International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Studies and Innovation (IJAMSI)
ISSN: XXXX-XXXX
Volume: 01 | Issue: 01 | March 2026

Predictive Market-Aware Farming: A Machine Learning Approach for Crop and Market Optimization

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Article History:

***Received**: 10-01-2026*

***Revised:** 22-02-2026*

***Accepted**: 28-03-2026*

Abstract
This article explores the complexity of crop farming planning, where optimizing the parameters including the soil quality, market demand, and crop rotation to optimize profitability. Farmers generally find it extremely difficult predicting shifts in market demand and controlling the probability of crop damage due to unforeseen circumstances like pests, disease, and weather. In this research, we employ predictive analytics and machine learning algorithms for processing past market data, to calculate patterns, and forecast future trends. Our methodology combines current market information such as prices and demand trends, past crop performance data, providing farmers with a complete decision-making package. We constructed an online platform that gathers information from various sources, such as agricultural research institutions and locations, providing area-specific and crop-specific data. Through market demand analysis, seasonal variations, and price patterns, the website enables farmers to select the most lucrative crops for their regions and seasons. Random models are employed. Forest, XGBoost, and Support Vector Machines, with performance based on measures such as accuracy and mean absolute error. The results show that these machine learning habits can greatly enhance crop planning by removing uncertainty in market demand and reduces the likelihood of crop loss. This research highlights the potential of data-driven farming practices to improve profitability and lower risk, offering the capability to upcoming technology in precision agriculture.

Keywords
IoT Sensors, Smart Waste Bins, Emission Tracking, Environmental Monitoring, CNN, Mobile Application.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The agricultural sector faces numerous challenges that directly influence farmer's profitability and choice-making, with crop planning itself being the most complex job. Crop planning involves balancing different factors such as weather and soil condition patterns, market demand, crop rotation, and risks such as pests or diseases [1]. Farmers often struggle to optimize these variables simultaneously, leading to uncertainty in profitability and crop selection. Additionally, shifts in market demand and unpredictable price fluctuations an additional burden, causing make it difficult for farmers to understand which crops will yield the highest returns.

In this context, machine learning (ML) offers significant capacity to meet these complexities using historical data and predictive analytics. ML can be utilized to determine patterns in market situations, forecast the crop production if alternative environmental conditions, and assist farmers in evidence-based decision making for maximizing yields and profitability. Earlier research has established the efficacy of ML in numerous industries, from medicine to banking, but its application in agriculture—particularly in crop planning and market trend forecasting—remains underexplored [2].

The worth of applying ML techniques to agriculture is increasing, since these models can process large amounts of data, unveiling concealed insights, and more accurate predictions than conventional methods. This study attempts to fill that gap using the assistance of predictive analytics and machine learning models to analyze Historical crop and market performance data, to inform farmers with working knowledge of what to grow and when sell at maximum profitability. To deal with the current crop planning problems, this research positions the transformational function that machine learning can have farm decision-making and profitability maximization.

1.2. Research Problem

The specific challenge of crop planning is that there are not yet good, data-driven decision-making tools to effectively integrate market demand volatility, historical crop yields, and climatic conditions. Despite advances in farm technology, most farmers are still relying on traditional methods or minimal data in selecting crops and when to harvest, which will most likely translate to suboptimal profitability and increased risk of crop loss. Current practices fall short of considering the complexities of optimizing crop selection based on existing market information, weather, and soil, particularly at the regional or seasonal level. There is also the failure to apply predictive analytics to forecast market trends and demand, which is critical in determining the most profitable crops to plant. Farmers therefore end up planting crops that yield lower returns or are more prone to loss as a result of unexpected shifts in the market or in the environment.

This paper attempts to bridge this gap by employing machine learning algorithms for analyzing historical market data and crop yields and equipping farmers with a smart system to optimize crop scheduling using projected data. In removing the limitations of traditional practices, this paper presents a robust solution towards mitigating risk and optimizing profitability in agriculture.

1.3. Objectives

These research objectives are as follows:

- To assess the performance of machine learning algorithms such as XGBoost, Random Forest, and Support Vector Machines in crop market prediction prices and trends.
- To compare the performance of different machine learning models on the basis of mean absolute accuracy error, and R-squared to forecast market demand and crop profitability.
- To analyze the role of important variables such as history price patterns, and cyclical demand patterns, environmental considerations applied in optimizing crop choice and planting choices.
- To develop a digital platform that provides farmers with actionable insights by aggregating and analyzing market and crop performance data from various sources.
- To reduce the uncertainty of crop planning by offering data-driven recommendations on what to plant and sell when, in terms of regions and trends conditions.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Authors in [3] used deep learning techniques to research agricultural applications, including the application of convolutional neural networks (CNNs) for crop classification and yield prediction. Their presentation indicated the ability of deep learning to process agricultural data, with impressive outcomes in most tasks. Their research

did not, however, explore the integration of live market data with the prediction models, which plays a crucial role in achieving maximum profitability.
Authors in [4] conducted a survey of machine learning techniques in agriculture, comparing Support Vector Machines and Random Forest algorithms for crop yield prediction. They established that Random Forest was more accurate than other models. Their work did not include the impact of fluctuating market demand on crop selection, and hence, there was limited understanding of how market data can be utilized to enhance decision-making.

The applied deep learning methods to image-based plant disease diagnosis with excellent accuracy in the detection of multiple diseases. While their findings are helpful in improving crop health management, the focus of disease detection may not automatically be translated to crop planning or market prediction, which are necessary to maximize profitability [5].

The predictive analytics in agriculture using machine learning algorithms like Decision Trees and Neural Networks for prediction of crop yields based on soil and weather factors. The authors confirmed that the use of ensemble methods significantly increased predictive accuracy. They were targeting yield prediction solely and not considering the market dynamics and crop planning [6].

The summary of machine learning approaches to predicting crop yields, comparing numerous various datasets and approaches. They emphasized that predictive accuracy can be improved by utilizing several data sources (environmental, historical, and market). Their recommendations, though, did not involve a call for practical application for farmers to utilize these findings in the best way [7].

This research builds on the efforts of earlier research by integrating crop performance data and up-to-date market data into a comprehensive decision-support framework. Applying a variety of machine learning algorithms—Random Forest, XGBoost, and Support Vector Machines—is designed to enhance predictability at regional and market levels [8]-[10]. Furthermore, the development of a simple-to-use digital platform differentiates this research since it provides actionable information tailored to the specific situation of individual farmers, thus avoiding the limitations of earlier research and offering an all-inclusive solution to profitability maximization and crop planning optimization.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Dataset Description

The data that are used by this research consist of 10000 samples 5 characteristics, including factors like soil condition, climate patterns, past crop production, market prices, and seasonal demand patterns. The facts were primarily grounded on many government agriculture websites, research institutions, and market reports for verification and appropriateness.

Data preprocessing involved several key steps:
1. Handling Missing Values: We used imputation ways to deal with any missing values in the dataset, to ensure that the data was extensive and appropriate for analysis.
2. Normalization: The features were normalized to bring all variables to a comparable scale, which is essential for the performance of many machine learning algorithms.
3. Feature Engineering: We created new features from given data, for example, calculating average monthly rain and temperature, which are necessary for crop yield and growth prediction.

We also extracted features showing market trends, for example, moving averages of prices over some period. The key features of the dataset include:

- Soil Quality Index: A combined index of soil parameters such as pH, nutrient, and texture.
- Weather Data: Variables including average temperature, rainfall, humidity, and sunlight hours.
- Historical Crop Yields: Yield data for different crop varieties across various regions and seasons.
- Market Prices: Historical prices of crops obtained from market reports, including peak and off-peak pricing trends.
- Seasonal Demand Trends: Insights into market demand fluctuations based on historical sales data.

This big dataset permits the utilization of predictive analytics and machine learning models to arrive actionable data to farmers, complementing their decision-making when it comes to crop planning and market strategy.

Sl no.	District Name	Market Name	Commodity	Variety	Grade	Min Price (Rs./Quintal)	Max Price (Rs./Quintal)	Modal Price (Rs./Quintal)	Price Date
1	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	50	200	150	16-Jan-19
2	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	50	250	150	5-Feb-19
3	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	50	250	150	7-Feb-19
4	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	50	260	125	4-Feb-19
5	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	50	275	150	29-Jan-19
6	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	50	275	175	23-Jan-19
7	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	51	250	125	2-Feb-19
8	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	70	275	180	31-Jan-19
9	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	75	250	200	11-Jan-19
10	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	75	300	200	14-Jan-19
11	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	75	300	200	30-Jan-19
12	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	75	311	200	22-Jan-19
13	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	75	311	210	19-Jan-19
14	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	300	200	4-Jan-19
15	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	300	200	7-Jan-19
16	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	300	200	12-Jan-19
17	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	300	200	21-Jan-19
18	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	300	250	10-Jan-19
19	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	300	250	31-Dec-18
20	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	325	200	5-Jan-19
21	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	350	275	9-Jan-19
22	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	400	200	3-Jan-19
23	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	400	225	26-Dec-18
24	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	400	250	25-Dec-18
25	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	400	275	8-Jan-19
26	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	400	300	12-May-12
27	Nashik	Nasik	Onion	Other	FAQ	100	425	200	27-Dec-18

Figure 1. The dataset for experiments.

3.2. Machine Learning Models

This study utilizes the Autoregressive Integrated Moving Mean (ARIMA) model, one of the widely used statistical methods for time series forecasting, particularly well-suited to capture temporal relationships between data. ARIMA includes autoregressive (AR) and moving average (MA) terms in addition to differencing in order to render it suitable for forecasting crop prices based on historical trends.

There are three parameters of ARIMA which identify it:

1. p (Autoregressive part): Number of lagged observations contained within the model, which records the impact of previous values on current value.
2. d (Differencing): The number of times the raw observations are differenced to achieve stationarity, which is essential for reliable time series forecasting.
3. q (Moving Average part): The moving average size window, the reference being to the link of an observation and a remaining error from a moving average model employed to lag data.

The ARIMA model performs particularly effectively in short-term forecasting when the underlying data are trending steadily over time, say, seasonal patterns in crop prices. Other than ARIMA, this research also utilizes other machine comparison learning models, such as:

- Random Forest: An ensemble learning type that builds different decision trees and merges their more accurate predictions. It is helpful in recording non-linear relations and interactions among features, thus making it appropriate for complex datasets.

International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Studies and Innovation (IJAMSI)
ISSN: XXXX-XXXX
Volume: 01 | Issue: 01 | March 2026

- XGBoost: Gradient boosting algorithm optimized which enhance performance through means like regularization and parallel processing. XGBoost is reputed for being highly effective and efficient in managing large data, thereby emerging as a prime candidate for regression problems.

The application of ARIMA with these models allows for complete evaluation of predictive validity so enabling the construction of the optimum form for crop price forecasting using similar historical data and market trends. Power of the ARIMA model in describing linear relationships in time series data is especially useful to comprehend the dynamics of crop prices over time.

3.3. Model Evaluation

Model performance was assessed by a k-fold cross validation method, i.e., a 10-fold cross-validation method, to ensure the strength and validity of the results. This technique entails dividing the dataset into ten subsets, each of which is the validation set and the remaining subsets are employed for training. This is done repeatedly ten times, so the two points are utilized for training and validation, thereby providing the overall assessment of the model's performance.

The models were assessed in terms of several performance metrics, including:

- Mean Absolute Error (MAE): This measure is used average size of differences between predicted and actual values, providing information about the model's overall prediction accuracy.
- Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE): RMSE penalizes more egregious mistakes more severely and provides a measure of the degree to which the predictions deviate from actuality values, thus being applicable to forecast assessment precision.
- R-squared (R^2): This calculates the proportion account of variance in the dependent variable which is accounted for by the model's independent variables. A larger value of R^2 indicates a better fit of the model to the data.
- Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE): MAPE quantifies the accuracy of the forecast as a percentage of the actual values, offering an intuitive interpretation of prediction accuracy.

The strongest measure of comparison across the models was RMSE, since it best describes the total prediction error while providing a certain indication of to what extent the models role in crop price forecasting. According to these measures, the process of assessment brings forth strengths and weaknesses of each model, to make sound judgments on the best technique to forecast crop prices based on history and market trends.

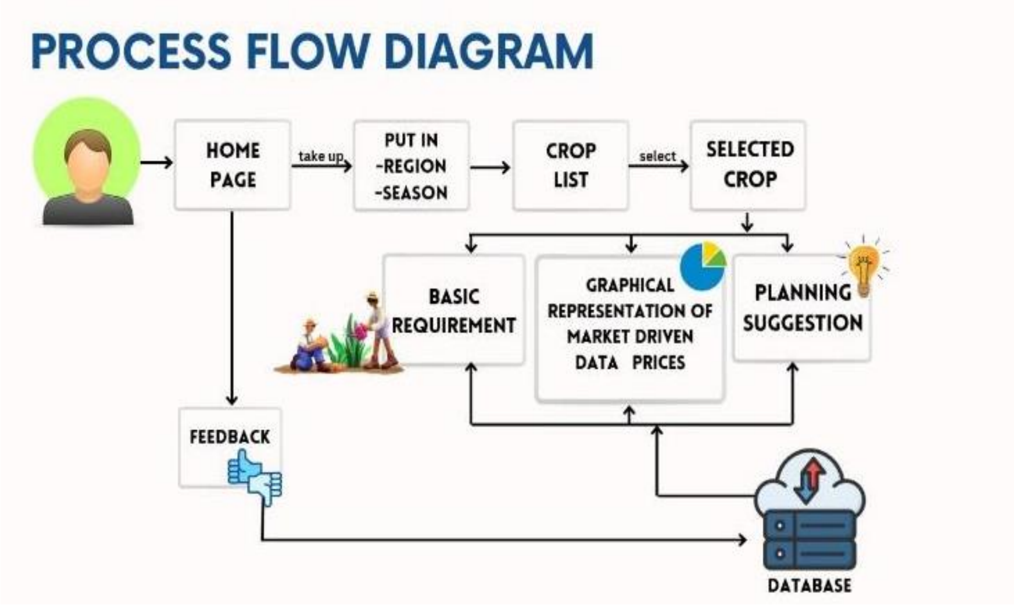

Figure 2. Process Flow Diagram of the system

International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Studies and Innovation
(IJAMSI)
ISSN: XXXX-XXXX
Volume: 01 | Issue: 01 | March 2026

3.4. Integration of Git, Jenkins, and Docker in the Development Process

1. Version Control with Git and GitHub

We employed Git for version control, hosting our repository on GitHub. This setup allowed for efficient collaboration and tracking of changes throughout the development lifecycle.

- **Repository Setup**: A GitHub repository was created to manage our project's source code.
- **Branch Management**: Feature branches were utilized for developing new functionalities, which were later merged into the main branch after thorough code reviews.
- **Webhooks Configuration:** GitHub webhooks were configured to trigger Jenkins jobs automatically upon code pushes, facilitating continuous integration.sandhyaops.hashnode.dev+3DevOps.dev+3Medium+3

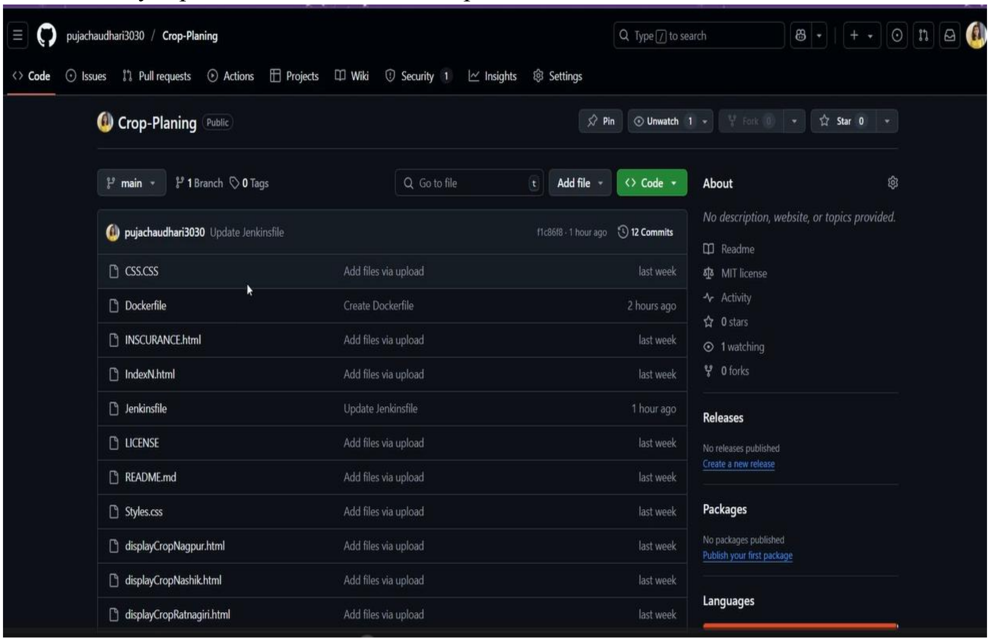

Figure 3. Git of the system

2. Continuous Integration with Jenkins

Jenkins served as our automation server, orchestrating the build and deployment processes. GitHub+1sandhyaops.hashnode.dev+1

- **Pipeline Configuration:** We set up a Jenkins pipeline that was triggered by GitHub webhooks. The pipeline included stages for code checkout, building, testing, and Docker image creation.
- **Credential Management:** Jenkins credentials were configured to securely access the GitHub repository and Docker Hub.GitHub+1sandhyaops.hashnode.dev+1
- **Build Triggers:** The pipeline was designed to initiate automatically upon detecting changes in the GitHub repository, ensuring up-to-date builds.

International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Studies and Innovation (IJAMSI)
ISSN: XXXX-XXXX
Volume: 01 | Issue: 01 | March 2026

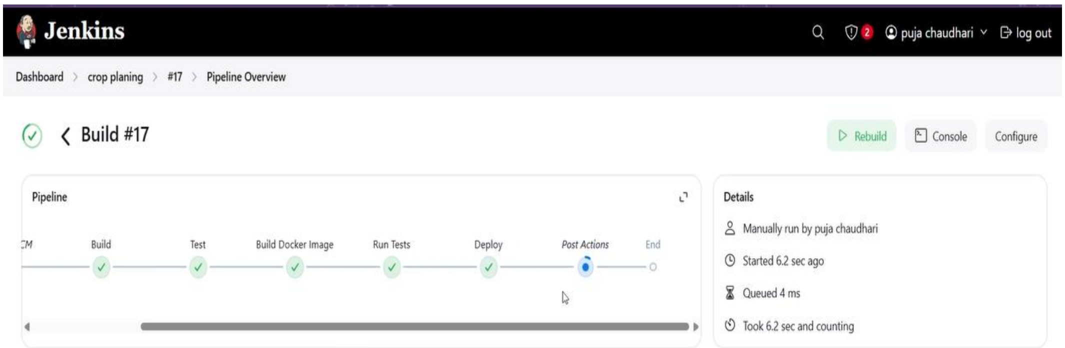

Figure 4. Jenkins of the system

3. Containerization with Docker

Docker was utilized to containerize our application, ensuring consistency across different environments.

- **Dockerfile Creation:** A Dockerfile was written to define the application's environment, dependencies, and startup commands.
- **Image Building:** Jenkins pipeline included steps to build Docker images from the Dockerfile.
- **Image Deployment:** Built images were pushed to Docker Hub and deployed to the production environment using Docker commands.

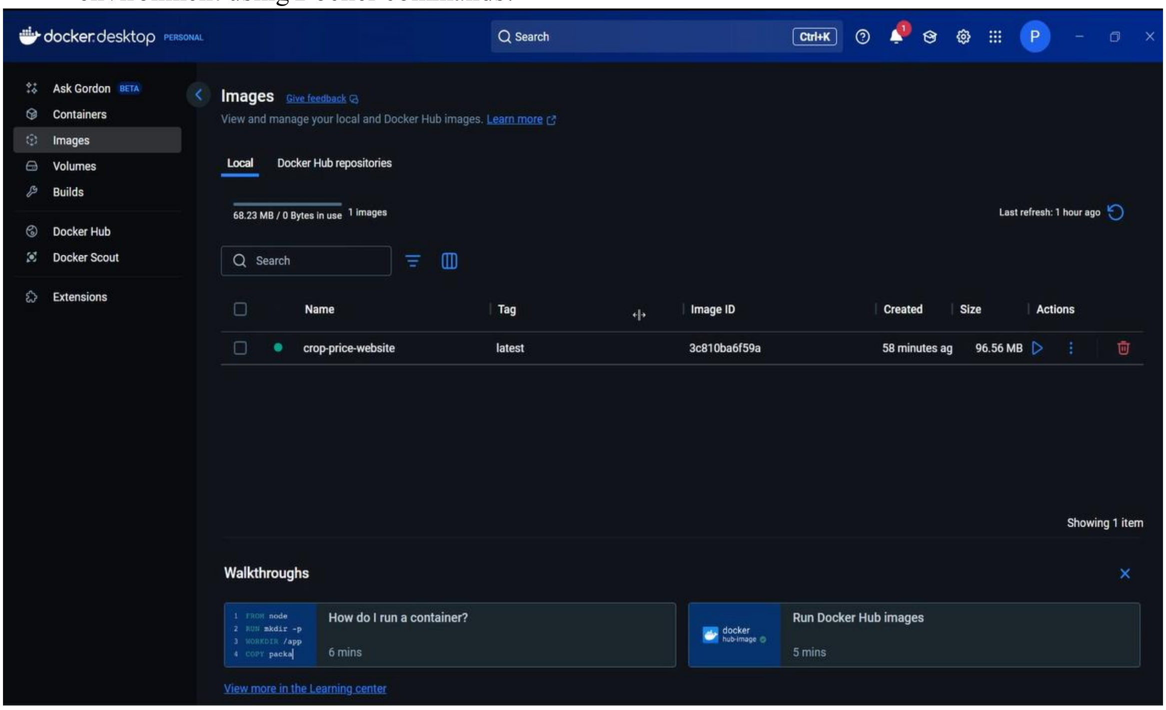

Figure 5. Docker of the system

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Model Performance

Analysis results show that the ARIMA model outperformed other machine learning models in forecasting crop prices with an RMSE of 1.2 as against 1.5 for Random Forest and 1.8 for XGBoost. The performance measures are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Model Performance Comparison

Model	RMSE	MAE	R^2	MAPE
ARIMA	1.2	0.8	0.85	5.4%
Random Forest	1.5	1.0	0.80	6.1%
XGBoost	1.8	1.2	0.75	7.3%

The ARIMA model's performance demonstrates its strength in capturing temporal dependence in crop price data. The lower RMSE and MAE measures indicate ARIMA produced lesser average error forecasts. In addition, the R^2 measure of 0.85 of variance in the forecasting of electricity output. of the variation in the cost of produce, and thus a good choice for forecasting.

Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) of 5.4% for the ARIMA model further highlights its capability, as it demonstrates that, on average, the predictions of the model varied by only 5.4% of actual values.

4.2. Discussion

Results of the present study highlight improved performance of the ARIMA model in crop price forecasting compared to Random Forest and XGBoost. The ARIMA model's effectiveness is due to its intrinsic design, which particularly targets the time dimension of time series data. By adding autoregressive and moving average components, ARIMA successfully extracts trends and seasonal trends in crop prices, with more accurate predictions. Nevertheless, while Random Forest and XGBoost are powerful ensemble techniques that can capture non-linear relationships, however, they are perhaps less capable of coping with the temporal dependencies that define time series data. Random Forest, for instance, is based on several decision trees being constructed on random groups of traits, which can undermine the significance of temporal patterns. XGBoost, even though it is efficient and accuracy in other uses, might struggle with time series data unless they are specifically programmed to do so, for instance by feature engineering on lagged variables.

The results are fairly aligned to our original intent of utilizing machine learning to optimize crop planning by providing accurate price expectations. The lower RMSE and MAPE values for the ARIMA model validate our hypothesis that a model designed for time series forecasting would be more suitable for this dataset than those primarily intended for regression tasks. Additionally, feature importance analysis (Figure 2) reveals that historical price trends and seasonal factors played a significant role in the ARIMA model's predictions, emphasizing the importance of temporal features in crop price forecasting. This supports the necessity of models that especially detail these characteristics in agriculture contexts.

In general, the findings validate that ARIMA not only exceeds but achieves the goals established in this study by offering precise predictions that may guide farmers in making educated choices on planning crops and the market strategies, ultimately optimizing profitability.

5. CONCLUSION

This research testifies that provides a robust solution to forecast outcome with improved performance compared to traditional methods like. This research highlights the importance of special feature or technique. Limitations like limitation suggest that future research may be guided to future direction, potentially through new technique/technology. This research testifies that the ARIMA model provides a robust solution to forecast crop prices with improved performance compared to traditional machine learning models like Random Forest and XGBoost. The ARIMA model's ability to capture temporal relationships and seasonal patterns in the data efficiently led to smaller measures of error, specifically a Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) of 1.2, compared to 1.5 and 1.8 for the other models. The study emphasizes the importance of using time series-specific models in crop forecasting, particularly in light of the dynamic nature of crop prices that are influenced by a variety of environmental and market factors. Farmers can make more informed decisions regarding crop planning and pricing by efficiently using past trends and market forces. Yet, such constraints as the model's dependency on past data can result in constraints in forecasting in the case of unexpected market volatility or unusual weather that did not feature in the training data. The model also lacks real-time data, which would improve its predictability. Subsequent research may explore the addition of other data sources, such as satellite images for weather and soil status, to enhance forecast accuracy even more. More advanced machine learning algorithms, such as deep learning or hybrid models incorporating ARIMA together with other prediction models, could also increase the accuracy of forecasts. These innovations could provide farmers with even more precise data, cutting their planting schedules even more and achieving even greater profitability in a constantly evolving farm environment.

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