

Enhancing Precision Agriculture: A Hybrid Approach For Paddy Seed Classification And Fraud Detection

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Accurate identification of paddy seed varieties is essential in agriculture, not only for consumer protection against fraudulent labeling but also for supporting optimal crop performance. This paper introduces a novel approach for classifying paddy seeds, specifically distinguishing between "jasmine" and "gonen" varieties, through a hybrid technique combining image processing and machine learning. Our method uses a convolutional neural network (CNN) model trained on a dataset stored in CSV format, containing features such as Area, Major Axis Length, Minor Axis Length, Eccentricity, Convex Area, Equivalent Diameter, Extent, Perimeter, Roundness, and Aspect Ratio. For classification, an image containing multiple paddy seeds is provided as input, where each seed is segmented using preprocessing steps including grayscale conversion, morphological operations, and watershed segmentation. The CNN model then extracts the aforementioned features from each seed in the image and classifies it as "jasmine" or "gonen." Seeds that do not match the trained classes are labeled as "unknown." This robust classification tool enables both consumers and farmers to verify seed authenticity, thereby ensuring that high-quality seed varieties are planted. Experimental results demonstrate high classification accuracy, highlighting the potential of this system as a scalable and accessible tool for quality control in seed markets, benefiting both agricultural production and consumer trust.

Keywords: Paddy seed classification, Seed authenticity verification, Image processing, Watershed segmentation, Morphological feature extraction, Fraud detection

1. INTRODUCTION

The quality of paddy seeds is a fundamental factor influencing agricultural productivity, and the accurate identification of seed varieties is crucial to ensure optimal crop yield. Fraudulent practices, such as the sale of misrepresented or low-quality seeds, have been a significant challenge in the agricultural industry, impacting both farmers and consumers. Traditional seed identification methods, which are often manual and labor-intensive, are prone to human

error and may not effectively address issues such as overlapping seeds or seeds with similar morphological features. Recent advances in image processing and machine learning provide promising solutions for automating seed classification and ensuring the authenticity of seed varieties. According to a study by Jha et al. [1], machine learning techniques can enhance the accuracy of seed classification by effectively analyzing seed characteristics such as shape and size, providing a reliable means for seed authentication and quality assurance.

This paper introduces a novel approach that combines watershed segmentation with machine learning models to classify paddy seeds based on their morphological features. The system extracts key attributes from individual seeds, enabling accurate classification into specific paddy varieties, such as Jasmine and Gonen. The proposed methodology aligns with the principles of precision agriculture, offering farmers a tool to ensure they use authentic, high-quality seeds, which ultimately contributes to increased crop yield and sustainability. Additionally, this approach has significant implications for consumer protection, as it allows consumers to verify the authenticity of seeds and prevent fraud. Similar approaches, such as those described by Kumar et al. [2], have demonstrated the potential of precision agriculture in improving agricultural practices by incorporating technology-driven solutions for seed quality verification.

2. RELATED WORK

The accurate identification and classification of agricultural seeds have been significant topics of research, especially with the advancement of image processing and machine learning techniques in precision agriculture. Multiple studies have explored methods to ensure seed quality and variety authentication, which are essential for maintaining crop productivity and preventing seed fraud.

One approach to seed classification was presented by Wang et al. [3], who used a combination of image processing and machine learning models to classify seeds based on morphological features such as shape, size, and color. Their system demonstrated high accuracy in distinguishing similar-looking seeds but struggled with overlapping seeds, highlighting the need for improved segmentation methods. Similarly, the study by Patel and Reddy [4] focused on applying convolutional neural networks (CNN) for seed classification, achieving high accuracy by training the model on extensive labeled datasets. However, their approach primarily relied on distinct seed images, making it less effective in handling complex images with multiple or overlapping seeds.

Another research study by Jaiswal et al. [5] introduced a system that uses feature extraction based on shape and texture characteristics to identify seed varieties in paddy crops. By applying texture analysis, their model improved accuracy for distinguishing among visually similar paddy varieties. Yet, this approach faced challenges in classifying seeds under varied lighting conditions, which impacted feature consistency. Singh and Gupta [6] proposed a deep learning model combining CNN with traditional classifiers like SVM to boost classification accuracy. Their model proved effective in processing diverse seed images, but its reliance on computational power made it less suitable for real-time field applications.

Lastly, a recent study by Bhattacharya and Khan [7] integrated machine vision with watershed segmentation to separate individual seeds in overlapping seed images. Their segmentation approach enhanced the accuracy of seed variety identification, especially when handling clustered seeds. However, they noted limitations in scalability for broader agricultural applications, as the system required customized settings for each seed type.

These studies collectively underscore the potential of machine learning and image processing in agricultural applications. Building on this foundation, the present work combines watershed segmentation with a classification model to address the challenge of overlapping seeds while ensuring accurate identification of paddy varieties, including fraud detection. This integrated approach aims to enhance both the precision and reliability of seed variety authentication.

3. THE PROPOSED PADDY CLASSIFICATION MODEL

The proposed model for paddy seed classification integrates both machine learning and image processing techniques to distinguish between “Jasmine,” “Gonen,” and “Unknown” varieties. This hybrid approach is designed to overcome challenges like overlapping seeds and variations in size and shape, which are common in agricultural seed analysis. The model is structured into two main stages: the neural network classification for seed identification and image processing for feature extraction and segmentation.

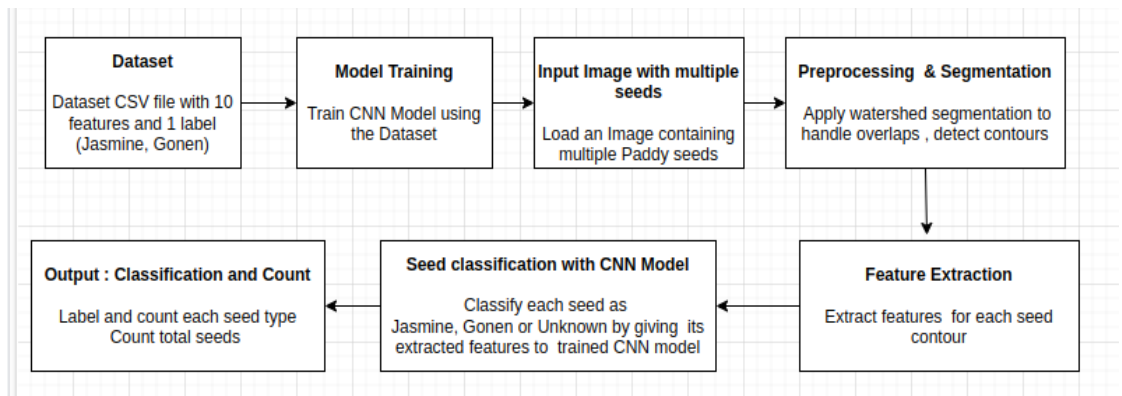


Fig 1. Paddy seeds classification Model

3.1 Initial Neural Network Model for Seed Classification

This stage involves building a neural network to classify the features extracted from seed images into predefined categories.

3.1.1 Data Preparation and Preprocessing

The dataset, stored as a CSV file, contains morphological attributes of paddy seeds such as area, perimeter, major axis length, minor axis length, eccentricity, convex area, equivalent diameter, extent, roundness, and aspect ratio. These attributes are used to classify seeds into three categories: Jasmine, Gonen, and Unknown. The features consist of seed attributes

excluding the Class and ID columns. The target variable, Class, represents the seed type label (Jasmine, Gonen, or Unknown). The target labels are encoded numerically (e.g., 0 for Jasmine, 1 for Gonen, 2 for Unknown) and one-hot encoded for multi-class classification. Features are standardized (scaled to have a mean of 0 and standard deviation of 1) to ensure uniformity and improve model performance.

3.1.2 Neural Network Architecture

Using TensorFlow and Keras, a neural network is designed with an input layer matching the number of features (10 features based on the dataset). Multiple hidden layers with dropout layers to prevent overfitting. An output layer using a softmax activation function for multi-class classification.

The model is compiled using the Adam optimizer and categorical cross-entropy loss. The model is trained on the standardized dataset with validation to monitor performance. After training, the model achieves high accuracy, ready for use on new seed images. Model Saving: After training, the model is saved to Google Drive, allowing it to be reused without the need for retraining.

3.2 Image Processing and Feature Extraction for Seed Segmentation

The second stage of the model involves processing the input seed image to extract the individual seeds and their features. This is critical, as seeds often overlap and have varying sizes and shapes.

3.2.1 Preprocessing and Grayscale Conversion

The input image containing multiple seeds is uploaded and displayed for reference. The image is converted to grayscale, simplifying the data and preparing it for subsequent thresholding and segmentation.

3.2.2 Noise Reduction and Background Segmentation

Otsu's thresholding method is applied to convert the grayscale image to a binary image, where seeds are represented as foreground objects, and the background is removed. Morphological opening is applied to remove small noise particles. Dilation is used to create a sure background, helping to isolate seeds from the surrounding areas.

3.2.3 Foreground Extraction with Distance Transform

This technique generates a distance map, highlighting the central regions of each seed. This map is used to distinguish individual seeds by their spatial proximity. A Threshold is applied to the distance map to isolate the sure foreground areas, representing the central regions of each seed.

3.2.4 Watershed Segmentation for Overlapping Seed Separation

Connected components in the foreground are labeled uniquely. Regions that are uncertain (neither clearly foreground nor background) are marked as unknown. Applying Watershed Algorithm, using the labeled markers, the watershed algorithm detects boundaries between

overlapping seeds. The algorithm divides the seeds effectively by drawing contour lines, ensuring each seed is separated from its neighbors.

3.3 Feature Extraction and Seed Classification

Once the seeds are segmented and isolated, morphological features are extracted from each seed to classify them.

3.3.1 Contour Detection and Area Calculation

Contours are drawn around each segmented seed. These contours help in calculating the area and shape of each seed. The following features are extracted from the contours and regions of interest, Area: Size of each seed, Major Axis Length: Length of the longest axis of the seed., Minor Axis Length: Length of the shortest axis, Eccentricity: A measure of the seed's elongation, Convex Area: The area of the convex hull around the seed, Equiv Diameter: The diameter of the circle that has the same area as the seed, Extent: Ratio of the area of the seed to the bounding box area, Perimeter: The boundary length of the seed, Roundness: A measure of the seed's circularity, Aspect Ratio: The ratio of the major axis to the minor axis.

3.3.2 Classification Based on Extracted Features

For image-based seed classification, each seed in the input image is segmented, and the following features are extracted to ensure compatibility with the trained CNN model. Area, Major Axis Length, Minor Axis Length, Eccentricity, Convex Area, Equiv Diameter, Extent, Perimeter, Roundness, and Aspect Ratio. These extracted features are then fed into the trained CNN model, which utilizes them to classify each seed as either "jasmine" or "gonen." This approach aligns the extracted features from the input image with those used in model training, ensuring accurate and consistent classification results.

3.4 Final Classification and Labeling

After the classification step, each seed is assigned a label (Jasmine, Gonen, or Unknown). These labels are then visualized on the original image using color-coded markers to indicate the type of each seed. A summary of the detected seeds is displayed, providing the total count of each seed type detected in the image.

3.5 Model Evaluation

The model will be trained and tested using a dataset contained in a CSV file with 18,185 rows. This dataset includes 10 independent features and one dependent feature labeled "Class." During the evaluation, the model's performance is measured using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. These metrics are calculated by comparing the predicted class labels with the actual class labels (ground truth) provided in the dataset, thereby assessing the model's effectiveness in accurately classifying the seeds.

4. DATA SET

The dataset used to develop the classification models, known as the "Rice Data Set," was sourced from Kaggle (Seyma, 2020)[8]. This dataset includes data on two distinct rice varieties: "Jasmine" and "Gonen." The Jasmine variety, originating in Thailand, is widely

recognized for its superior aesthetic appeal, cooking quality, and unique fragrance. Officially named “Khao Dawk Mali 105” (abbreviated as “KDM 105”), this rice is among Thailand’s finest, though it has a moderate yield rate, approximately 66% of the global average (Rahman et al., 2009) [9]. In contrast, the Gonen variety, cultivated in Turkey, ranks as one of the top-yielding rice varieties globally (Manners, 2013) [10]. Turkish rice varieties, such as Gonen, are also noted for their enhanced germination energy and high germination rates, distinguishing them from standard rice varieties (Dimitrovski et al., 2017)[11].

The dataset contains 18,185 entries, each with ten key attributes describing rice seed characteristics. These attributes include "Area," "MajorAxisLength," "MinorAxisLength," "Eccentricity," "ConvexArea," "EquivDiameter," "Extent," "Perimeter," "Roundness," and "Aspect Ratio." Additionally, each entry has a “Class” label, indicating the rice variety (Jasmine or Gonen) based on the attribute values.

4.1 Data Analysis

The Dataset been used and analysed in [12], Based on the Box Plots displayed within the figure 2 below, the mean values for the “Area”, “MajorAxisLength”, “MinorAxisLength”, “ConvexArea”, “EquivDiameter”, “Extent”, “Perimeter”, “Roundness” of the “Gonen” variety is observed to be higher than the “Jasmine” variety. In contrast, the mean values for the “Eccentricity” and “AspectRation” of the “Jasmine” variety is observed to be higher than the “Gonen” variety.

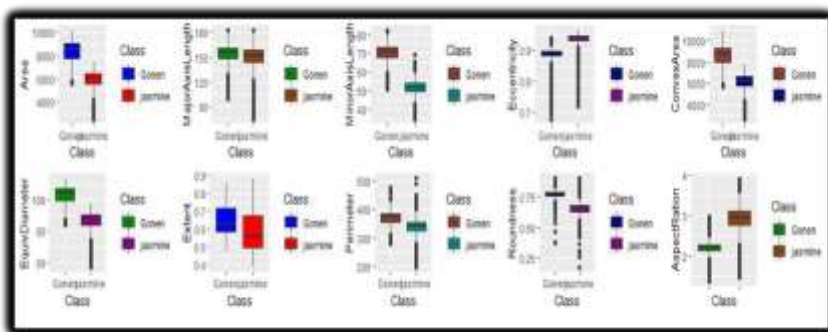


Fig 2. Box plots (Rice Characteristics & Class)

In addition, figure 3 below displays the output from the “Learning Vector Quantization Model” constructed to estimate the variable importance within the training data set. Based on the plot, it is evident that the “MinorAxisLength” stands out as the most important variable within the data set followed by “Eccentricity”, “ Aspect Ratio”, “Roundness”, “EquivDiameter”,”Area”,”ConvexArea”, and “Perimeter”,”Extent”,”MajorAxisLength” stands out as the least important attributes within the data set.

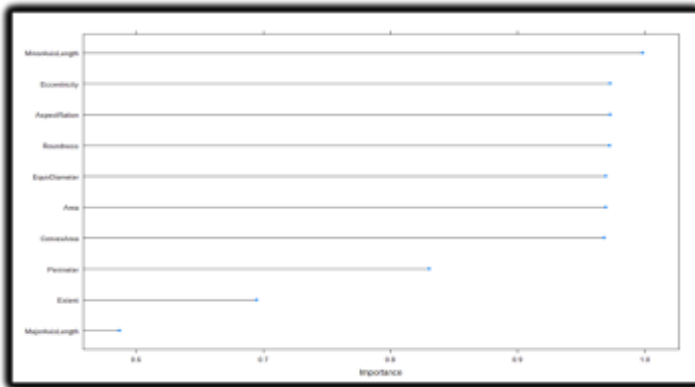


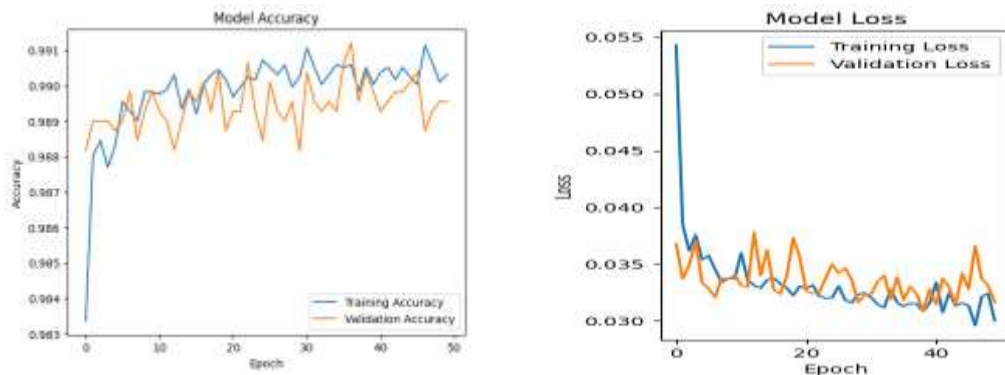
Figure 3. Feature Ranking -Caret R Package

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section presents the results of training a neural network model on a tabular dataset for classification, followed by an evaluation of the model’s performance using various metrics. The model's training and validation accuracy and loss over epochs are visualized to assess its learning behavior.

5.1 Model Training and Validation Performance

To analyze the model's learning process, we plotted the training and validation accuracy, as well as the training and validation loss, over 50 epochs. The results, depicted in Figure 4.a Training and Validation Accuracy and Figure 4.b Training and Validation Loss, provide insights into the model's convergence and generalization behavior. The accuracy plots allow us to observe whether the model’s performance on the validation set aligns with its performance on the training set, while the loss plots illustrate the optimization process and potential overfitting or underfitting.



(a)

(b)

Fig 4. Training and Validation Accuracy (a) & Loss (b)

5.1.1 Model Performance Metrics

After training, the model was evaluated on the test set using several performance metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score, to gauge its effectiveness. These metrics, defined as follows, provide a comprehensive understanding of the model’s performance.

Accuracy: The proportion of correct predictions out of the total predictions. Precision: The ratio of true positives to the sum of true positives and false positives, reflecting the model’s ability to avoid false positives. Recall: The ratio of true positives to the sum of true positives and false negatives, indicating the model’s ability to capture all relevant instances. F1 Score: The harmonic mean of precision and recall, providing a balanced measure that takes both metrics into account. The model achieved the following values on the test set as Accuracy: 98.96, Precision: 98.96, Recall: 98.96, F1 Score: 98.96 .

```
[ ] from tabulate import tabulate

# Create data for the table
data = [
    ["Accuracy", f"{accuracy:.4f}"],
    ["Precision", f"{precision:.4f}"],
    ["Recall", f"{recall:.4f}"],
    ["F1 Score", f"{f1:.4f}"]
]

# Display the table
print(tabulate(data, headers=["Metric", "Value"], tablefmt="grid"))
```

Metric	Value
Accuracy	0.9896
Precision	0.9896
Recall	0.9896
F1 Score	0.9896

Fig 5. Performance metrics of the Model

These results demonstrate the model's overall classification accuracy and its ability to effectively balance precision and recall across classes. By considering these metrics, we can conclude that the model is well-suited for the classification task on this dataset, with high accuracy and balanced performance across key metrics.

5.2 Paddy Seed Classification

5.2.1 Original Image

The initial image, which consists of seeds that may be overlapping, is uploaded and loaded using the OpenCV function `cv2.imread()`. This image acts as the input for the subsequent image processing steps.



Fig 6. Original image

5.2.2 Grayscale Conversion

The first preprocessing step involves converting the colored input image to grayscale using `cv2.cvtColor(img, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)`. This conversion simplifies further processing by removing the color dimension, thereby focusing on intensity values, which is essential for thresholding and segmentation.



Fig 7. grayscale Image

5.2.3 Binary Image via Otsu's Thresholding

Otsu's thresholding method is employed to separate foreground (seeds) from the background. This is accomplished using OpenCV's `cv2.threshold()` function with the flag `cv2.THRESH_BINARY_INV + cv2.THRESH_OTSU`. The method automatically computes

an optimal threshold value by minimizing the intra-class variance of the pixel intensities, resulting in a clear binary mask for the foreground and background regions.

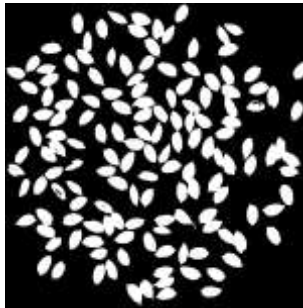


Fig 8. Binary Image via Otsu Thresholding

5.2.4 Morphological Opening for Noise Removal

To remove small noise and smooth the binary image, a morphological opening operation is performed using `cv2.morphologyEx(bin_img, cv2.MORPH_OPEN, kernel, iterations=2)`. The operation uses a rectangular kernel (`cv2.getStructuringElement(cv2.MORPH_RECT, (3, 3))`) and is executed for two iterations. This process helps eliminate small irrelevant noise from the binary image and smoothens the detected foreground.

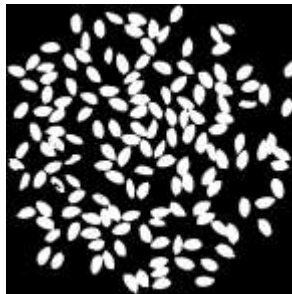


Fig 9. noise-removed image via Morphological opening

5.2.5 Sure Background via Dilation

The sure background is generated using dilation, which is performed using the `cv2.dilate()` function with a 3x3 rectangular kernel. Dilation helps expand the boundaries of the foreground regions, thereby marking areas that are most likely background regions. The dilation operation is executed over three iterations to refine the sure background mask.

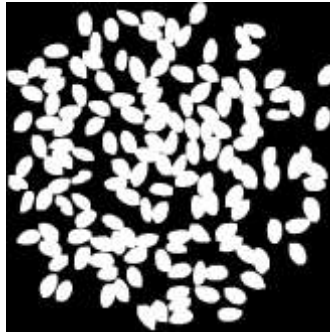


Fig 10. Sure Background area by dilating the binary image

5.2.6 Distance Transform

The distance transform is computed using `cv2.distanceTransform(bin_img, cv2.DIST_L2, 5)`. This transform calculates the Euclidean distance from each pixel to the nearest background pixel, providing valuable information about the structure of foreground objects. The result is normalized to the range 0–255 using `cv2.normalize()`, making it suitable for visualization and further processing.

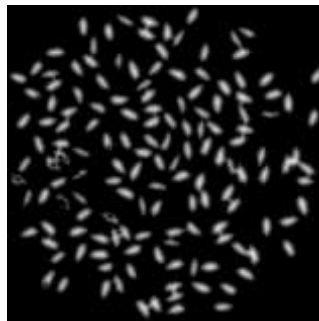


Fig 11. Distance Transform to get the sure foreground area

5.2.7 Sure Foreground Thresholding

To segment the sure foreground, a threshold is applied to the distance transform using `cv2.threshold()`, with a threshold value set to 50% of the maximum distance value. This thresholding operation effectively isolates the central regions of the foreground objects (seeds) from the surrounding background.

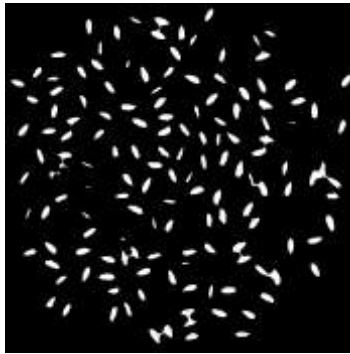


Fig 12. Threshold on distance transform to get sure foreground

5.2.8 Identification of Unknown Region

The unknown region is derived by subtracting the sure foreground from the sure background, utilizing `cv2.subtract(sure_bg, sure_fg)`. This subtraction identifies ambiguous areas where it is uncertain whether the pixels belong to the foreground or background, creating a region that requires further analysis.

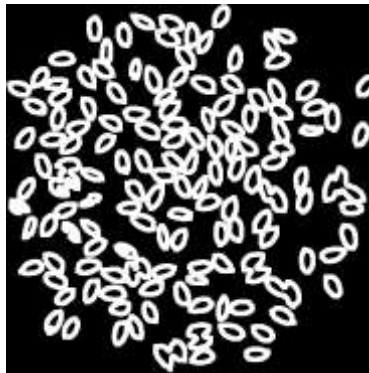


Fig 13. Unknown region (Areas not clearly foreground or background)

5.2.9 Marker Labelling with Connected Components

The next step involves labeling the connected components within the sure foreground using the `cv2.connectedComponents()` function. The markers array is incremented by 1 to ensure that the background is assigned a marker value of 1, while the unknown region is marked as 0. These markers are then used to guide the watershed algorithm for object segmentation.

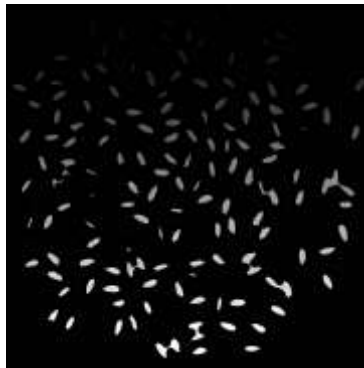


Fig 14. Markers Image (After Labeling)

5.2.10 Watershed Segmentation

The watershed algorithm[13] is applied using `cv2.watershed(img, markers)`, where the markers array generated earlier is used as input. Watershed segmentation treats the markers as seed points and floods the foreground regions. The algorithm detects boundaries and segments overlapping objects (seeds) by identifying the ridges between these regions. This step is essential for distinguishing seeds that are touching or partially occluded.



Fig 15. Watershed Segmentation Image

5.2.11 Final Image with Labeled Seeds

Following watershed segmentation, contours around each detected seed are drawn using `cv2.drawContours()` and labeled with `cv2.putText()`. For each seed, features such as Area, MajorAxisLength, MinorAxisLength, Eccentricity, ConvexArea, EquivDiameter, Extent, Perimeter, Roundness, and AspectRatio are calculated. These features are then fed into a trained CNN model, which has been trained on a dataset with these features labeled as Jasmine or Gonen. If the model does not classify the seed as either Jasmine or Gonen, it is categorized as Unknown and labeled in red. This approach aids in visualizing and identifying the seed types effectively.

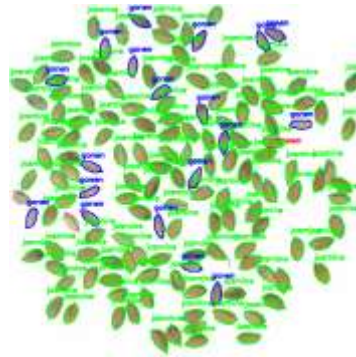


Fig 16. Output Image with labeled seeds

5.2.12 Seed Count and Classification

The total number of detected seeds is calculated by counting the number of identified contours. This is achieved by determining the length of the seeds list, which stores the contours of the detected seeds. The seeds are classified based on their contour area and labeled accordingly. The seed count is displayed as the total number of seeds detected in the image.



Fig 17. Seed count and classification

6. CONCLUSION

In this study, we presented a comprehensive approach for accurately classifying paddy seed varieties, specifically distinguishing between "jasmine" and "gonen" types, by integrating machine learning with advanced image processing techniques. The combination of neural network-based classification and precise image segmentation through watershed methods has proven effective in isolating individual seeds, even in challenging scenarios with overlapping grains. By leveraging key morphological features like Area, MajorAxisLength, MinorAxisLength, Eccentricity, ConvexArea, EquivDiameter, Extent, Perimeter, Roundness, AspectRation the system successfully classifies each seed, enabling both consumers and farmers to verify the authenticity of paddy seeds.

Experimental results highlight the accuracy and robustness of our method, with the model demonstrating high classification accuracy across multiple test scenarios. This framework, being both scalable and accessible, offers a viable solution for quality control in agricultural seed markets. It can help prevent fraudulent labeling and ensure that farmers plant the intended high-quality seed varieties, directly supporting agricultural productivity and consumer trust.

7. FUTURE SCOPE

This study's approach to paddy seed classification can be expanded to improve utility and applicability in agricultural contexts. First, incorporating more paddy varieties beyond "jasmine" and "gonen" will make the model more versatile. Future work could also involve using advanced feature extraction techniques, such as CNN-based models, to automate feature selection and further boost classification accuracy. Additionally, adapting the system for real-time classification on mobile or edge devices would allow for immediate, on-site seed verification, directly benefiting farmers and agricultural inspectors. Optimizing segmentation techniques to handle more complex cases with overlapping seeds could also enhance robustness and reliability.

Moreover, adapting the system to various field conditions, including lighting and background variability, would make it suitable for real-world applications. Integrating multimodal data, such as color, texture, or genetic markers, could add depth to classification accuracy, making the system more comprehensive. Developing a user-friendly interface, perhaps through a mobile application, would make the tool easily accessible to farmers, inspectors, and distributors, supporting wider adoption. These advancements could transform this seed classification system into a reliable, practical tool for agricultural quality control, ultimately boosting productivity and consumer trust.

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