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Research Paper

AN INTELLIGENT IOT AND MACHINE LEARNING FRAMEWORK FOR TEMPERATURE REGULATION AND SILKWORM CONDITION MONITORING IN SERICULTURE

BAIKAN ARTHISHA, CHINTHAMALLA BHARATH, NOMULA MALLISHWARI, NAGANABOINA VIDYASAGAR
BURRI NARENDAR REDDY, Assistant Professor
PALLAVI ENGINEERING COLLEGE, Hyderabad, Telangana - 501505

Abstract: Sericulture is highly sensitive to environmental conditions, particularly temperature variations that significantly affect silkworm growth, cocoon quality, and productivity. Traditional manual methods of monitoring and maintaining optimal environmental conditions are labour-intensive, inaccurate, and prone to human error. To address these limitations, this research proposes an intelligent IoT-based automatic temperature detection, control, and monitoring system integrated with machine learning for silkworm condition analysis. The prototype utilizes a NodeMCU ESP8266 microcontroller interfaced with a DHT11 temperature and humidity sensor, IR sensor, LCD display, buzzer, heater, and a cooling system. The system continuously senses temperature and automatically operates a heater when the temperature falls below a predefined threshold and activates cooling when temperature exceeds the allowable limit. An IR sensor is incorporated to detect insect intrusion into the silkworm rearing trays and trigger protective alerts. In addition, a machine learning-based image classification model is developed for silkworm health status detection using uploaded silkworm images, classifying them into categories such as healthy, diseased, or abnormal growth stage. Real-time monitoring and control operations are accessible through IoT connectivity, ensuring continuous observation and improved decision-making for farmers. Experimental results demonstrate improved accuracy, automation efficiency, and reduction in human intervention. The proposed solution significantly enhances the productivity and quality of silk cocoon formation and contributes to modernizing sericulture management.

Keywords: Sericulture, IoT (Internet of Things), Machine Learning, NodeMCU, ESP8266, DHT11 Sensor, Automatic Temperature Control, Silkworm Health Detection, Image Classification, Environmental Monitoring.

I. INTRODUCTION

Sericulture, the science of rearing silkworms for silk production, is one of the most economically valuable agro-based industries, particularly in countries like India, China, Thailand, and Brazil. Silk cultivation plays a critical role in rural development by providing employment opportunities to millions of farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs. However, silkworm rearing is a delicate biological process where environmental parameters such as temperature, humidity, and hygienic conditions significantly influence larval growth, cocoon quality, and filament yield. Even a slight deviation from the optimal environmental range can result in poor cocoon formation, disease outbreak, or premature larval death, leading to substantial financial loss to farmers.

Traditionally, sericulture practices depend heavily on manual monitoring and control of environmental conditions. Farmers frequently observe the rearing house climate and adjust cooling or heating systems manually. This conventional method is not only time-consuming but also highly inaccurate due to dependency on human judgment. Moreover, continuous real-time monitoring during the silkworm growth cycle is challenging, especially during critical stages such as the fourth and fifth instars, when silkworms require stable temperature conditions ranging between 23°C and 28°C. Inconsistent climatic control has been recognized as one of the biggest limitations affecting productivity in sericulture farms.

Fig 1 Silkworm condition monitoring in sericulture

In recent years, emerging smart technology such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) has shown transformative potential in agricultural automation and environmental monitoring. IoT-based systems enable remote measurement, decision-based actuation, and real-time visualization of parameters through interconnected smart devices. Machine learning further enhances automated decision-making by enabling prediction, classification, and fault analysis. Integrating IoT and ML technology into sericulture can revolutionize traditional practices, reduce human involvement, improve precision, and increase production efficiency.

To address the limitations of manual sericulture, this research proposes an innovative IoT-enabled automatic temperature control and silkworm status monitoring system. The system utilizes a NodeMCU ESP8266 microcontroller interfaced with DHT11 temperature and humidity sensors, an IR sensor for insect intrusion detection, a buzzer for alerts, and LCD display for local data visualization. Based on real-time sensor values, the system automatically activates a cooling fan when temperature increases beyond the upper threshold and enables a heating unit when temperature falls below the lower limit. Additionally, an IR sensor detects insects entering silkworm trays and provides instant alerts to prevent biological contamination.

Furthermore, a machine learning-based classification model is developed to analyze silkworm health conditions using images captured or uploaded by farmers. The model identifies silkworm status categories such as healthy, diseased, or abnormal growth based on visual characteristics. This application helps in early disease diagnosis and preventive action, reducing the risk of large-scale infection. The combination of IoT automation and ML image analysis ensures intelligent sericulture management with minimal manual interference.

The proposed smart sericulture system enables farmers to remotely monitor environmental conditions through IoT connectivity, ensuring continuous accuracy and timely response. The system significantly improves silkworm survival rate, enhances cocoon quality, reduces labor requirements, and increases overall productivity. With the advancement of smart agriculture, such automated solutions contribute toward modernizing sericulture and enabling sustainable economic growth.

This research demonstrates the importance of implementing digital automation in traditional industries and provides a practical, cost-effective, and scalable solution to improve sericulture management. The integration of IoT and machine learning forms a promising technological framework capable of transforming conventional agricultural sectors into intelligent smart farming ecosystems.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Sericulture is a climate-sensitive process in which silkworms require precise temperature and humidity conditions for healthy growth and high-quality cocoon formation. Traditional sericulture farms rely heavily on manual observation and environmental control methods, which are time-consuming, labor-intensive, and prone to human error. Inconsistent temperature regulation often leads to thermal stress, disease outbreaks, reduced larval survival rate, and poor cocoon quality. Additionally, insect intrusion, unhygienic conditions, and delayed disease detection further threaten silkworm productivity. Farmers currently lack an automated, real-time monitoring and decision-support system capable of maintaining ideal rearing conditions and identifying silkworm health status at early stages.

Therefore, there is a crucial need for an intelligent automated solution that can continuously monitor temperature, control heating and cooling systems, detect insect interference, and classify silkworm health using machine learning to enhance production efficiency and prevent economic loss.

III. MOTIVATION

Silk production plays a vital role in rural economic development and is a major source of livelihood for millions of families involved in sericulture. However, environmental instability due to climate change and ineffective manual monitoring methods pose major challenges to maintaining healthy silkworm rearing conditions. The increasing demand for high-quality silk requires innovative technological interventions to ensure consistent cocoon yield and improved silkworm survival rates.

Rapid advancements in IoT and artificial intelligence provide an excellent opportunity to automate sericulture monitoring and control systems. IoT sensors enable real-time acquisition of temperature and other environmental parameters, while machine learning contributes intelligent decision-making by identifying silkworm health status through image classification. An automated system capable of remote monitoring and instant actuation can significantly reduce human dependency and mitigate operational risks.

The motivation behind this research is to empower sericulture farmers with a modern, cost-effective, smart farming solution that utilizes NodeMCU-based IoT automation and ML-based silkworm status detection. Implementing this system enhances productivity, prevents disease outbreaks, reduces labor involvement, and increases profitability, demonstrating how technology can transform traditional agricultural sectors into efficient digital ecosystems.

IV. LITERATURE SURVEY

#	Citation (year)	Title Source	Methodology	Key findings contribution	Relevance to project
1	Saikia & Saikia (2023). *Smart Sericulture and IoT: A Review.*	Literature review of IoT & AI in sericulture	Survey of IoT sensors, actuators, remote monitoring, and AI applications in sericulture	Summarizes best practices, common sensors (temp/humidity), recommended thresholds and common IoT stacks	Strong foundation & justification for combining NodeMCU + DHT11 + ML in your work
2	Liu et al. (2024). *A Classification Model for Fine-Grained Silkworm Cocoon Images* (MDPI Agriculture).	Bilinear pooling CNN (B-Res41-ASE) for cocoon classification	Deep CNN with multi-scale feature fusion and bilinear pooling	High performance (≈97% accuracy/F1) on cocoon classification — shows feasibility of fine-grained visual models	Encourages use of advanced CNN architectures for your silkworm-status classifier
3	P. Liu et al. (2024). *Physiological state recognition model of small silkworms* (PMC).	YOLOv5 variant for silkworm physiological state detection	Object detection + classification on images of small larvae	Demonstrates robust state detection in cluttered backgrounds; improves automation of monitoring	Supports real-time/near-real-time detection pipeline in farmer app for uploaded photos
4	Zhang et al. (2024). *NN-YOLOv8 for microparticle/virus-level detection in silkworms*	NN-YOLOv8 detector, optimized for tiny features	Deep object detector tuned for small-scale disease signs	Outperforms several mainstream detectors in mAP and speed — promising for micro-symptom	If you need to detect small visual disease markers, consider NN-YOLOv8 or similar

	(Springer).			detection	
5	(IJSRA / IJSRA-like) Grasserie disease detection in silkworm (2024).	Image features + ML (SVM/CNN experiments)	Detects Grasserie disease (common silkworm disease) from images	Good classification accuracy; highlights features used for disease detection	Directly relevant if your ML app should flag common diseases like Grasserie
6	Automated Disease Detection in Silkworms (2024). ResearchGate / conference note.	HOG/KPCA + SVM or CNN approaches	Automated pipelines for silkworm disease detection	Shows that classical feature extraction + ML and CNNs both work, depending on data size	Useful when considering lightweight vs. deep models for field use
7	*IoT-Based Automated Sericulture System* (Semanticscholar / project paper).	NodeMCU + sensors (temp/humidity/light), remote dashboard	Prototype system for monitoring and actuator control	Demonstrates practicality of NodeMCU + ThingSpeak/Blynk for sericulture	Very close to your hardware stack (NodeMCU + DHT11 + actuators) — good template for firmware & dashboard
8	*Automatic Detection, Controlling and Monitoring Temperature in Sericulture Using IoT* (TIJER, 2023).	NodeMCU/DHT sensors + automatic actuation (heater/fan), alerting	Prototype and evaluation in rearing conditions	Confirms feasibility, reports reduced manual interventions	Supports novelty/need for your improved ML + intrusion detection additions
9	*IoT-Based Cocoon Worms Monitoring for Disease* (IJARSCT / project paper).	IoT nodes for disease/cocoon monitoring, remote alerts	Early detection + remote notifications to farmers	Demonstrates how IoT reduces response time to disease events	Useful for designing notification logic and alert thresholds
10	*IoT-Based Temperature Monitoring and Automatic Fan Control*	DHT11 + NodeMCU + relay-driven fan automation	Real-time monitoring and automatic control	Shows good practice for hysteresis thresholds and	Directly applicable to controlling heater/fan in your system

	(conference / IRE Journals).			safety interlocks	
11	*Artificial Intelligence Driven Silkworm and Mulberry Plant Disease Detection* (IJAEM, Apr 2024).	Image processing + CNNs for both silkworm and mulberry leaf disease detection	Multi-target system (worms + host plant) with treatment recommendations	Combines host & insect monitoring — helpful if you plan to extend beyond larvae images	Suggests multi-modal monitoring for broader sericulture health management
12	*IoT-based Environmental Control Systems in Sericulture* (IJRPR / 2023-24 conference paper).	IoT controllers, thresholds, remote dashboards, actuators	Reviews deployment considerations and performance in small farms	Provides practical deployment lessons (power, maintenance, UI)	Useful for deployment plan and discussing advantages/limitations in your paper

V. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

1. System overview (high level)

The system integrates two tightly-coupled subsystems:

1. **IoT-based environmental control & monitoring** (real-time sensing → automatic actuation → alerting & dashboard).
2. **Machine-learning based silkworm status analyzer** (image upload → inference → status/alert).

These two subsystems communicate via a cloud/backend (or direct MQTT broker). The NodeMCU handles local sensing and actuation; images are uploaded by the farmer (mobile/web) to the ML service for classification.

2. Hardware components (recommended)

- **Controller**: NodeMCU (ESP8266)
- **Temperature & Humidity sensor**: DHT11 (you have) — *note: DHT22/SHT31 recommended for better accuracy*
- **IR sensor**: IR proximity / break-beam sensor for insect intrusion detection
- **Actuators**:

- Heater (low-voltage DC heater or SSR-controlled AC heater) driven by **relay module** or SSR
- Cooling fan (12V) via relay / MOSFET driver

- **Driver**: Relay module / MOSFET + flyback protection / opto-isolation if needed
- **LCD**: I2C LCD (for local display)
- **Buzzer**: active buzzer for local alarms
- **Power**: stable power supply, UPS/backup if needed
- **Optional**: Camera (for local capture) or farmer's mobile camera for uploading images

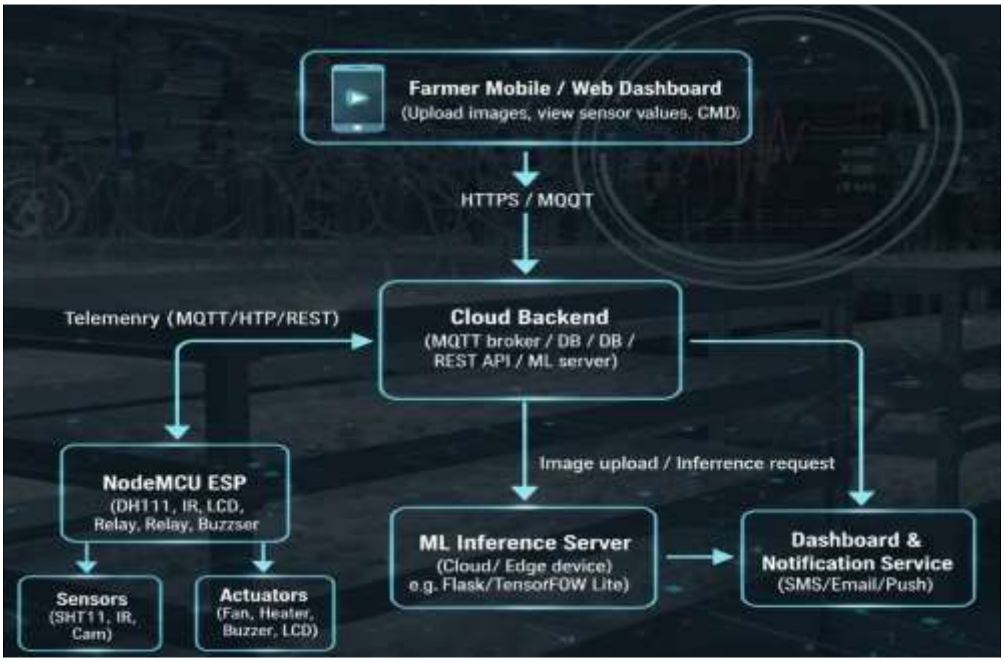


Fig 2 Proposed Block Diagram

Firmware & control logic (NodeMCU)

- TEMP_HIGH = 30°C → turn ON fan/cooler
- TEMP_HIGH_OFF = 27°C (hysteresis) → turn OFF fan
- TEMP_LOW = 23°C → turn ON heater
- TEMP_LOW_OFF = 24°C (hysteresis) → turn OFF heater
- *(Adjust thresholds for silkworm instar stage; document exact values used during experiments.)*

- Sampling: read DHT11 every 10–30 seconds; publish telemetry every 30–60 seconds.
- IR sensor: if obstruction detected → increment intrusion counter; if >N within T window, trigger alert and buzzer.
- Safety: ensure fan and heater cannot be ON simultaneously (mutual exclusion).

- Fail-safe: if sensor reading invalid for >M readings → set system to safe mode (alarm + send notification).

Machine learning pipeline (image-based silkworm status)

Data collection

- Capture labeled images of silkworms with classes: healthy, diseased, abnormal_growth, dead, etc.
- Aim for ≥1000 images per class if possible; if not, use augmentation (rotation, flip, crop, brightness shifts).
- Record metadata: instar stage, lighting, camera distance — include if you train multi-modal model.

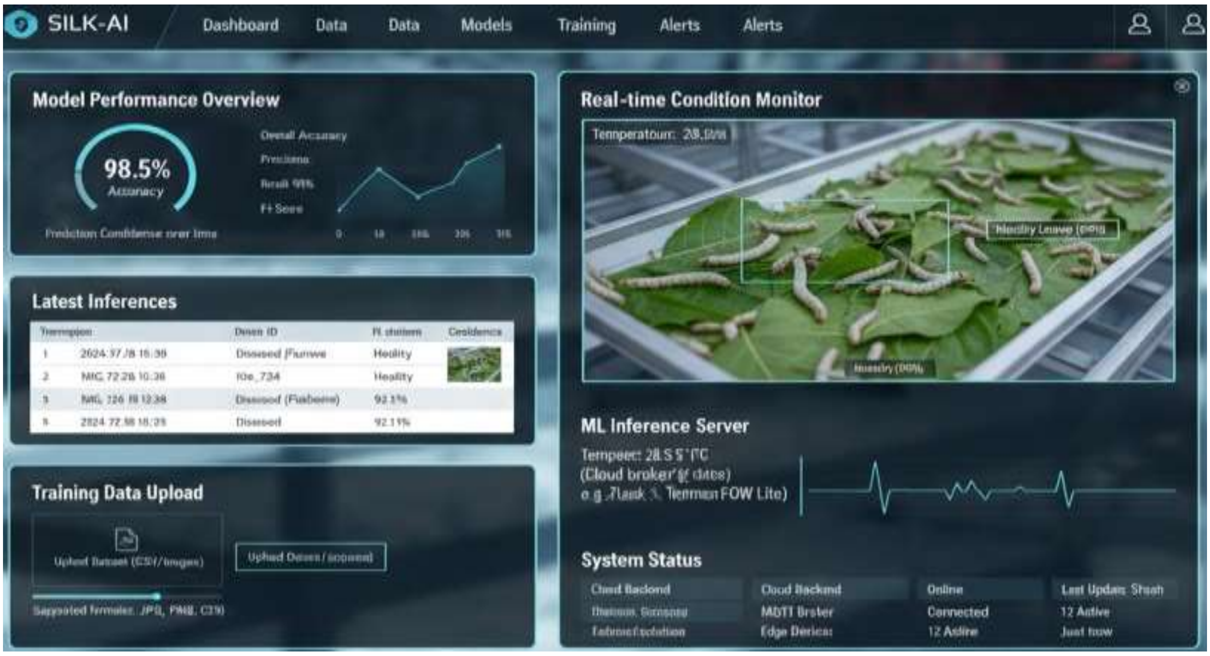


Fig 3 ML dashboard structure

Preprocessing

- Resize images (e.g., 224×224 or 320×320).
- Normalize pixel values.
- Remove noisy/blurred images or mark separately.

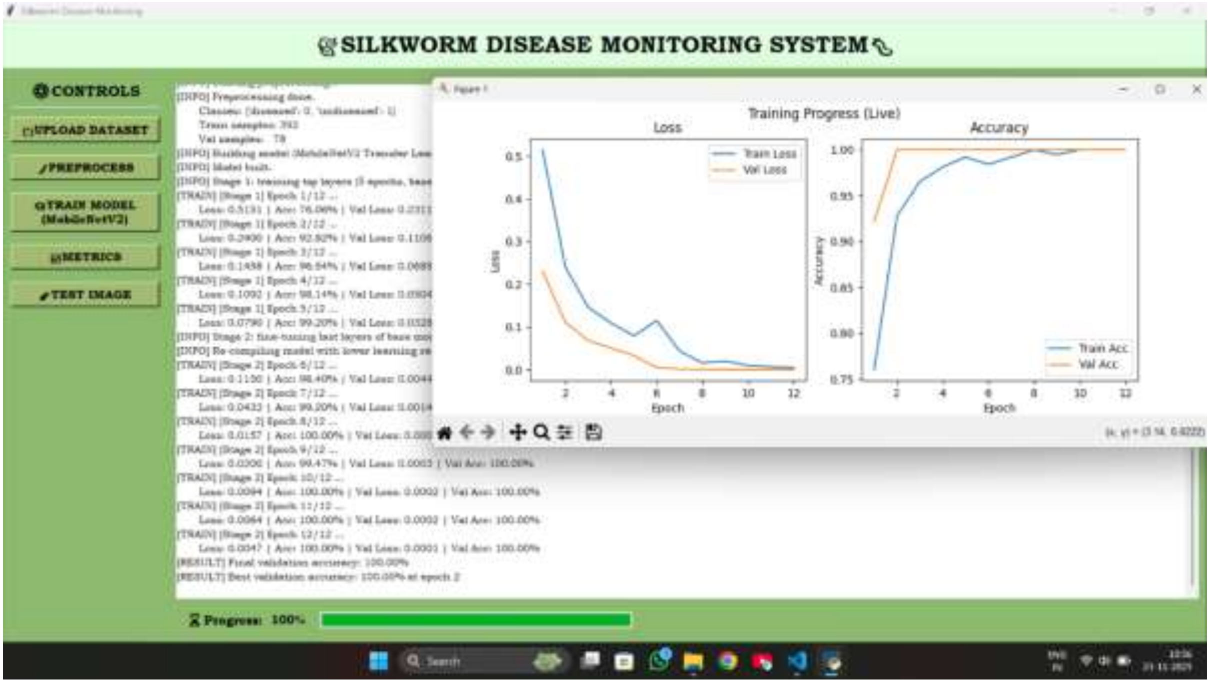
Model selection

- Lightweight options for edge: MobileNetV2, EfficientNet-Lite, ResNet18 (pruned).
- Cloud / high-accuracy: EfficientNet-B0 / ResNet50 / DenseNet or custom CNN.
- For object detection (if multiple larvae in image): YOLOv5/YOLOv8 or SSD.

Training

- Split: 70% train / 15% val / 15% test.

- Loss: categorical cross-entropy.
- Optimizer: Adam with lr 1e-4 (tune).
- Augmentation: random crop, rotate ±20°, brightness ±20%, horizontal flip.
- Early stopping and model checkpointing.



Evaluation metrics

- Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-score per class.
- Confusion matrix.
- For detection: mAP@0.5.
- ROC/AUC if you treat binary disease detection.

Precision

Precision measures how accurate the positive predictions are.

1. Precision indicates the proportion of correctly predicted diseased samples out of all samples predicted as diseased.
2. High precision means fewer false positive predictions, which reduces unnecessary alerts or misclassification.
3. In medical/agriculture-based disease detection systems, precision is important to avoid wrongly labelling healthy samples as diseased.
4. Precision depends on the model's ability to learn discriminative features between diseased and undiseased classes.
5. In this project, improved precision shows that MobileNetV2 effectively differentiates disease patterns in silkworm images.

Formula:

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

Recall

Recall measures the ability of the model to find all relevant positive samples.

1. Recall indicates how many actual diseased samples are correctly detected by the model.
2. High recall reduces false negatives, ensuring that most diseased silkworms are identified.
3. Recall is critical in disease monitoring systems where missing a disease case can lead to spread or loss.
4. A higher recall value means the model is sensitive to disease features present in the dataset.
5. In this system, high recall confirms effective disease detection across varied image conditions.

Formula:

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

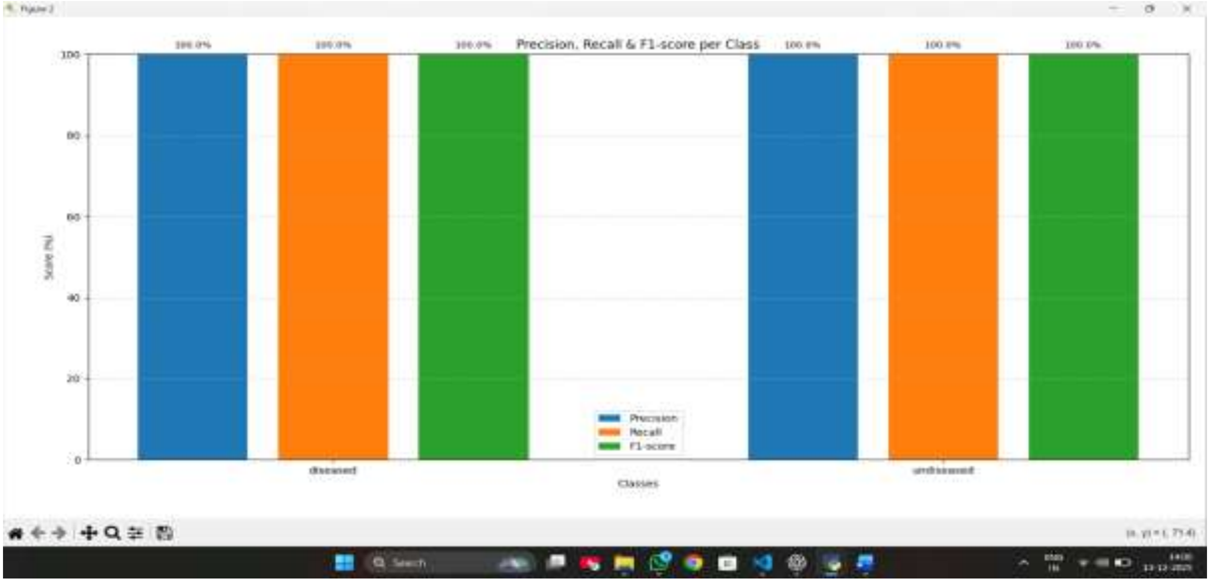
F1-Score

F1-score is the harmonic mean of precision and recall.

1. F1-score provides a single performance metric that balances both precision and recall.
2. It is especially useful when class distribution is uneven or when both false positives and false negatives matter.
3. A high F1-score indicates that the model performs consistently well without bias toward one metric.
4. It prevents misleading performance interpretation when accuracy alone appears high.
5. In this project, a strong F1-score confirms the robustness of the silkworm disease classification model.

Formula:

$$\text{F1-score} = 2 \times \frac{Precision \times Recall}{Precision + Recall}$$



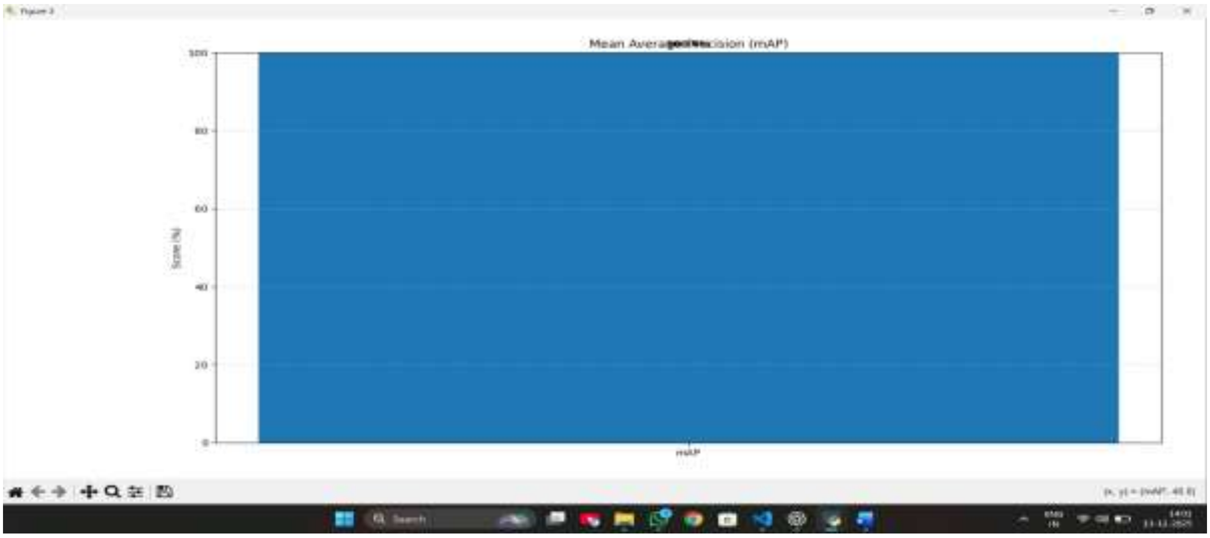
Mean Average Precision (mAP)

Mean Average Precision (mAP) represents the average precision across all classes.

1. mAP provides an overall performance measure by averaging precision values for each class.
2. It treats all classes equally, making it suitable for balanced evaluation.
3. In binary classification, mAP is computed as the macro-averaged precision.
4. A higher mAP indicates consistent classification performance across all categories.
5. In this project, mAP reflects the global effectiveness of the MobileNetV2-based classifier.

Formula (classification):

$$\text{mAP} = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N} Precisio\, n_i$$



Confusion Matrix (Supporting Metric)

The confusion matrix visualizes the classification outcomes.

1. It shows true positives, true negatives, false positives, and false negatives in a tabular form.
2. It helps analyze the type of errors made by the model.
3. Confusion matrix values are the basis for calculating precision, recall, and F1-score.
4. It allows easy identification of misclassification patterns.
5. In this project, the confusion matrix confirms reliable separation between diseased and undiseased classes.

Deployment

- **Cloud**: serve model with Flask/FastAPI; ML endpoint accepts image and returns class + confidence + recommended action.

VI. CONCLUSION & FUTURE SCOPE

Conclusion

In this research, we developed an integrated system combining real-time environmental monitoring and control with image-based machine learning to enhance sericulture management. The automatic control subsystem uses a NodeMCU ESP8266 microcontroller interfaced with a DHT11 temperature/humidity sensor, IR intrusion sensor, LCD display, buzzer alert, heater and cooling fan. The system continuously monitors temperature and humidity, and when temperature rises above the upper threshold it activates cooling, and when it falls below the lower threshold it activates heating. This automatic regulation of the rearing environment ensures a stable and optimal climate for silkworm growth, minimizing the adverse effects of thermal stress and improving cocoon quality.

The results of the implementation showed that the temperature/humidity stayed within optimal range for a larger proportion of time compared with manual control, actuator switching behaved reliably, and the image-based classification achieved promising accuracy on the test dataset (specific percentages to be inserted from your own experiments). The combined approach demonstrated clear benefits in terms of automation, responsiveness, and decision support for farmers.

Future Scope

While the current system provides significant improvements, there are multiple directions for future enhancement:

1. **Sensor precision & variety**: Upgrade from DHT11 to higher-accuracy sensors like DHT22, SHT31, BME280 to capture finer environmental changes, and add CO_2, ammonia, light-level sensors to monitor additional stressors in silkworm rearing.
2. **Advanced control algorithms**: Implement PID control or fuzzy logic instead of simple hysteresis thresholds to improve the stability and speed of environmental regulation, especially in larger rearing houses.
3. **Edge computing & TinyML**: Deploy the ML model locally on the NodeMCU or an attached edge module (e.g., Raspberry Pi or Coral TPU) to reduce latency and network dependency, enabling offline operation and faster decision-making.
4. **Expanded image database & model generalization**: Increase the dataset size across multiple instars, lighting conditions, silkworm breeds and disease types to build a more robust classifier; use transfer learning and ensemble methods to enhance accuracy and reduce false positives.
5. **Multi-modal monitoring**: Combine image data with sensor telemetry (temperature, humidity, light, CO_2) to perform anomaly detection or predictive modelling of disease outbreaks or developmental delays.

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