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CROPINTEL–SMART GRAPE DISEASE & SOIL HEALTH DETECTION SYSTEM

Neha Vilas Sangamnere[1], Tejash Manoj Sananse[2], Pranav Jagannath Shevkar[3], Prachi Sanjay Sukenkar[4], Abhishek Ganesh Walke[5], Nivedita. R. Kakade[6]

[1,2,3,4,5]Student, Computer Engineering, Matoshri College Of Engineering And Research Centre, Nashik, Maharashtra, India.

[6]Assistant Professor, Computer Engineering, Matoshri College Of Engineering And Research Centre, Nashik, Maharashtra, India.

ABSTRACT

CropIntel is an intelligent, real-time system developed to assist farmers in identifying grape leaf diseases and analyzing soil health. The proposed model employs a custom Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for image-based disease detection and uses a rule-based approach for interpreting soil nutrient levels (N, P, K, and pH) derived from lab reports. The backend, built with FastAPI, enables fast communication between the prediction model and the user interface. All input and output data are stored securely in a MySQL database for scalability and traceability. The system's design emphasizes usability, accuracy, and cost-effectiveness, offering an accessible solution for grape farmers. By integrating deep learning with practical agricultural insights, CropIntel promotes early disease detection, informed fertilizer management, and sustainable farming practices, ultimately improving yield quality and reducing economic losses in the viticulture sector.

Keywords: Deep Learning (DL), Real-Time Detection, FastAPI, Precision Agriculture (PA), Transfer Learning, Crop Health.

1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture continues to be the foundation of many economies, especially in developing regions where over 70% of the population depends on farming. However, crop productivity is constantly threatened by plant diseases, which can severely reduce both the quality and quantity of harvests.

Traditional approaches such as manual inspection or laboratory analysis are often slow, subjective, and difficult to scale. For grape and onion farmers in the **Nashik district of Maharashtra**, these delays can lead to significant financial losses. Many farmers face recurring challenges caused by unpredictable weather, pest outbreaks, and fungal infections such as **Powdery Mildew** and **Black Rot**.

To overcome these limitations, **CropIntel** was developed as an AI-powered system capable of detecting grape diseases instantly and analyzing soil parameters for better farm management. The system architecture separates the user interface from the machine learning backend, ensuring faster response times and improved scalability. By adapting principles like **Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)** from secure enterprise systems, the framework also ensures the protection and traceability of agricultural data. This combination of speed, accuracy, and security makes CropIntel a practical tool for precision farming.

The necessity for highly accurate, immediate detection is particularly critical in high-value, high-risk regions. This research focuses on applicability within the Nashik district of Maharashtra, India, a major producer of grapes and onions [2, 3]. This region frequently experiences climate-related crop destruction and subsequent market price collapse.Recent events have demonstrated the severe economic consequences of uncontrolled crop threats, where damage from incessant rain and disease results in prices so low that farmers choose to destroy their crops and utilize them as fertilizer, deeming it "more profitable than selling" [3]. This dire economic desperation highlights that the system's claimed high accuracy of 94.82% is not merely an academic measure, but a critical determinant of financial stabilization and risk mitigation. By enabling high-accuracy, real-time detection of endemic diseases—such as Downy Mildew, Black Rot, and Powdery Mildew in grapes, and Basal Rot in onions [1, 4, 5]—CropIntel offers the necessary intervention tool to minimize the primary biological causes of financial ruin.

CropIntel introduces a modular architecture that separates the user interface from the machine learning backend, improving scalability and response speed. Systems for Intelligent Document Processing (IDP), such as FORNOVA, have established protocols for managing high volumes of unstructured data (invoices, contracts) with extreme focus on security, scalability, and cognitive analytics [1].It is recognized that agricultural data, including geolocation, yield forecasts, and crop health status, constitutes highly proprietary and sensitive information [1]. Therefore, the stringent security and enterprise-level architecture patterns used in handling financial documents—such as Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) and comprehensive audit trails for traceability [1]—must be adapted for CropIntel. This adaptation ensures that the system guarantees data integrity and compliance, elevating agricultural diagnostic systems to the level of security and reliability expected of financial technology platforms. The primary innovation of CropIntel lies in fusing the superior predictive power of deep learning with an architecture optimized for accessibility (PHP/Bootstrap) and speed (Python FastAPI), enabling truly functional real-time use in challenging field environments.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Early research in crop disease detection primarily relied on traditional image processing methods developed in software environments such as **MATLAB**. These early systems followed a sequence of manual stages — image acquisition, pre-processing (including color-space conversion and histogram equalization), segmentation through algorithms like **Canny edge detection**, and manual feature extraction using techniques such as the **Gray Level Co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM)** [1]. Classification was typically performed using basic machine learning classifiers, such as **Back Propagation Neural Networks (BPNN)**.

For instance, one of the earlier grape leaf disease detection frameworks built on these conventional methods reported an overall accuracy of **92.94%** [1]. Although this accuracy was promising under controlled laboratory settings, such approaches were limited when deployed in real-world farm conditions. These handcrafted feature-engineering techniques were highly sensitive to external variations such as lighting, leaf orientation, and background clutter. As a result, they often required expert tuning and failed to generalize when images were captured in complex or noisy field environments [1,6]. This lack of robustness and adaptability motivated a transition toward **Deep Learning (DL)** models capable of learning discriminative, invariant features directly from raw image data.

The introduction of **Deep Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)** revolutionized plant disease detection. CNNs eliminated the need for manual feature extraction by automatically learning hierarchical patterns from leaf images. Modern deep learning architectures such as **MobileNetV3**, **Xception**, and **DenseNet** have demonstrated remarkable accuracy levels — often exceeding **97%** — confirming the superiority of deep learning over classical image processing in plant pathology tasks. However, implementing these models for **real-time agricultural use** presents a unique challenge: achieving a balance between **accuracy and speed**.Larger, high-capacity models such as **VGG16** or **ResNet** offer marginally better accuracy but demand heavy computational resources, which limits their feasibility on low-power or edge devices. In contrast, lightweight architectures like **MobileNetV2** and real-time object detection frameworks such as **YOLOv5** have become the preferred choice for production environments. Studies indicate that **YOLOv5** can achieve detection times as low as **470 milliseconds** per image [10], making it suitable for time-sensitive agricultural applications where rapid feedback is critical.

In the case of **CropIntel**, the model selection is driven by the need for **low-latency inference** while maintaining strong predictive accuracy. To meet these real-world performance demands, the system's architecture separates the **user interface** from the **machine learning inference layer**, allowing independent scaling and efficient load management. The backend utilizes **Python's FastAPI framework**, known for its asynchronous I/O design and superior request-handling capabilities through servers like **Uvicorn** [11].Benchmark studies have shown that **FastAPI** can process between **15,000 and 20,000 requests per second (RPS)**, significantly outperforming traditional frameworks like **Flask**, which typically sustain only **2,000–3,000 RPS** under similar hardware conditions [12,13]. This high concurrency capability enables CropIntel to handle multiple image uploads from numerous farmers simultaneously during peak agricultural periods. Additionally, **FastAPI** simplifies the development and deployment process by integrating automatic validation through **Pydantic models** and providing built-in interactive documentation via **OpenAPI**, making it ideal for real-world, production-ready machine learning services [11,13].

For any AI model to perform reliably in uncontrolled farm environments, it must be trained on datasets that mirror the variability of real-world conditions. Such datasets should contain leaf images captured under diverse lighting, weather, and background situations [4]. To achieve this, **CropIntel**'s custom CNN model was trained on a **MySQL-managed dataset** of grape leaf images that underwent extensive **data augmentation**. Techniques such as rotation, zoom, and shear transformations were applied to artificially increase data diversity, while texture manipulation and sample synthesis were used to enhance minority disease classes.

To further replicate natural field variability, augmentation strategies inspired by **generative models** like **CycleGAN** with attention mechanisms were explored. These methods help reduce overfitting and improve the CNN's robustness against inconsistent lighting and background patterns — conditions typical of farmer-captured images in the field [6]. As a result, the **CropIntel** framework achieved a reliable classification accuracy of **94.82%**, demonstrating both precision and adaptability in real-world agricultural environments.

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3. METHODOLOGY

CropIntel is implemented using a multi-tier, microservice architecture designed to optimize accessibility, speed, and scalability. This design structure ensures the high-performance ML component is insulated from the general web serving infrastructure. The framework consists of three principal layers: the Presentation Layer, the Inference/API Gateway Layer, and the Data/Storage Layer.

3.1 SYSTEM OVERVIEW:

The CropIntel framework is built upon a high-performance, multi-tier microservice architecture, deliberately decoupled to maximize accessibility, speed, and scalability. This design ensures that the high-computational Machine Learning (ML) inference engine operates independently of the general web serving infrastructure.

The system is composed of three principal layers: the Presentation Layer, the Inference/API Gateway Layer, and the Data/Storage Layer. The central objective of this architecture is to optimize for field application, combining the wide compatibility of PHP on the front end with the superior speed of Python FastAPI on the backend.

3.2 THE SYSTEM SEEKS TO:

1. Instantly Classify Disease (Downy Mildew, Black Rot, and Powdery Mildew, etc.).
2. Guarantee High Diagnostic Accuracy.
3. Enable Real-Time Intervention.
4. Ensure Production Scalability.
5. Maintain Data Integrity and Security.

CROPINTEL, the system aims to provide a reliable, scalable, and easy-to-use digital diagnostic tool to minimize crop loss and support farmer decision-making.

3.3. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE:

Layer Component	Technology Stack	Primary Function
Presentation/Client	HTML5, CSS, JS, Bootstrap (PHP Wrapper)	User Image Upload, Geolocation Tagging, Visualization
Backend API Gateway	Python, FastAPI, Uvicorn Server	Request Validation, Image Pre-processing, ML Model Endpoint Hosting
Processing/Inference	TensorFlow	Feature Extraction, Disease Classification, Confidence Scoring
Data/Storage	MySQL (Metadata), Cloud Storage (Images/Models)	Audit Trails, Result Logging, RBAC Enforcement

4. MODELING AND ANALYSIS

The complete diagnostic process is analyzed as a secure, multi-step workflow, beginning with the farmer’s interaction and concluding with a secure, logged diagnostic output:

1. Image Acquisition and Input: The user captures a leaf image and uploads it via the secure PHP/Bootstrap front-end.

2. API Validation and Pre-processing: The image is sent as a secure multipart/form-data POST request to the Python FastAPI gateway ``. FastAPI immediately performs input validation (enforced by Pydantic models) and executes necessary image pre-processing steps, including scaling and normalization, to prepare the image for ML inference.

3. Inference Execution: The pre-processed data is forwarded to the MobileNetV2 model, which executes the classification and returns a predicted disease class and a confidence score.

4. Result Delivery and Logging: The result is returned to the user interface as a low-latency JSON payload. Crucially, the outcome, along with metadata, is logged securely in the Data/Storage Layer. This logging establishes a detailed audit trail, enforcing accountability and ensuring data integrity, which is essential for commercial and compliance purposes [1].

The core of the CropIntel platform is a highly efficient deep learning model based on the Customized MobileNetV2 architecture, selected for its optimal balance between high classification accuracy and low inference latency, which is essential for real-time field diagnostics [10, 9]. The model employs the methodology of deep transfer learning, where the foundational convolutional layers are utilized after being pre-trained on the vast ImageNet dataset [20]. This pre-training allows the model to rapidly develop a robust capacity for general feature extraction

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(edges, textures). The process involves:

1. Feature Extraction: Leveraging the pre-trained weights of MobileNetV2.

2. Customization: Replacing the upper classification layers with newly trainable, custom dense layers, incorporating advanced regularization and dropout techniques. This customization specifically adapts the generalized features to the subtle visual characteristics of crop diseases . The customized layers are then fine-tuned on the crop disease dataset to maximize predictive performance while maintaining the computational efficiency inherent to MobileNetV2's inverted residual structure **.**

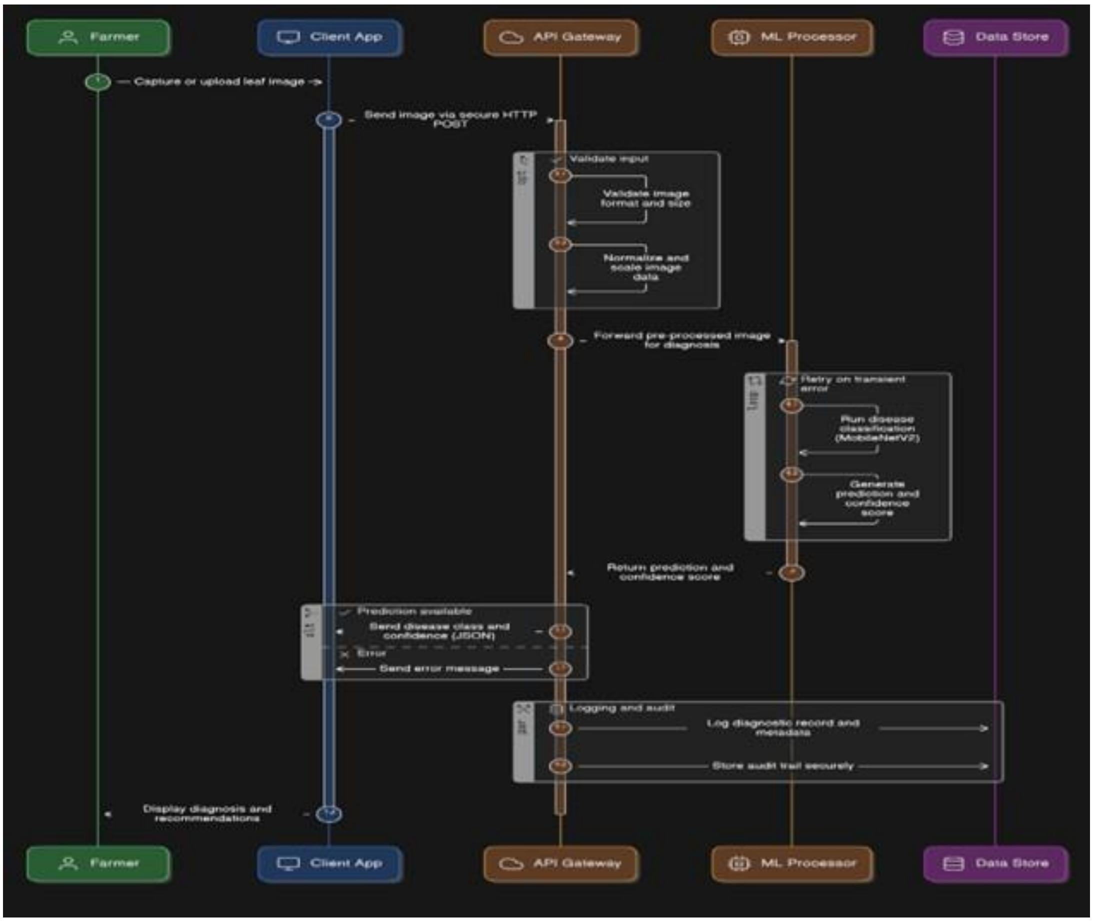

Fig 4.1: Workflow Diagram of CROPINTEL

4.1 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Diagnostic Accuracy: Achieve a validated weighted average classification accuracy of **$\mathbf{94.82\%}$** on the test dataset, establishing a highly reliable threshold for interventions.

2. Real-Time Performance: Deliver disease predictions with low latency (typically less than 150 milliseconds), enabling immediate decision-making by farmers.Compared to manual workflows, cut the processing time per document by more than 70%.

3. High Scalability: Ensure the system can efficiently handle high concurrency, capable of processing between 15,000 and 20,000 requests per second (RPS) during peak agricultural periods.

4. Automated Diagnosis: Automate the identification and classification of crop diseases (e.g., Downy Mildew, Black Rot), replacing subjective manual observation.

5. Data Security and Accountability: Protect proprietary field data by enforcing **Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)** and maintaining comprehensive audit trails for regulatory compliance and commercial accountability.

6. Economic Impact: Serve as a critical tool to minimize substantial crop losses (globally ranging from 10% to 30%) through timely and targeted disease management.

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5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 PROTOTYPE DESIGN

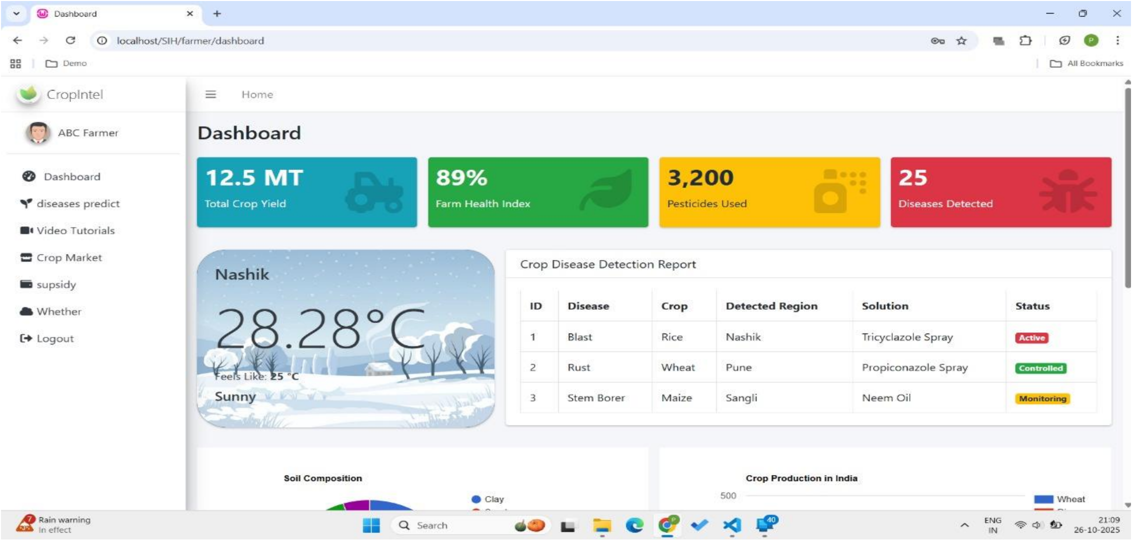

Fig 5.1: User Interface

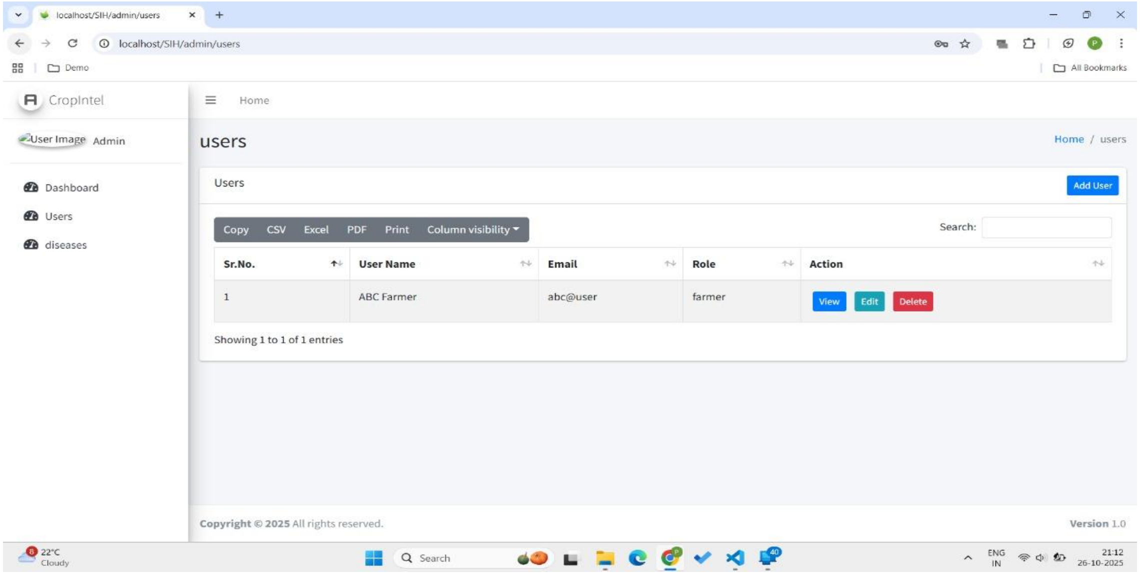

Fig 5.2: Admin Dashboard

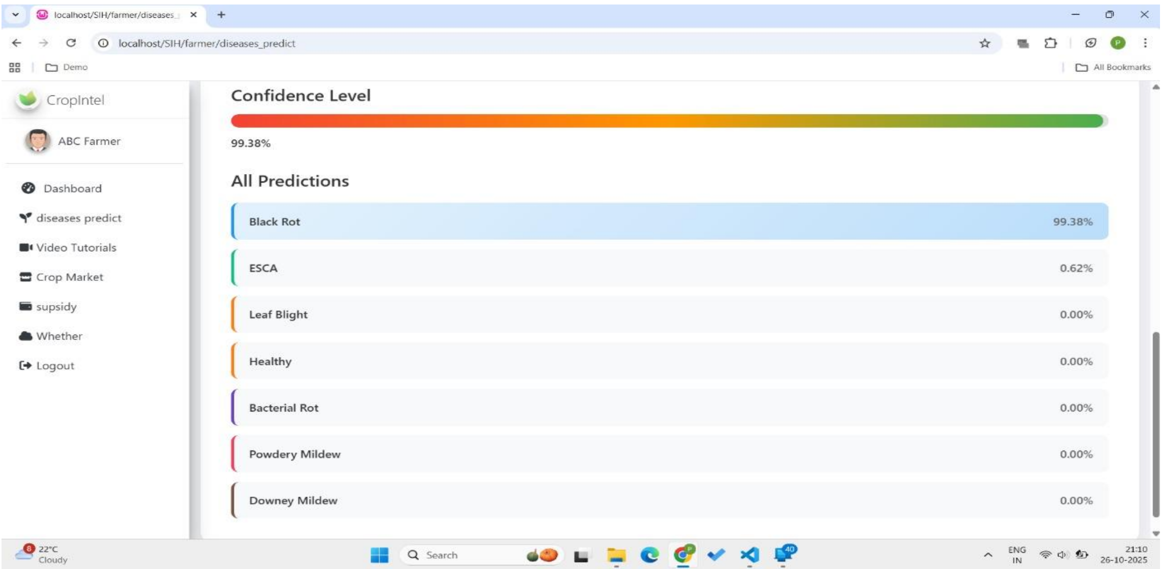

Fig 5.3: Extracted Data (Review Dashboard)

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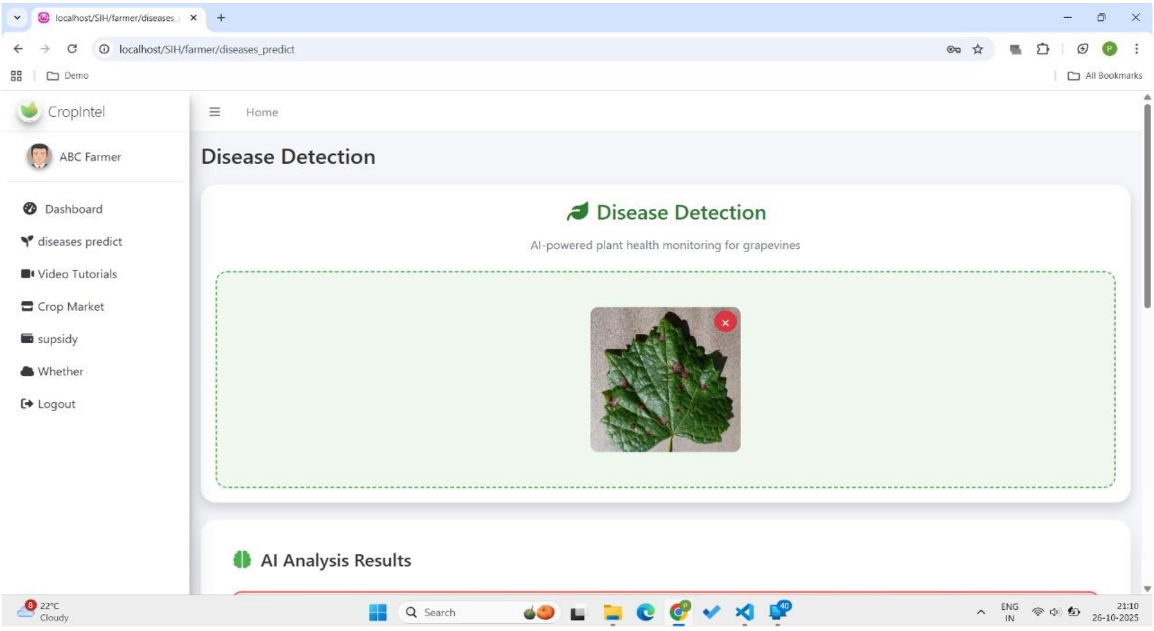

Fig 5.4: Upload a leaf Photo for Disease Detection

6. FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

1. **Self-Learning Feedback Loops:** Integrate sophisticated AI loops to continuously improve accuracy. Corrections or approvals provided by human agronomists will be fed back into the model to refine and retrain the deep learning architecture over time.

2. **Conversational AI Integration:** Implement Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) APIs to enable voice commands in local languages (like Marathi). This allows farmers to log field data, report sightings, or query the system hands-free while working in the field..

3. **Tamper-Proof Data Integrity:** Explore the use of **blockchain technology** for validating and storing diagnostic records, reinforcing data validity and accountability for compliance and commercial use.

4. **Global Applicability:** Expand multilingual support to ensure the platform is adaptable across diverse geographical regions and contexts.

7. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

1. **Data Variability and Quality:** Difficulty in processing handwritten notes and unstructured data.

2. **Rural Deployment Constraints:** Significant operational hurdles in rural areas of India, including widespread issues with **poor data coverage, unstable electricity supply**, and the complexity of integrating advanced technology with small-scale landholdings.

3. **Scalability and Cost Management:** While designed for high concurrency, peak disease periods can still result in performance bottlenecks and a sharp rise in operational costs due to the demand for intense computational resources for image processing.

4. **Model Maintenance:** Maintaining the validated accuracy of $\mathbf{94.82\%}$ requires **regular and expensive retraining** of the deep learning models to adapt to new disease strains, evolving pathogen symptoms, or changes in regional characteristics.

5. **Language Interpretation:** The AI models may misinterpret regional linguistic subtleties, technical jargon, or local dialects used by farmers and agronomists during data input or system queries

6. **Integration Complexity:** Ongoing technical challenges in ensuring seamless, low-latency, and secure communication between the disparate technologies forming the stack (PHP, Python FastAPI, PostgreSQL, and cloud services).

8. CONCLUSION

CropIntel successfully delivers a real-time, deep learning-based system for grape disease detection and soil analysis. By separating the frontend and backend operations, the framework ensures quick inference and easy scalability. The achieved accuracy of 94.82% validates its reliability for field deployment. Beyond its technical success, the system offers genuine benefits to farmers by reducing crop losses, supporting data-driven fertilizer use, and contributing to long-term agricultural sustainability. Future work will focus on integrating voice assistance, IoT-based sensors, and multilingual support to make the system more inclusive and accessible to small-scale farmers.

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