



Article The Quantitative Features Analysis of the Nonlinear Model of Crop Production by Hybrid Soft Computing Paradigm

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Abstract: In this study, we provide a discretized system of a continuous dynamical model for enhancing crop production in the presence of insecticides and insects. Crops are assumed to grow logistically but are limited by an insect population that entirely depends on agriculture. To protect crops from insects, farmers use insecticides, and their overmuch use is harmful to human health. We assumed that external efforts are proportional to the gap between actual production and carrying capacity to increase the field's development potential. We use the Levenberg–Marquardt algorithm (LMA) based on artificial neural networks (NNs) to investigate the approximate solutions for different insecticide spraying rates. "NDSolve" tool in Mathematica generated a data collection for supervised LMA. The NN-LMA approximation's value is achieved by the training, validation, and testing reference data sets. Regression, error histograms, and complexity analysis help to validate the technique's robustness and accuracy.



Citation: Sulaiman, M.; Umar, M.; Nonlaopon, K.; Alshammari, F.S. The Quantitative Features Analysis of the Nonlinear Model of Crop Production by Hybrid Soft Computing Paradigm. *Agronomy* 2022, *12*, 799. https:// doi.org/10.3390/agronomy12040799

Academic Editor: Qi Jing

Received: 22 February 2022 Accepted: 23 March 2022 Published: 26 March 2022

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Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). **Keywords:** mathematical modeling; system of ordinary differential equations; numerical solutions; nonlinearity; artificial neural networks; machine learning; optimization techniques; levenberg–marquardt algorithm

1. Introduction

Agriculture production is essential for meeting fundamental life demands and the needs of the industrial sector for raw materials, which enhances the country's economy. Due to the increase in population, higher food production is essential (estimated to be over 10 billion by 2050). Because agricultural land is limited, increasing crop production can help increase agricultural production. Farmers utilize high-yield seed kinds, irrigation techniques, and mechanical equipment to increase production. Despite agricultural achievements, food insecurity continues to be a significant human health concern.

In 2018, 113 million people in 53 countries were food insecure, according to the Organization for Food and Agriculture [1]. Some insects strike on growing crops, destroying leaves, fruits, and roots. According to Oerke's estimates [2], insects cause 26–29% loss in cotton, soybean, and wheat crops, 31% loss in maize, 37% loss in rice, and 41% loss in potato crops. Insect damaging the crops is one of the significant variables affecting the quality and quantity of the crops. For this reason, managing insects population is vital for crop production.

An ecosystem-based approach to pest management, known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), helps protect crops from insects. IPM strategies fall into two broad categories: Non-chemical and chemical controls. Non-chemical control involves killing insects without chemicals, such as crop rotations, antagonists, etc. On the other hand, chemical control involves chemicals such as insecticides to reduce insect density. Biological control is a strategy that doesn't use chemicals to get control of the incests population. It uses living organisms to reduce the number of insects [3]. Putting an infected insect on a crop field can help reduce the number of insects that eat it [4,5]. It is good that biological control methods are suitable for the environment and effective at controlling insect populations, but the process is prolonged. A biological approach to pest management is no longer sufficient for the constantly increasing insect population; a methodology that can quickly control insect population density is required. Insecticides are highly toxic to certain species of insects; they can significantly lower the insect population and help protect the crop. According to Wang et al., [6], it has been shown that periodic insecticides spraying with infected insects can effectively manage insect populations.

Tang et al. [7] used IPM approaches to develop and study a dynamical system that is state-dependent and impulsive between prey and predator. To keep the insect population at or below a predetermined level, a precise number of insecticides must be applied. Insect population density can be lowered by combining these two strategies [8].

Plants require specific nutrients, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, to grow. There are a variety of nutrients that may be found in agricultural soil to preserve the soil's fertility. Plants suffer from nutrient insufficiency when the nutrient level in the soil is low, and their growth is affected. Farmers use fertilizers in their fields to meet the needs of their crops. Adding fertilizer to the soil helps to ensure that it has the necessary amount of nutrients.

According to Lombin and Uyovbisere [9], to increase maize yields, soil nutrition needs to be optimized, which necessitates the use of fertilizers. The availability of agricultural land influences crop growth. Farmers recruit extra staff to prepare crop fields. The external effort includes both nutrition and extra labor. Several studies have shown the value of external effort in several domains. Misra et al. [10] devised and analysed an algal model to assess the effectiveness of external efforts in removing algae from lakes.

Models based on mathematics are usually used to show nonlinear physical phenomena. It is very rare for a mathematical model to have an analytical solution. So numerical methods are preferred to approximate it. There are various numerical techniques for solving nonlinear initial value problems, such as Euler, Adams-Bashforth, and Runge-Kutta (RK), but these strategies don't always work [11]. There are several methods to avoid numerical discrepancies. Mickens developed a non-standard finite difference (NSFD) approach to prevent numerical instability [12,13]. Approximation of nonlinear terms by nonlocal approximation, he discretizes the continuous model and reconstructs dynamical variable derivatives. Equilibrium points are bounded, stable, and, positive much like a continuous system. There is a dynamically consistent solution for the continuous system using this technique. Continuous dynamical systems can be used to derive many different finite-difference strategies. An NSFD scheme keeps one of the following qualities:

- Nonlocal strategies are used to approximate nonlinear terms in continuous systems.
- During the derivatives of discretization procedure, $\psi(h)$ is denominator function with a renormalized denominator used instead *h* a traditional denominator, as a result when $h \to 0$, $\psi(h) \to h + O(h^2)$ [14–16].

For logistic equations, Olabode and Obayomi [17] investigated non-standard and standard schemes and discovered that the non-standard scheme's solution curve has more consistency with the analytical solution than the standard scheme. Similarly, numerous discretization techniques for nonlinear differential equations have been devised across several fields [18–21]. The following are some prominent elements of the presented study:

- We use the developed nonlinear computational model [8] to determine the effects of insecticides, insects, and external efforts on agricultural crop production in order to achieve optimal crop production.
- Using artificial neural networks, a Levenberg–Marquardt technique (LMT) trains hidden neurons and validates the reference data set obtained using the "NDSolve" tool in Mathematica for different insecticide spraying rates instances.

 Based on curve fitting, regression, the mean squared error (MSE), and total and absolute errors, the technique has to prove its convergence, accuracy, and processing cost through extensive graphical study.

2. Problem Formulation

To defend the crop from pests using pesticides and improve agricultural production via external actions, we create a non-linear mathematical model. Let A(t) represent agricultural production, S(t) population of insects' density, P(t) insecticide concentration, and N(t)external efforts at t > 0. We expect that A(t) consent the strategic development work with *r* the rate of inherent development and *K* the ecological conveying limit. The rate of crop consumed by insects is considered by α . It lowers the pace of crop production by αAS . It is anticipated that insect population density grows at a rate of $\theta \alpha AS$; this rise is due to the consumption of crops by insects, here θ signifies the conversion efficiency of insects. We have likewise accepted in the population of insects the intra-specific contest happens, resulting in the decrease in insects density at a rate δS^2 , where the intra-specific competition rate is represented by δ . Insecticides are applied at a rate ϕ proportionate to the insects' population density. The natural depletion rate of insecticides is denoted by ϕ_0 . Insecticide normally exhausts relative to its fixation at the rate $\phi_0 P$. It is believed that there is a decrease in the insecticides quantity owing to the population of incests uptake, which is comparable to insects density and the quantity of it (i.e., $\phi_1 PS$), where the insecticides uptake rate by insects is represented by ϕ_1 . The density of the insect population reduces by $\lambda \phi_1 PS$ as a result of this uptake, here λ signifies the constant of proportionality. To boost productivity, farmers apply external efforts in the cultivation field. The external efforts are quantified by using fertilizers to provide nutrients for crop gro. External efforts are assumed to raise the proportional difference between the actual production of crop and carrying capacity (i.e., $(K - A)\mu$) here the constant of proportionality is μ . The rate of increase in crop production, which comes as a result of applied external efforts, is represented by βNA . External efforts are assumed to deplete proportionally to themselves (i.e., μ_0), here the external efforts' natural depletion rate is represented by μ_0 . Thus, the following set of ODEs drives agricultural production dynamics with insect populations and insecticides:

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = rA(1 - \frac{A}{K}) - \alpha AS + \beta AN,$$

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \theta \alpha AS - \delta S^2 - \lambda \phi_1 PS,$$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \phi S - \phi_0 P - \phi_1 PS,$$

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \mu(K - A) - \mu_0 N,$$
(1)

where $A(0) \ge 0$, $S(0) \ge 0$, $P(0) \ge 0$, and $N(0) \ge 0$ are initial conditions.

This is because the model system (1), insect population density, insecticide amount, and external efforts all drive agricultural crop production dynamics in a non-negative way. Table 1 shows the description, source of reference of parameters used in model (1) and their values for numerical simulations.

Table 1. Parameter setting for the numerical simulation of model (1).

Parameter	Representation	Value	Source
r	Crop intrinsic growth rate	0.2	[22]
K	Carrying capacity of crop	50	[22]
α	Insect crop consumption rate	0.025	[22]
β	Crop production rising as a result of external efforts	0.01	[23]
θ	Insect conversion efficiency	0.6	[23]

Table	1.	Cont.
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Parameter	Representation	Value	Source
δ	Insect mortality owing to intra-specific competition	0.05	[22]
ϕ	Insecticide spray rate	0.1	[23]
ϕ_0	Insecticide depletion rate	0.01	[23]
ϕ_1	Insecticide uptake rate	0.05	[23]
λ	Insects depletion rate because of insecticides	6	[23]
μ	External effort application rate	0.1	[8]
μ_0	External efforts' depletion rate	0.01	[8]

3. Design Methodology

Artificial neural networks (ANN) are examined in this part, which presents a unique machine learning approach focused on the supervised methods of neurons. An ANN is an interconnected fundamental components network known as neurons that receives various inputs and produces only one output. The sum of a neuron's inputs dictates its output. In this study, a multilayer perceptron (MLP) is used to optimize the number of hidden units. The connection weights and biases were also optimised. The standard MLP construction with one hidden layer is as follows:

$$A_{j} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} W_{ij}T_{i} + b_{j},$$
(2)

where the inputs are represented by T_i , b_j and W_{ij} represent biased vectors and connection weights, respectively. The Feed-forward neural network model uses a log-sigmoid as an activation function given as,

$$f_j(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-A_j}}.$$
(3)

It also explains how the design soft computing technique works. The proposed approach involves two phases.

- The "NDSolve" function in Mathematica is used to solve the model (1) numerically for the initial data collection.
- For different cases of the problem, the Levenberg Marquardt method uses neural networks with 20 hidden neurons to approximate answers. Figure 1 depicts the NN's-LMT approach as a single neuron model.



Figure 1. Architecture of artificial neural networks with single neuron.

The Levenberg–Marquardt method uses the first step's reference data set for supervised learning to process data for training, validation and, testing. Table 2 illustrate the parameter settings for the proposed approach.

Table 2. Parameters settings for the execution of the design NN-LMT.

Index	Description
Training samples	80.00%
Validation samples	10.00%
Testing samples	10.00%
Hidden Neuron	20
Maximum Iteration	1000
Max. Validation fails	6
Learning methodology	Lavenberg-Marquardt

Performance measurements include mean square error, regression analysis, absolute and histograms errors to assess the design scheme's convergence and accuracy. Figure 2 illustrate the working mechanism and a stepwise methodology for NN-LM technique.



Figure 2. The NNs–LM method for a mathematical model (1).

4. Results and Discussions

We did experiments in this section to see if the technique was correct and how the insecticide spraying rate affects a crop model. This model includes agricultural production, the concentration of insecticides, the density of insects, and the efforts. The cases are based on variation in the spraying rate of insecticides, i.e., the ϕ parameter. We consider the first case as $\phi = 0.1$ [23]; to make the second and third cases, we slightly decrease the value of ϕ . Figure 3 illustrates the model and its different cases.



Figure 3. Nonlinear model of crop production and its different cases.

The numerical technique gives data set values that can be used to train, validate, and test data with 80%, 10%, and 10% probability. Each example's mean square error (MSE) function convergence is shown graphically. Figure 4 shows the performance values for the case 1 which are in the range of 7.68×10^{-8} , 1.48×10^{-6} , 1.94×10^{-11} and 3.48×10^{-8} . Similarly Figures 5 and 6 illustrate the performance values for case 2 and 3 respectively, which are in the range of 2.79×10^{-7} , 1.48×10^{-6} , 1.94×10^{-11} , 7.07×10^{-8} , 4.38×10^{-7} , 2.98×10^{-8} , 4.31×10^{-11} and 3.52×10^{-8} .



Figure 4. Mean square error of NNs-LMT for crop production, insects density, insecticides concentration, and external effort of case 1.



Figure 5. Mean square error of NNs-LMT for crop production, insects density, insecticides concentration, and external effort of case 2.



Figure 6. Mean square error of NNs-LMT for crop production, insects density, insecticides concentration, and external effort of case 3.

Further the statistical performance of gradient for case 1 are illustrated in Figure 7 and its gradient values are in the region 1.51×10^{-3} , 2.99×10^{-6} , 9.78×10^{-8} and 2.91×10^{-4} . Similarly for case 2 and 3 the statistical performance of gradient are illustrated in Figures 8 and 9 respectively. Their gradient values are in the range of 4.71×10^{-3} , 7.89×10^{-5} , 5.70×10^{-8} , and 4.81×10^{-4} for case 2 and 3.68×10^{-4} , 1.81×10^{-4} , 9.96×10^{-8} and 3.30×10^{-5} for case 3. These figures also illustrate the mu, a control parameter for the algorithm to train the neural network and validation failure for all the cases of non-linear model of crop production. For all the cases the values of mu lies in between 10^{-5} to 10^{-12} .





Figure 7. Performance based on validations failure, mu, and gradient of NNs-LMT for case 1.

Figure 8. Cont.







Figure 9. Performance based on validations failure, mu, and gradient of NNs-LMT for case 3.

The regression analysis for case 1 is shown in Figure 10 and its value is 1, which shows a close relationship between outputs and targets. Similarly the regression analysis for case 2 and 3 are shown in Figures 11 and 12 respectively, and they also shows a close relationship between the outputs and the targets by giving the value, R = 1.



Figure 10. Regression analysis of nonlinear model of crop production for case 1.



Figure 11. Regression analysis of nonlinear model of crop production for case 2.



Figure 12. Regression analysis of nonlinear model of crop production for case 3.

The tables below illustrate the data details discussed above, given by the computing system. Table 3 shows the details of the data for case 1, where Tables 4 and 5 show the details of the data for cases 2 and 3, respectively. These tables also indicate the data details of validation, testing, the number of hidden neurons, and iterations and time spent by the computing system.

	A(t)	S(t)	P(t)	N(t)
Hidden Neuron	20	20	20	20
Training	$7.5 imes10^{-8}$	$1.13 imes 10^{-6}$	1.72×10^{-11}	$3.19 imes10^{-8}$
Validation	$7.68 imes10^{-8}$	$1.48 imes 10^{-6}$	$1.94 imes 10^{-11}$	$3.48 imes10^{-8}$
Testing	$6.72 imes 10^{-8}$	$1.22 imes 10^{-6}$	$1.80 imes 10^{-11}$	$3.25 imes 10^{-8}$
Gradient	$1.51 imes 10^{-3}$	$2.99 imes 10^{-6}$	$9.78 imes10^{-8}$	$2.92 imes 10^{-4}$
Mu	$1.00 imes 10^{-8}$	$1.00 imes 10^{-8}$	$1.00 imes 10^{-11}$	$1.00 imes 10^{-7}$
Epochs	1000	1000	480	1000
Regression	1	1	1	1
Time	$\leq 10 \text{ s}$	$\leq 10 \text{ s}$	$\leq 10 \text{ s}$	$\leq 10 \text{ s}$

Table 3. Gradient, MSE, number of iterations, mu, and time spent by the computing system to get solutions for Case 1.

	A(t)	S(t)	P(t)	N(t)
Hidden Neuron	20	20	20	20
Training	$2.70 imes10^{-7}$	$1.13 imes 10^{-6}$	$1.72 imes 10^{-11}$	$7.28 imes10^{-8}$
Validation	$2.79 imes 10^{-7}$	$1.48 imes 10^{-6}$	$1.94 imes 10^{-11}$	$7.07 imes10^{-8}$
Testing	$2.74 imes 10^{-7}$	1.22×10^{-6}	$1.80 imes 10^{-11}$	$6.99 imes 10^{-8}$
Gradient	$4.71 imes10^{-3}$	$7.89 imes10^{-5}$	$5.70 imes10^{-8}$	$4.82 imes10^{-4}$
Mu	$1.00 imes 10^{-8}$	$1.00 imes 10^{-9}$	$1.00 imes 10^{-10}$	$1.00 imes 10^{-8}$
Epochs	1000	1000	27	1000
Regression	1	1	1	1
Time	≤10 s	≤10 s	≤10 s	≤10 s

Table 4. Gradient, MSE, number of iterations, mu, and time spent by the computing system to get solutions for Case 2.

Table 5. Gradient, MSE, number of iterations, mu, and time spent by the computing system to get solutions for Case 3.

	A(t)	S(t)	P(t)	N(t)
Hidden Neuron	20	20	20	20
Training	$4.86 imes10^{-7}$	$3.07 imes 10^{-8}$	$4.02 imes 10^{-11}$	$3.71 imes 10^{-8}$
Validation	$4.38 imes10^{-7}$	$2.98 imes10^{-8}$	$4.31 imes 10^{-11}$	$3.52 imes 10^{-8}$
Testing	$5.36 imes10^{-7}$	$2.83 imes 10^{-8}$	$4.14 imes 10^{-11}$	$3.79 imes 10^{-8}$
Gradient	$3.68 imes10^{-4}$	$1.81 imes 10^{-4}$	$9.96 imes10^{-8}$	$3.30 imes10^{-5}$
Mu	$1.00 imes 10^{-6}$	$1.00 imes 10^{-8}$	$1.00 imes 10^{-11}$	$1.00 imes 10^{-7}$
Epochs	789	1000	231	1000
Regression	1	1	1	1
Time	$\leq 10 \text{ s}$	$\leq 10 \text{ s}$	$\leq 10 \text{ s}$	$\leq 10 \text{ s}$

Approximate solution and targeted data fit together well and have the fewest absolute errors shown in the Figures 13–15. The absolute error values of A(t) lie in the region of 10^{-4} to 10^{-5} , 10^{-3} to 10^{-6} and 10^{-3} to 10^{-5} ; for S(t) the values are in the range 10^{-3} to 10^{-4} , 10^{-4} to 10^{-5} and 10^{-4} to 10^{-6} . Similarly, for P(t) and N(t), the values are in between 10^{-5} to 10^{-7} , 10^{-5} to 10^{-6} , 10^{-5} to 10^{-7} , 10^{-4} to 10^{-5} , 10^{-3} to 10^{-4} to 10^{-6} .



Figure 13. Cont.



Figure 13. Error histogram analysis in relation to the target data and the approximate solutions for case 1.



Figure 14. Error histogram analysis in relation to the target data and the approximate solutions for case 2.



Figure 15. Error histogram analysis in relation to the target data and the approximate solutions for case 3.

(d) N(t)

(c) P(t)

After solving the model (1) numerically for variation in spraying rate of insecticides, we see that the decrease in the spraying rate affects the crop production and concentration of insecticides directly and inversely affects the density of insects population and external efforts. The numerical solutions for different insecticide spraying rates are shown graphically in Figure 16.



Figure 16. Numerical solution of crop model for different insecticides spraying rate.

Tables 6–8 provide a comparison of the numerical solutions of the design algorithm with the results obtained from numerically solving the model using the "NDSolve" tool in Mathematica for cases 1, 2, and 3, respectively. The numerical simulations in the first two rows of each table represent comparisons of numerical solutions for agricultural crop production, followed by insect population density, insecticide concentration, and external efforts.

Table 6. Comparative analysis of numerical solutions by NDSolve tool in Mathematica with the solutions obtained from NN-LMA for case 1.

Inputs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Numerical solutions	1.231999	1.600315	2.184486	3.122899	4.656205	7.198827	11.43996	18.42872	29.45704	45.33719
NN-LMA	1.23214	1.600123	2.184666	3.122719	4.656247	7.198916	11.43973	18.4289	29.4569	45.33731
Numerical solutions	0.718154	0.520317	0.381155	0.283382	0.215257	0.168978	0.139796	0.125909	0.129818	0.163819
NN-LMA	0.717992	0.520488	0.38101	0.283403	0.21541	0.168843	0.139648	0.126113	0.130011	0.163525
Numerical solutions	1.031674	1.050653	1.061166	1.065945	1.066816	1.065051	1.061585	1.057178	1.052588	$\begin{array}{c} 1.048885 \\ 1.048888 \end{array}$
NN-LMA	1.031675	1.050653	1.061167	1.065943	1.066818	1.065049	1.061586	1.05718	1.052586	
Numerical solutions	5.854973	10.63225	15.31545	19.87775	24.27422	28.42849	32.21092	35.40698	37.68503	38.60243
NN-LMA	5.855071	10.63231	15.31542	19.87763	24.27445	28.42841	32.21072	35.40719	37.68505	38.60219

Table 7. Comparative analysis of numerical solutions by NDSolve tool in Mathematica with the solutions obtained from NN-LMA for case 2.

Inputs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Numerical solutions	1.231945	1.599908	2.183103	3.119391	4.64842	7.182779	11.40845	18.36951	29.35154	45.16059
NN-LMA	1.232365	1.599246	2.183918	3.118602	4.649011	7.182732	11.40773	18.37041	29.35108	45.1601
Numerical solutions	0.722854	0.532449	0.399239	0.305263	0.239264	0.194265	0.166499	0.155516	0.16636	0.217773
NN-LMA	0.722864	0.532416	0.399263	0.305272	0.239222	0.194298	0.166512	0.155474	0.166413	0.217726
Numerical solutions	0.990247	0.980835	0.971617	0.962519	0.953504	0.94456	0.935694	0.926928	0.918317	0.909981
NN-LMA	0.990207	0.980864	0.971587	0.96255	0.953471	0.94458	0.935701	0.926895	0.918334	0.910002
Numerical solutions	5.854975	10.63227	15.31555	19.87808	24.27509	28.43049	32.21519	35.4156	37.70158	38.63262
NN-LMA	5.85497	10.63235	15.31552	19.87813	24.27513	28.43043	32.21524	35.41562	37.70151	38.63267

Table 8. Comparative analysis of numerical solutions by NDSolve tool in Mathematica with the solutions obtained from NN-LMA for case 3.

Inputs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Numerical solutions	1.231901	1.599577	2.181964	3.116445	4.641767	7.168801	11.38041	18.31555	29.2526	44.9884
NN-LMA	1.232696	1.598347	2.183202	3.115144	4.643025	7.167724	11.38085	18.31672	29.25189	44.99043
Numerical solutions NN-LMA	0.726644 0.726608	$\begin{array}{c} 0.542418 \\ 0.542258 \end{array}$	$0.4145 \\ 0.414658$	0.324321 0.324249	0.260921 0.260798	0.217946 0.218211	0.1925 0.192249	0.185519 0.185623	0.204918 0.20494	0.277033 0.276839
Numerical solutions	0.956984	0.924296	0.898302	0.876817	0.858437	0.842199	0.827383	0.81337	0.799473	0.784613
NN-LMA	0.956987	0.924286	0.898311	0.876807	0.858447	0.842192	0.827382	0.813377	0.799465	0.784617
Numerical solutions	5.854976	10.63229	15.31563	19.87836	24.27582	28.4322	32.2189	35.42322	37.71655	38.66066
NN-LMA	5.855104	10.63241	15.3153	19.87845	24.27608	28.43191	32.21896	35.4234	37.71626	38.66098

5. Conclusions

In this paper, we investigated the non-linear dynamical model of crop production. The model was based on agricultural crop production in the presence of density of insects population, insecticides concentration, and some external efforts, which was given by a system of nonlinear differential equations. Moreover, a soft computing technique based on supervised learning of NNs-LM used to calculate the influence of variations in the spraying rate of insecticide on the nonlinear model of crop production.

- Results shows in the figure illustrate that the decrease in spraying rate of insecticides causes decrease in crop production and insecticides concentration while increases the insects density and external effort.
- To relate the sparing rate of insecticides with the given model is that it relates inversely
 with crop production and insecticides concentration while directly relates to incests
 density and external efforts.
- Thorough graphical analysis is performed using mean squared error, error histograms, absolute errors, regressions, and computing complexity to demonstrate the resilience, correctness, and efficiency of the developed system.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, M.S. and M.U.; investigation, M.S., M.U. and K.N.; methodology, K.N.; validation, M.S., M.U., K.N., F.S.A.; visualization, M.S., K.N., M.U. and F.S.A.; writing—original draft, M.S. and M.U.; writing—review and editing, K.N. and F.S.A. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research received funding support from the National Science, Research, and Innovation Fund (NSRF), Thailand.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Not applicable.

Acknowledgments: We would like to thank the referees for their valuable comments and helpful advice on our manuscript.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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