

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Determination of Factors Affecting Hazelnut Farmers' Agricultural Insurance by Data Mining Algorithms

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### ABSTRACT

Agriculture is an open factory. With this characteristic of it, it faces many risks and uncertainties at any time. Farms are faced with natural, social and economical risks during the agricultural production period. Risk arising from natural conditions is the one of the most important risks in the agricultural sector. Agriculture is the only sector that meets the nutritional needs of the society. So it is very important protection of agriculture against risks. Agricultural insurance is one of the primary measures taken by farmers against these risks and uncertainties. For this reason, it is of great importance for farmers to have agricultural insurance in order to ensure economic sustainability. The main material of the study is the data collected from 70 different hazelnut producers in 7 villages in the Karasu district in the city of Sakarya in Turkey and they were selected with the purposeful sampling method. In the current study, it is aimed to determine the factors affecting farmers' getting agricultural insurance. According to the decision tree model created in the current study, it was determined that the factors affecting farmers' getting insurance are the amount of hazelnut production, non-agricultural income status, farmer's agricultural experience, total agricultural land assets and the profitability of hazelnut production. In the current study, the performances of different classification algorithms were also compared. According to the results of the research, it was determined that the classification algorithms used gave successful results. According to the results obtained with percentage split method, J48 and PART algorithms were determined to have the highest degree of accuracy in the cross validation method.

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### Introduction

It is among the general characteristics of farmers engaged in small-scale agricultural production that businesses are run by family members, there is no product diversification, they experience economic fluctuation and their level of education is low. These conditions put farmers at various risks (Lopulisa et al., 2018).

Agricultural production faces many risks compared to other production activities. Risks related to production, marketing, financing and human resources are among the primary risks faced by farmers. Each of these risks plays a role in the farmer's decision-making process. Therefore, it is very important to evaluate these risks and take appropriate measures (Girdziute and Slavickiene, 2012). Management of risks in agriculture is a big challenge for both researchers and politicians, as economic growth and agricultural growth are linked (Oladipo et al., 2018).

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Recently, climate change has caused water shortages and serious natural disasters. Losses and harms caused by weather conditions in the agriculture sector have led to decrease in the agricultural production and food insecurity (Yoshida et al., 2019).

Agricultural insurance ensures that farmers are protected from financial losses. Insurance can allow farmers to take risks they would not normally take, as insurance creates a safety net. Insurance can allow farmers to invest in agricultural inputs. Insurance against risk promotes the availability of and demand for credit (Born et al., 2019).

Agricultural insurance is among the types of property insurance and protects farmers against certain risks (Marin, 2019). Agricultural insurance is considered to be one of the fastest growing insurance markets. Over the past few decades, agricultural insurance has an increasing role in improving food efficiency, ensuring food safety and helping to maintain economic growth (Zhu et al., 2019).

Concerns about food safety, price volatility and adverse weather conditions create the need to do more to protect and stabilize agricultural income and production capacity. Undoubtedly, agricultural insurance has an important place in solving these problems. By balancing revenues, insurance helps farmers to compensate for their crop losses due to negative weather conditions. Insurance also contributes to increasing the efficiency of farm resources and strengthening the sustainable development of agricultural businesses (Kurdys-Kujawska and Sompolska-Rzechula, 2018).

In the current study, it was aimed to determine the factors affecting farmers' getting insurance in the Karasu district in the city of Sakarya, where there is intense production of hazelnut. In the current research, the performances of different data mining algorithms were also compared.

Farmers have to make very different decisions during agricultural production. The decision on whether to take out agricultural insurance for farmers is also an important decision in terms of agricultural income. When the previous studies on agricultural insurance are analyzed, it is seen that many factors have an effect on farmers' decision to purchase agricultural insurance. Some of these studies are given below.

Xing et al. (2014) determined that the quality level of the cultivated land, farmers' perceptions of the natural disaster loss rate and the ratio of household income to production losses have a significant effect on farmers' behaviour of risk management selection. In the research conducted by Liesivaara and Myyra (2014), it was determined that young farmers and large landowners showed more demand for agricultural product insurance. In the research conducted by Mutaqin and Usami (2019), it has been determined that the producers who cultivate big lands, communicate more with extensionists and have low product expectations for the next production season tend to have insurance. Wang et al. (2020) determined that farmers' positive past insurance experiences had a significant impact on their demand for insurance. In the study conducted by Nalinci and Kızılaslan (2019), it was determined that the status of having non-agricultural income, the source of

learning innovations, the factors that encourage the adoption of innovation, the frequency of listening to the radio, the frequency of reading the newspaper and the problems encountered in the agricultural insurance are related to farmers' tendency to get insurance. In the research carried out by Kızıloğlu (2017), it was found that the factors that are statistically effective in deciding to get insurance are the education level of producers, the size of their land, their annual total income and their state of having continuous insurance due to the risk of permanent disaster. Tumer et al. (2019) found that there is a positive relationship between farmers' crop production experience, the number of individuals in the family, the farmer's level of education, crop production income, and the desire to expand the coverage of crop insurance and their willingness to have agricultural insurance. Aydın et al. (2016) determined that the education level, agricultural experiences, total annual income and total agricultural income, size of land and status of membership to the agricultural organizations have a positive effect on the status of getting agricultural insurance and the status of being engaged in non-agricultural activities have a negative effect. In the research conducted with hazelnut producers by Kabaoğlu and Birinci (2019), the main reason for the producers' getting insurance was found to be that the producers are afraid to risk taking with 31.5%.

When the previous studies on the subject are evaluated in general, it is seen that statistical methods such as logistic regression analysis and probit analysis have been used in determining the factors that affect producers' having agricultural insurance. However, in the current study, data mining algorithms were used as a method. This is the most important feature that makes our study different from other studies.

## Material and Methods

The main material of the study is the data collected from 70 different hazelnut producers selected with the purposive sampling method from 7 villages in the Karasu district in the city of Sakarya in Turkey. The data were collected through the questionnaire method. The data collected through a questionnaire belong to November 2017.

Data mining is a business of obtaining information considered to be valuable from large-scale data. In this way, it is possible to reveal the relationships between the data and make predictions when necessary. This means that data mining can be considered to be the process of uncovering hidden information that exists or may emerge in the future from all the data produced in an institution by using certain methods (Özkan, 2016). Data mining is not a solution by itself, but it supports decision making processes and provides the necessary information to solve the problem (Aydemir, 2019). The data mining process consists of many stages. These stages are given below:

1. Understanding the problem
2. Data selection
3. Pre-processing and data clearing
4. Establishment of the model
5. Interpretation and confirmation of the model (Baykal and Coşkun, 2018).

Data mining supports different techniques such as classification, clustering, association rule (Khedikar and Lobo, 2013). There are algorithms developed for each of these techniques. The main purpose of the classification is to correctly calculate the value of each class variable (Sarangi et al., 2013).

Within the context of the current study, J48, Hoeffding Tree, Random Tree, Random Forest, Bayes Net, Naive Bayes, IBk, KStar, LWL and PART classification algorithms were

used. In the evaluation of the performances of the algorithms, the degree of accuracy was taken as the criterion. In the study, a decision tree was also created for the J48 algorithm, which is one of the algorithms having the highest accuracy. The variables used in the study are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Variables used in the data mining algorithms

Acronym	Variable description	Type of measure	Data type
AGE	Age	If it is <31, then he/she is young If it is 30<X<51, then he/she is middle-aged If it is >50, then he/she is old	Numerical
EXPE	Agricultural experience	Experience <=30 years, then he/she is experienced Experience >30 years, then he/she is very experienced	Numerical
NONA	Non-agricultural income	Yes, he/she has; no he/she hasn't	Nominal
LAND	The size of the total agricultural land	Size of land <=30 decare, then it is small Size of land >30 decare, then it is big	Numerical
TREE	The number of hazelnut trees	The number of trees <1901, then the number is low The number of trees >1900, then the number is high	Numerical
PROD	The amount of hazelnut production	Production <=7 ton, then it is low Production >7 ton, then it is high	Numerical
PROFIT	The profitability of hazelnut production	Profitable, not profitable	Nominal

**Results and Discussion**

**General Features of Producers and Businesses**

The mean age of the producers was found to be 51.13. Of the producers, 98.57% are males and 1.43% are females. The mean household size was found to be 4.64.

When the producers' levels of education are examined, it is seen that 64.29% are elementary school graduates, 15.71% are middle school graduates, 2.85% are university graduates and 4.29% are literate.

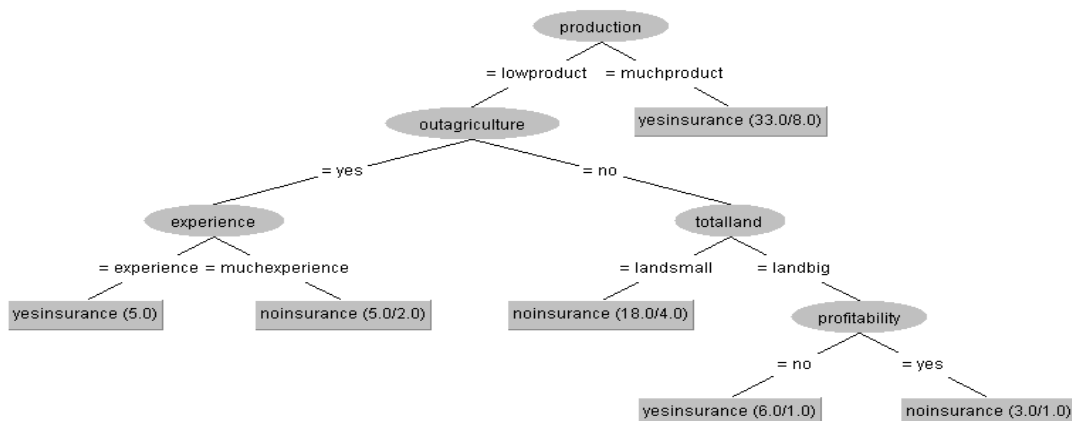
Of the producers, 25.71% (18 producers) were found to have non-agricultural income. Of these producers having extra income in addition to their agricultural income, 50% also earn money as workers and 27.78% as tradesmen. The rate of the producers having agriculture insurance was found to be 60%.

It was found that the producers have been in the business of hazelnut production for 39.44 years on average. The mean land size for hazelnut production was found to be 36.61 decares. The mean number of trees of the producers

was found to be 1936.93. The mean hazelnut production of the producers for the year 2017 was found to be 7.67 tons. Per-tree hazelnut yield was calculated to be 3.91 kg/tree.

**Findings Obtained with the Decision Tree**

In order to create the decision tree, 7 independent variables are included in the model: the age of the farmer, the farmer's agricultural experience, the state of having non-agricultural income, the total land size, the number of hazelnut trees, the amount of hazelnut production and the state of profitability of hazelnut production. The following 5 variables were found to be involved in the decision tree: hazelnut production, the state of having non-agricultural income, the farmer's agricultural experience, the total agricultural land size and the profitability of the hazelnut production (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Decision Tree

The decision tree generates rules. The decision tree obtained in the current study seems to have produced six rules. The rules created by the decision tree are shown in Table 2. First the decision tree's state of production was examined. The producers having high hazelnut production are getting insurance. The experienced producers producing little and having non-agricultural income get agricultural insurance. The very experienced producers having little production and non-agricultural income were found to not get agricultural insurance on the other hand. Moreover, the producers having little production, having no non-agricultural income and having small agriculture land were found to not get agricultural insurance. The producers having little production, having no non-agricultural income, having big agriculture land and not finding hazelnut production profitable were found to get agricultural insurance.

The producers having little production, having no non-agricultural income, having big agriculture area and thinking that hazelnut production is profitable were found to have no agricultural insurance.

**Table 2.** Rules created by the decision tree (J48)

Rule no	Rules
1	If it is =muchproduct then yesinsurance
2	If it is =lowroduct and yes outagriculture and =experince then yesinsurance
3	If it is =lowroduct and yes outagriculture and =muchexperince then noinsurance
4	If it is =lowroduct and no outagriculture and =landsmall then noinsurance
5	If it is =lowroduct and no outagriculture and =landbig and no profitability then yesinsurance
6	If it is =lowroduct and no outagriculture and =landbig and yes profitability then nosinsurance

### Findings obtained with the Classroom Algorithms

Test and training groups for the determination of the classification success were determined through two different methods. In the first method, the data set was divided by using the percentage split method. In the percentage split method, 66% of the data set was allocated for training and 34% for test. In the second method, 10-fold cross validation method was employed.

When the results obtained through the percentage split method were examined, the J48 and PART algorithms were found to yield the best results with 75% accuracy rate in the model test (Table 3). According to this criterion, these algorithms were followed by Hoeffding Tree, Bayes Net, Naive Bayes, KStar, LWL algorithms with 70.83% accuracy rate. In the study conducted by Mangani and Kousalya (2019), the decision tree method was found to be an effective method in the prediction of crops insurance. In the study by Sheikh et al. (2016), the performance of the J48 algorithm (88.2%) was found to be better than that of the Naive Bayes algorithm (54.8%) in the prediction of weather.

In the study conducted by Masjkur and Tan (2019), stating that index-based insurance is a variety of crops insurance, the most successful algorithm in the determination of weather forecast for the yield estimation was found to be the Boosted Regression Tree.

Kappa statistics (Kappa coefficient) is used to measure the consistency between observations. 1 indicates a perfect compliance (Viera and Garrett, 2005). In the current study, the algorithms with the highest Kappa statistics were found to be the J48 and PART algorithms (Table 3).

Mean Absolute Error (MAE) is used to determine the absolute error between measurement values and model estimations. The closer the MAE value to zero is, the higher the ability of the model to estimate is (Eren and Eyüboğlu, 2011). In the current study, the algorithm having the best MAE value was found to be the PART algorithm (Table 3).

Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) is used to determine the rate of error between the measurement values and model estimations and a RMSE value converging zero indicates that the estimation ability of the model increases (Eren and Eyüboğlu, 2011). In the current study, the algorithm with the lowest RMSE value was found to be the J48 algorithm (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Evaluation of classifiers with percentage split mode

Classifier	Kappa statistic	Correctly classified instances	Mean absolute error	Root Mean squared error
J48	0.5000	18/24 (75%)	0.3921	0.4509
Hoeffding Tree	0.4167	17/24 (70.8333%)	0.4513	0.4753
Random Tree	0.3333	16/24 (66.6667%)	0.4306	0.5443
Random Forest	0.3333	16/24 (66.6667%)	0.4409	0.4817
Bayes Net	0.4167	17/24 (70.8333%)	0.4487	0.4735
Naive Bayes	0.4167	17/24 (70.8333%)	0.4513	0.4753
IBk	0.1667	14/24 (58.3333%)	0.4039	0.4796
KStar	0.4167	17/24 (70.8333%)	0.4263	0.4705
LWL	0.4167	17/24 (70.8333%)	0.4592	0.4914
PART	0.5000	18/24 (75%)	0.3919	0.4511

In the 10-fold cross validation method, the data set was divided into ten equal groups and 9 of them were used for training and 1 for test. In this way, 10 applications were conducted, one for test and 9 for training. In the 10-fold cross validation method, the highest degree of accuracy was found for the J48 and KStar algorithms with 68.5714% (Table 4).

**Table 4.** Evaluation of classifiers with cross validation (10 folds) mode

Classifier	Kappa statistic	Correctly classified instances	Mean absolute error	Root Mean squared error
J48	0.3125	48/70 (68.5714%)	0.4008	0.4892
Hoeffding Tree	0.2262	44/70 (62.8571%)	0.4479	0.5048
Random Tree	0.0625	40/70 (57.1429%)	0.4603	0.6155
Random Forest	0.1104	41/70 (58.5714%)	0.4578	0.5340
Bayes Net	0.2690	45/70 (64.2857%)	0.4389	0.5045
Naive Bayes	0.2690	45/70 (64.2857%)	0.4405	0.5029
IBk	0.1975	44/70 (62.8571%)	0.4142	0.5444
KStar	0.3373	48/70 (68.5714%)	0.4315	0.5014
LWL	0.2442	44/70 (62.8571%)	0.4510	0.4870
PART	0.1212	41/70 (58.5714%)	0.4475	0.5322

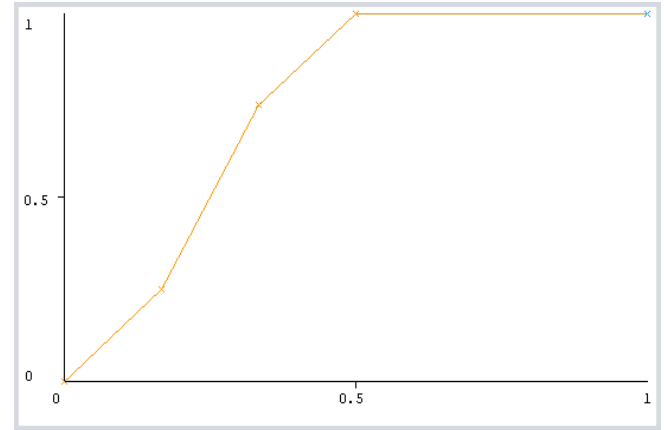
In the current study, the degrees of accuracy obtained with the percentage split method were found to be higher compared to the degrees of accuracy obtained with the cross validation method. In the study conducted by Pandey and Sharma et al. (2018), similar results were obtained and the degree of accuracy obtained with the percentage split method was found to be 82.58% for the J48 algorithm and the degree of accuracy obtained with the cross validation method was found to be 80.15% for the J48 algorithm. On the basis of the results of the decision tree, Njavro et al. (2007) concluded that the farmers trying to avoid risks should select livestock insurance as a tool of risk management.

ROC analysis is an analysis used to evaluate the performance of diagnostic tests and, more generally, to classify objects into two categories by evaluating the accuracy of the statistical model (Zou et al., 2007). The ROC value ranges from 0.5 to 1, with a value of 1 indicating a perfect fit, while 0.5 indicates a random fit (Ayalew and Yamagishi, 2005). According to the results of ROC analysis in the current study, the J48 algorithm was determined as the closest to 1 with 0.75 ROC score (Table 5).

**Table 5.** ROC analysis results

Classifier	ROC value
J48	0.7500
Hoeffding Tree	0.6979
Random Tree	0.5972
Random Forest	0.6632
Bayes Net	0.7396
Naive Bayes	0.6979
IBk	0.7292
KStar	0.7674
LWL	0.7396
PART	0.7083

The ROC curve obtained for the J48 algorithm is shown in Graph 2. The closer the graph is to the upper left corner, the better it is accepted to classify. In other words, the larger the area under of the graph and the more it is approaching 1, the more successful the classification is (Aydemir, 2019).



**Figure 2.** ROC curve

### Conclusion

It has been determined that the farmers participating in the current research are middle-aged, primary school graduates and have been engaged in hazelnut production for a long time in general. In the study, it was determined that the rate of producers getting agricultural insurance is 60%. This rate shows that farmers do not have sufficient knowledge about and awareness of agricultural insurance. It is thought that increasing this rate will be very useful for farmers. Since it will be difficult to give formal education to farmers, it should be aimed to increase awareness of agricultural insurance through informal education.

In the current research, a positive relationship was determined between the amount of hazelnut production and getting agricultural insurance. For this reason, measures should be taken to increase the hazelnut production and productivity of farmers.

Data mining techniques are used extensively in the fields of health, education, transportation and finance. This study is considered important in terms of demonstrating that data mining techniques result in successful outcomes in research focusing on agriculture sector and especially on the adoption of agricultural insurance. In the current study, the performances of the different classification algorithms selected to determine the factors having impact on farmers' preference for agricultural insurance were compared. When the research results were examined, it was determined that the classification algorithms used gave successful results. In the study, the J48 and PART algorithms were found to have the highest degree of accuracy. Although the accuracy levels obtained in the current study are satisfactory, it is possible to further increase the accuracy levels. Therefore, it is thought that it will be useful to increase the number of questionnaires and attributes in the future studies on the subject.

**Authors' Contributions:** Author TÇ designed the study, HK and NK make a survey, FÇ performed and managed

statistical analyses. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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