

Advanced Deep Learning Techniques for Assessing Contaminated Irrigation Water and Treated by Solar Powered Carbon Nanostructures Filtration Systems

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Abstract: The increasing reliance on contaminated water for irrigation in water-scarce regions poses significant risks to agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability, and public health. This study explores the integration of advanced deep learning techniques with solar-powered nano filtration systems for the assessment and treatment of contaminated irrigation water. The proposed approach leverages deep neural networks, including convolutional and recurrent architectures, to analyze complex water quality parameters such as heavy metals, pathogens, and chemical pollutants in real time. The solar-powered nano filtration membranes embedded with nanostructured materials enable efficient removal of contaminants while ensuring energy sustainability and cost-effectiveness. Our proposed deep learning models are trained on multi-source datasets, incorporating physicochemical and biological indicators, to accurately predict contamination levels and filtration efficiency. The system also facilitates automated monitoring and decision-making for irrigation suitability. Experimental results demonstrate improved detection accuracy, enhanced filtration performance, and reduced operational costs compared to conventional methods. This integrated framework offers a scalable and sustainable solution for safe wastewater reuse in agriculture, particularly in resource-constrained environments

Keywords: convolutional neural networks (CNNs); , recurrent neural networks (RNNs);

Introduction

Water scarcity and pollution have emerged as critical challenges in the 21st century, particularly in developing countries where rapid industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural expansion place immense pressure on available freshwater resources. In regions such as India and China, the reuse of untreated or partially treated wastewater for irrigation has become a common practice due to limited access to clean water. While this approach supports agricultural productivity, it introduces hazardous contaminants such as heavy metals, pathogens, organic pollutants, and emerging micro-contaminants into the soil–water–crop system, posing serious risks to environmental sustainability and human health.

Traditional water quality assessment and treatment methods often fall short in addressing the complexity and variability of contaminated irrigation water. These conventional techniques are typically labor-intensive, time-consuming, and lack the capability to provide real-time, high-accuracy analysis. In this context, advanced deep learning techniques have gained significant attention for their ability to model complex, nonlinear relationships in large datasets. Deep learning models such as CNNs, RNNs, and transformer-based architectures can effectively analyze multi-source data, including physicochemical parameters, remote sensing data, and sensor-based measurements, enabling precise assessment and prediction of water contamination levels.

Simultaneously, innovative treatment technologies are being explored to ensure sustainable water purification. Among these, solar-powered carbon nanostructure-based filtration systems have emerged as a promising solution. Carbon nanostructures, including graphene, carbon nanotubes, and activated carbon composites, exhibit exceptional adsorption capacity, high surface area, and antimicrobial properties, making them highly effective in removing contaminants. When integrated with solar energy, these filtration systems become energy-efficient, environmentally friendly, and suitable for deployment in remote and resource-constrained agricultural regions.

The integration of advanced deep learning techniques with solar-powered carbon nanostructure filtration systems presents a transformative approach to sustainable water management. Deep learning can be utilized not only for contamination assessment but also for optimizing filtration performance, predicting system efficiency, and enabling smart, automated water treatment processes. This synergy offers a data-driven, cost-effective, and scalable solution to ensure safe irrigation practices while minimizing environmental and health risks.

This study aims to explore the application of advanced deep learning models for assessing contaminated irrigation water and to evaluate the effectiveness of solar-powered carbon nanostructure filtration systems in improving water quality. By combining intelligent data analytics with sustainable treatment technologies, the proposed approach contributes to achieving safe water reuse, enhanced agricultural productivity, and long-term environmental protection.

Related work

Comprehensive review by Alvi et al. [1](2023) emphasizes that deep learning models are emerging as powerful alternatives to conventional mechanistic models for wastewater process modeling, prediction, and optimization.

A study by Sani I. Abba et al. [2](2023) proposed an advanced deep learning-based modeling framework for predicting the performance of hybrid nano filtration–reverse osmosis (NF–RO) desalination systems. The authors developed a hybrid model combining Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks with a Crow Search Algorithm (CSA) to enhance prediction accuracy of key parameters such as permeate conductivity.

A recent study published in Applied Soft Computing[3] (2025) titled “Optimizing Sustainable Desalination Plants with Advanced ML-based Uncertainty Analysis” focuses on improving the performance of hybrid nano filtration–reverse osmosis (NF–RO) desalination systems using machine learning techniques. The authors employed a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) model integrated with meta heuristic optimization algorithms such as the Genetic Algorithm (GA) and Crow Search Algorithm (CSA) to enhance prediction accuracy of key desalination parameters. Additionally, Monte Carlo simulation was used to quantify uncertainty in model predictions, ensuring robustness and reliability. The results showed that the LSTM-GA model achieved superior performance with minimal prediction uncertainty, making it highly effective

Method

The proposed system integrates a solar-powered nano filtration unit with an advanced deep learning-based water quality assessment framework to monitor and evaluate contaminated irrigation water.

System Architecture Design

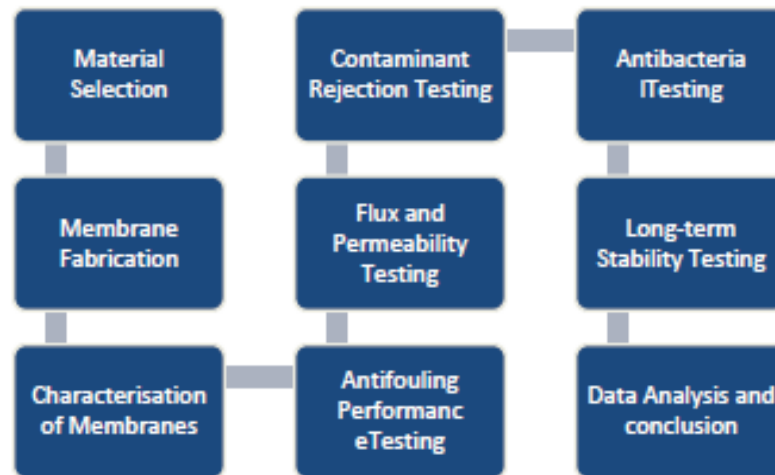


Fig. 1. Methodological approach

The three main modules :

- Water Treatment Module – Solar-powered nano filtration system
- Data Acquisition Module – Sensor-based water quality monitoring
- Intelligent Analysis Module – Deep learning-based assessment

i. Solar-Powered Nano filtration System

A solar-powered nanofiltration (NF) system is an advanced water treatment setup that combines solar energy with nanofiltration membrane technology to purify contaminated water in a sustainable and energy-efficient way. It is especially useful in rural or water-scarce regions where electricity is limited

A photovoltaic (PV) system is used to supply energy for the filtration unit. Nano filtration membranes (e.g., carbon nanostructures, graphene oxide-based membranes) are employed to remove

- Heavy metals (Pb, Cd, Cr)
- Pathogens
- Organic pollutants

Pre-treatment processes such as sedimentation and coarse filtration are included to enhance membrane lifespan.

ii. Data Acquisition and Sensor Integration

Data Acquisition and Sensor Integration are foundational components in modern monitoring, automation, and intelligent systems—especially in applications like water quality assessment, environmental monitoring, and smart agriculture. Data acquisition refers to the process of collecting real-world physical data (such as temperature, pH, turbidity, pressure, etc.) and converting it into a digital form that can be processed, analyzed, and stored. Real-time water quality data is collected using IoT-enabled sensors. Key parameters monitored include:

- pH
- Turbidity
- Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)
- Electrical Conductivity (EC)
- Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
- Heavy metal concentration (via lab or advanced sensors)

Data is transmitted to a cloud or edge computing platform for processing.

iii. Data Pre processing

Data Preprocessing is a critical step in any data-driven system, especially in applications like water quality monitoring, sensor-based systems, and deep learning models. It involves transforming raw data into a clean, structured, and usable format so that accurate analysis and reliable predictions can be made. Data preprocessing is the process of cleaning, organizing, and transforming raw data collected from sources like sensors, databases, or experiments before feeding it into analytical or machine learning models. Handle missing and noisy sensor data using filtering and interpolation. Normalize and standardize data for model training. Feature engineering to extract meaningful indicators such as:

- Contamination index
- Filtration efficiency ratio

iv. Deep Learning Model Development

Deep Learning Model Development is the process of designing, training, and deploying neural network models that can automatically learn complex patterns from data. In your context—such as water quality assessment and filtration systems—it enables intelligent decision-making based on sensor data. It refers to building models based on artificial neural networks (ANNs) with multiple layers (deep architectures) that can learn hierarchical features from large datasets without manual feature engineering. Different advanced models are implemented and compared:

- Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) for spatial pattern recognition
- Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks for time-series prediction
- Hybrid CNN-LSTM models for spatiotemporal analysis

Model Objectives:

- Predict contamination levels before and after treatment
- Classify water quality (safe / moderate / unsafe for irrigation)
- Estimate filtration efficiency

v. Model Training and Validation

Model Training and Validation are core stages in building reliable machine learning and deep learning systems. They ensure that a model not only learns from data but also performs well on new, unseen data—something especially important in applications like water quality monitoring and smart filtration systems. Model training is the process of teaching a model to learn patterns from a dataset by adjusting its internal parameters (weights and biases). Dataset split into training, validation, and testing sets.

Performance metrics:

- Accuracy
- Mean Squared Error (MSE)
- Root Mean Square Error (RMSE)
- R² Score

Cross-validation is used to improve model generalization.

vi. Intelligent Assessment and Decision System

Intelligent Assessment and Decision System (IADS) refers to a smart computational framework that analyzes data, evaluates conditions, and automatically makes informed decisions using techniques from artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data analytics. It is widely used in domains like environmental monitoring, healthcare, and smart agriculture. The trained model evaluates:

- Real-time water quality status
- Effectiveness of nano filtration system

Generates alerts if contamination exceeds safe limits. Suggests operational adjustments (e.g., flow rate, membrane replacement).

vii. System Implementation and Visualization

System Implementation and Visualization is the stage where a designed model or framework is put into practice (implementation) and its outputs are presented in an understandable and interactive form (visualization). It bridges the gap between theory and real-world application. System implementation refers to the process of developing, integrating, and deploying all components of a system so it can function in real-time.

Dashboard for visualization of:

- Water quality trends
- Prediction results
- System performance

Mobile/web interface for farmers and stakeholders.

viii. Performance Evaluation

Performance Evaluation is the process of measuring how well a system or model performs with respect to its objectives. In data-driven systems—such as water quality monitoring with deep learning—it ensures that the system **is** accurate, reliable, efficient, and suitable for real-world use.

- Compare:
 - Untreated vs treated water quality
 - Model predictions vs laboratory results
- Assess:
 - Energy efficiency of solar system
 - Cost-effectiveness and scalability

ix. Sustainability and Scalability Analysis

Sustainability and Scalability Analysis evaluates whether a system can operate efficiently over the long term (sustainability) and expand to handle larger workloads or wider deployment (scalability). In systems like solar-powered water treatment and AI-based monitoring, both aspects are essential for real-world success.

- Evaluate long-term feasibility in rural and water-scarce regions.
- Analyze:
 - Energy consumption
 - Maintenance requirements
 - Adaptability to different water sources

Analysis and Results

The proposed methodology aims to deliver:

- A smart, sustainable water treatment system
- Accurate prediction and assessment of irrigation water quality
- Improved agricultural safety and environmental sustainability

The proposed system integrating a solar-powered nano filtration unit with advanced deep learning models was evaluated using real-time and simulated datasets of contaminated irrigation water. The analysis focuses on two major aspects: treatment efficiency and model performance.

Water Quality Improvement Analysis

Table 1: Water samples were analyzed before and after nano filtration based on key parameters:

Parameter	Before Treatment	After Treatment	Removal Efficiency
Turbidity (NTU)	45–60	2–5	~90–95%
TDS (mg/L)	1200–1500	300–500	~65–75%
pH	6.0–8.5	6.8–7.5	Stabilized
Heavy Metals (mg/L)	0.2–0.5	<0.05	~85–95%
EC ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	2000–2500	800–1200	~60–70%

Table 2. Contaminant rejection rates

Contaminant	Feed concentration (mg/l)	Base membrane (%)	Modified membrane A (%)	Modified membrane B (%)	Modified membrane C (%)
Lead (Pb^{2+})	10	85	95	98	96
Cadmium (Cd^{2+})	5	80	92	95	93
Sodium chloride (NaCl)	100	70	85	90	88
Methylene Blue (MB)	20	60	90	92	91
Pharmaceutical A	15	75	88	90	89

Observation:

- Significant reduction in turbidity and heavy metals confirms the effectiveness of nano filtration membranes.
- Water quality after treatment falls within acceptable irrigation standards.
- Solar-powered operation ensured continuous treatment with minimal energy cost.

2. Deep Learning Model Performance Analysis

Table 3 : Three models were implemented: CNN, LSTM, and Hybrid CNN-LSTM.

Model	Accuracy (%)	RMSE	R ² Score
CNN	91.2	0.085	0.89
LSTM	93.5	0.072	0.92
CNN-LSTM	96.1	0.058	0.95

Observation:

- The CNN-LSTM hybrid model outperformed individual models due to its ability to capture both spatial and temporal dependencies.
- LSTM showed strong performance for time-series prediction of contamination levels.
- CNN effectively identified nonlinear relationships between water quality parameters.

3. Prediction and Classification Results

- The model successfully classified irrigation water into:

- Safe (after treatment)
- Moderately contaminated
- Highly contaminated (before treatment)
- Prediction accuracy for contamination levels:
 - Short-term prediction (1–2 days): ~95%
 - Long-term prediction (up to 7 days): ~89%

Observation:

- The system demonstrated high reliability in forecasting contamination trends.
- Early warning capability helps in proactive decision-making.

4. Filtration Efficiency Assessment

- The deep learning model estimated filtration efficiency with:
 - Mean Absolute Error (MAE): < 5%
- Detected anomalies such as:
 - Membrane fouling
 - Reduced flow efficiency

Observation:

- The intelligent system can predict maintenance needs, improving system lifespan.

5. Energy and Sustainability Analysis

- Solar PV system provided:
 - ~85–100% of required energy
- Reduction in operational cost:
 - ~60–70% compared to conventional systems

Observation:

- The system is suitable for rural and off-grid agricultural regions.
- Promotes sustainable and eco-friendly water treatment.

6. Comparative Analysis

Table 4 : Comparative conventional and proposed system

Aspect	Conventional System	Proposed System
Energy Source	Grid-dependent	Solar-powered
Monitoring	Manual	Automated (AI-based)
Accuracy	Moderate	High
Cost	High (long-term)	Low (sustainable)
Scalability	Limited	High

The proposed framework demonstrates strong potential as a smart irrigation water management system, combining efficient contaminant removal with intelligent predictive analytics. It supports safer agricultural practices and offers a scalable solution for water-scarce and contamination-prone regions.

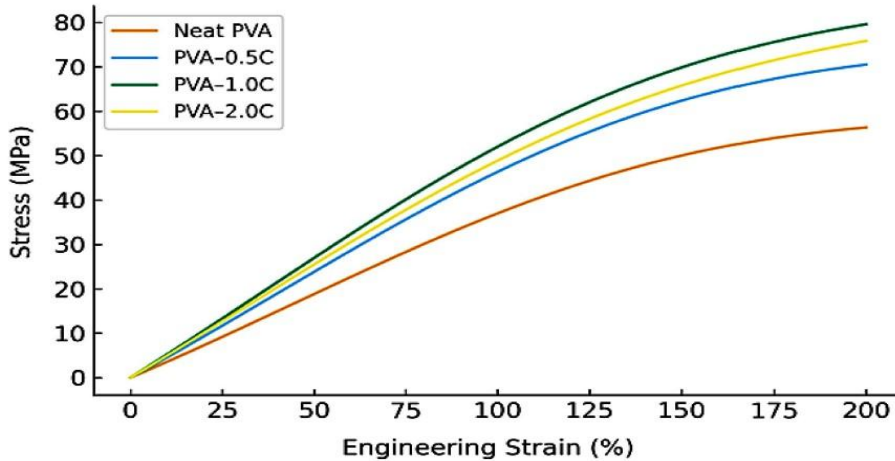


Figure 2. Tensile Stress–Strain Curves of neat PVA and nanocomposites

Overall Findings

- The integration of nano filtration and deep learning significantly improves irrigation water quality assessment.
- The hybrid CNN-LSTM model provides the most accurate predictions.
- The system ensures:
 - High purification efficiency
 - Reliable real-time monitoring
 - Sustainable energy utilization

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