

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
CAWANGAN PULAU PINANG**

**A DEEP LEARNING CNN MODEL FOR
NUTRIENT DEFICIENCY DETECTION IN
LETTUCE CULTIVARS**

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**BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING (HONS)
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC
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February 2025

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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ABSTRACT

The growing global population has led to a significant increase in food demand, necessitating higher agricultural production for human consumption, animal feed, and food processing. In agricultural countries like Malaysia, vegetable farmers often struggle with identifying nutrient deficiencies in lettuce, particularly deficiencies in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (NPK). This issue poses a major challenge, as traditional manual detection methods are time-consuming, prone to errors, and can damage the lettuce, rendering them inefficient. This paper aims to address this challenge by designing deep neural network models capable of accurately detecting nutrient deficiencies in lettuce. Specifically, the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) technique is implemented to classify nutrient levels effectively. The study involved training 200 lettuce samples using four CNN models—VGG16, AlexNet, VGG19, and a newly proposed CNN architecture. The samples were categorized based on three nutrient deficiency types, utilizing colour values in the RGB colour space. The models were trained iteratively for 60 loops, achieving a detection accuracy of 94.53%. This demonstrates the potential of CNNs in addressing nutrient deficiencies in crops. Future work could focus on enhancing the model's performance through the use of advanced network architectures, further solidifying its applicability in precision agriculture.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to convey the most appreciation towards the Almighty Allah S.W.T for allowing me to have composure and strength to accomplish this thesis. First and Preeminent my deepest appreciation goes to my supervisor Dr Siti Juliana Abu Bakar for his guidance and support rendered during the whole research period. He has provided special input and encouragement that contributed to the development of this work.

I would like to thank both of my panels; Dr Shabinar Abdul Hamid and Dr Ahmad Puad Ismail for their intense opinions, ideas, and critiques that assisted us in achieving maximum results. Their specialized knowledge and different angles in this study have enhanced and advanced my understanding of the field under study. I know that I have been able to achieve a lot with the backing of my colleagues and friends who have been able to offer support, ideas and resources. Their powerful support and faith in my skills and capabilities have turned out to be a motivation towards meeting my set goals.

Last but not least, I want to thank my family in the end the most. The deep love they have shown, their maturity and the unrestricted assistance provided during this whole experience was never lacking. Their faith in me inspirited me to seek knowledge and strive for improvement. In summary, I owe a debt of gratitude to the people alluded to above as well as to numerous other people who over the years have helped with the thesis in one way or another. Their kind support and guidance also were an immense help towards the successful completion of this piece of work done. Alhamdulillah

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