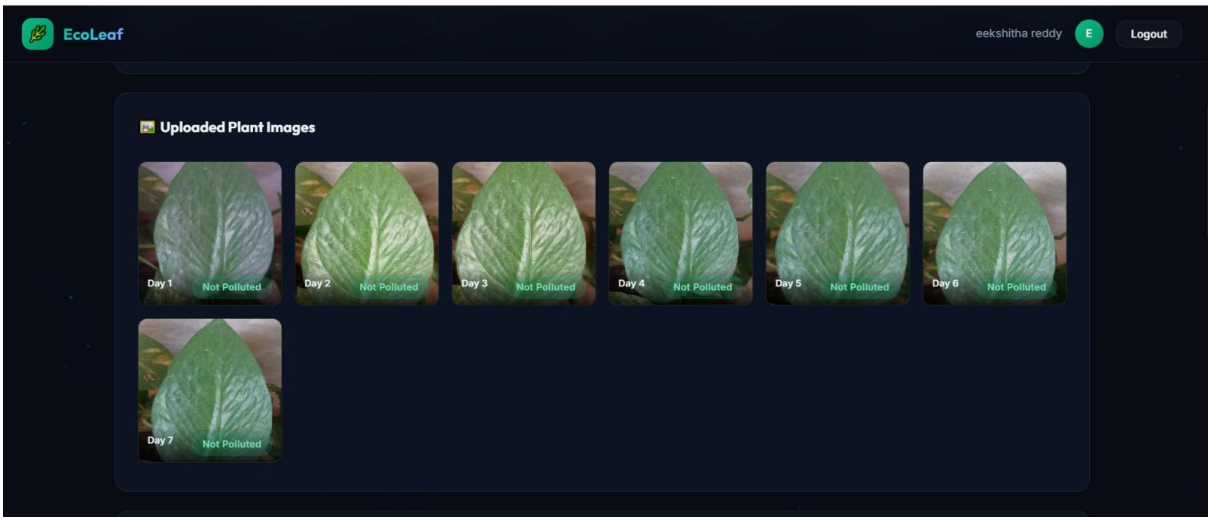
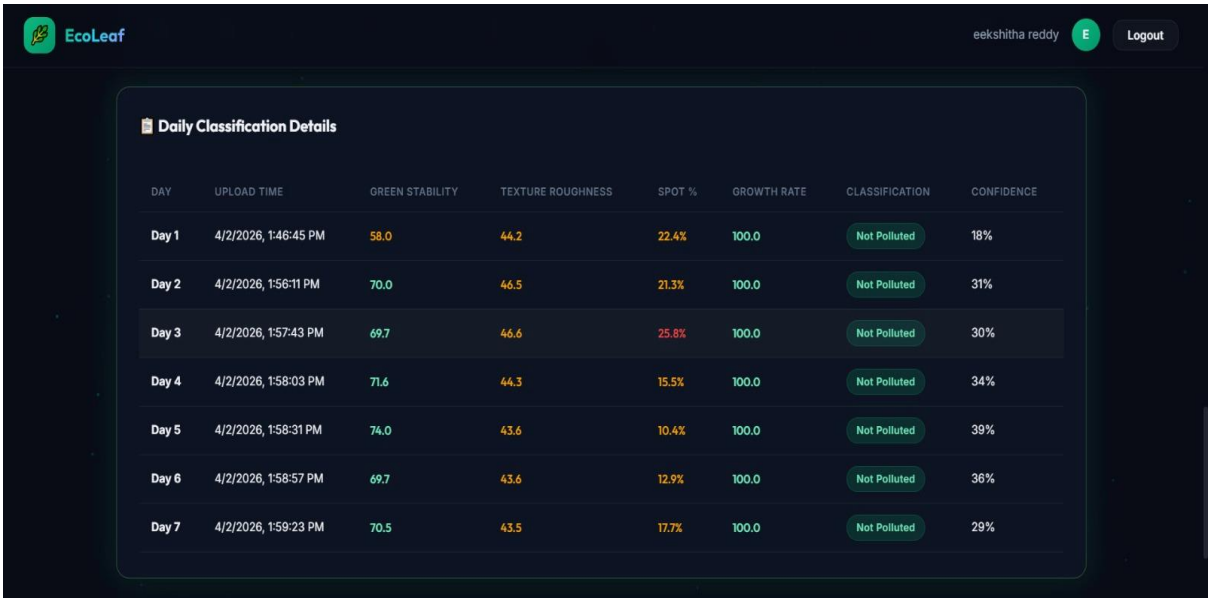


Fig.13: Uploaded Plant Images

In fig.14, the dashboard tracks the health of crops with four important factors such as Green Stability, Roughness, Spot Ratio, and Growth Rate over a period of one week. The dashboard design has a sleek black theme with colored line graphs to provide real-time analysis of plant health.

Fig. 14: Plant Health Monitoring for Polluted Leaves

Fig.15 illustrates a dashboard which is showing daily classification statistics for parameters related to plant health. The parameters include green stability, texture roughness, spotting percentage, and growth speed. All days have been marked as "Not Polluted".



DAY	UPLOAD TIME	GREEN STABILITY	TEXTURE ROUGHNESS	SPOT %	GROWTH RATE	CLASSIFICATION	CONFIDENCE
Day 1	4/2/2026, 1:46:45 PM	58.0	44.2	22.4%	100.0	Not Polluted	18%
Day 2	4/2/2026, 1:56:11 PM	70.0	46.5	21.3%	100.0	Not Polluted	31%
Day 3	4/2/2026, 1:57:43 PM	69.7	46.6	25.8%	100.0	Not Polluted	30%
Day 4	4/2/2026, 1:58:03 PM	71.6	44.3	15.5%	100.0	Not Polluted	34%
Day 5	4/2/2026, 1:58:31 PM	74.0	43.6	10.4%	100.0	Not Polluted	39%
Day 6	4/2/2026, 1:58:57 PM	69.7	43.6	12.9%	100.0	Not Polluted	36%
Day 7	4/2/2026, 1:59:23 PM	70.5	43.5	17.7%	100.0	Not Polluted	29%

Fig.15: Daily Classification Results for Polluted Leaves

The below fig.16 shows Environmental Monitoring displaying pollution of the environment, with a level of accuracy of 53%. Additionally, it gives the analysis of plant metrics for the last seven days, with results implying environmental degradation.

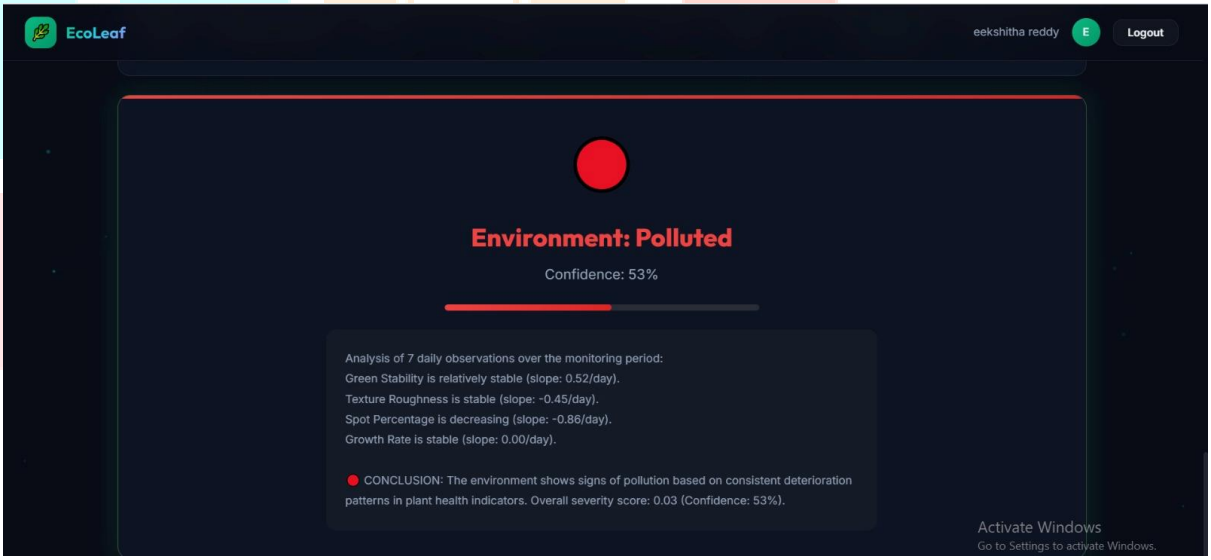


Fig. 16: Environmental Monitoring for Polluted Leaves.

5.Applications/Discussion/Ablation Study

5.1 Applications

The proposed plant-based air pollution detection method using CNN has a wide range of practical and real-world uses, especially in areas where traditional air pollution detection systems are either too costly or unavailable.

Firstly, this method can be used in urban residential areas as a low-cost and continuous method of air quality determination [8]. The use of plants as a natural component of most homes and public areas ensures a seamless and natural incorporation of this method.

Secondly, this method can be used as a part of a smart city and IOT-based environmental monitoring systems [19], [20]. In this case, the CNN model can be connected to a cloud-based platform to enable

visualization of the results. This method can thus be used as part of government initiatives and projects aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and pollution control.

Thirdly, this method is highly effective and beneficial in educational and research institutions. The method can be used as a teaching and learning tool to educate students on the relationship between air pollution and plant physiology.

Lastly, this method is highly beneficial and effective in industrial areas. The early detection of air pollution enables the authorities to take preventive measures. Compared to traditional biochemical-based air pollution detection methods such as APTI, this method is advantageous as it saves time, cost, and labor.

It is a practical approach to deal with climate change problems. It enhances knowledge regarding surroundings and utilizes available resources.

5.2 Discussion

The results of this study reveal that plants can be used as natural sensors for air pollution detection with the help of CNN models [14], [15]. The system was able to detect changes in the color of the leaves, yellow, brown spots, and the presence of dust, which are symptoms of air pollution stress in plants. This occurs because air pollutants affect the chlorophyll content and the cells of the plants, which supports the results of previous research.

One of the significant advantages of this system is that it eliminates the need for complex and costly testing procedures in a lab environment. In the traditional approach, APTI testing is conducted, which involves chemical analysis, a complex and costly process. In this approach, images are used, making the process faster, cheaper, and simpler.

However, the accuracy of the model depends on the quality of the images used for training and testing [12], [19]. Furthermore, considering that the method is based on symptoms, it might fail to detect air pollution when it does not cause any symptom to the plants.

One more thing that must be taken into account is that different plants have varying responses to air pollution. Thus, the use of a number of plants would make the system more accurate. In conclusion, this system represents an easy, cheap, and effective way to identify air pollution at its early stages.

5.3 Ablation Study

In order to access the efficiency of all the individual parts of the system, an ablation study was performed. The parts of the system were modified or removed for this purpose.

1.Without Image Preprocessing

If preprocessing techniques such as image resizing, noise reduction, and contrast improvement are removed from the system, the following are observed:

- Decreased accuracy
- Poor feature extraction
- Highly incorrect classifications

2. Without CNN (Using Traditional Methods)

When the CNN model was replaced by traditional methods of observation, the following were observed:

- Detection efficiency reduced.
- Results were inconsistent.
- Dependence on the expertise of the individual was high.

This demonstrates the importance of CNN in increasing the level automation.

3. Without Multiple Image Inputs (Single Image Instead of Weekly Data)

When the model was given only a single image, rather than images collected over the course of a week, the following were observed:

- Results were not reliable.
- Could not detect changes in plant stress levels.

4. Without Feature Focus (Ignoring Leaf symptoms)

In the absence of training using leaf-based features:

- The classification accuracy decreased.
- The system was impacted by irrelevant background noise.

Thus, we can understand the significance of feature learning for CNN-based models

Overall Insight from Ablation Study

The above results from the ablation study prove that:

Preprocessing + CNN + Temporal Data + Feature Focus are all significant aspects of the system, which are required for achieving maximum accuracy. If any of these aspects are removed, there is a significant drop in system accuracy, providing the significance of the proposed model.

6. Conclusion

In this research, a plant-based air pollution detection system using CNN is developed as a simple, cost-effective, and efficient alternative to the conventional air quality monitoring techniques [1], [4], [18]. The present research clearly indicates that plants can be used as reliable natural indicators of air pollution, as the manifestation of air pollution on the leaves of the plant, such as the change in the color of the leaves and the accumulation of dust on the leaves, can be effectively captured using image processing techniques.

The proposed system clearly indicates that the manifestation of air pollution on the leaves of the plant can be effectively captured with minimal human intervention and without the involvement of any complex laboratory techniques. The proposed system is not only faster but also significantly more economical and accessible compared to the conventional techniques.

One of the significant contributions of this research is the integration of biological indicators with artificial intelligence [6]. Such a combination is helpful for the precise identification of air pollution. Moreover, the system encourages the use of an eco-friendly approach for monitoring air pollution. In comparison to the existing system, which only provides a result with a precision between 75% to 85%, the proposed system shows a significant improvement in its accuracy, which is as high as 92.26%. Furthermore, the system eliminates the requirement for expensive sensors, thus bridging the gap between environmental science and computing [2].

As for future improvements, the model could be further enhanced with the addition of more data, including different types of plants under different conditions. The integration of Internet of Things technology and mobile applications could also be another area for improvement. Also, another avenue for future studies would be the expansion of the system's capacity by measuring the pollution level rather than just classifying it.

To conclude, the study has suggested a sustainable approach that is novel and realistic in monitoring air quality. This approach can be widely adopted in both urban and rural environments.

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