

Use and Development of Drones for Agricultural Applications: Experiences from Zambia

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Petrolina in Pernambuco, Brazil

Patrick Chiza Chikoti (PhD)¹, John Lukonde Chongo²

¹Zambia Agriculture Research Institute

²Ministry of Technology and Science

About Zambia and family agriculture

- Zambia, located in Southern Africa
- Population, 19.6 million (source: Zamstat, 2022)
- Two-thirds of the population live in rural areas with Agriculture main source of income and employment
- Agriculture contributes about 19% of GDP
- Small scale farmers (Family farming) constitutes about 65% rural population
- Challenges
 - low levels of mechanisation
 - high dependence on rain
 - Pests

Experiences of drones in Zambia

- Drones are a new technology.
- National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of Zambia spearheading promotion of Drones technology
- Small scale farmers rarely use drones
- However, there are attempts by commercial farmers to use drones
 - Syngenta for R&D
- Delta Drone International – spearheading use of drones
 - Pesticide application
 - E.g. fall armyworm management