

Drones and Irrigation

DripTech has since introduced periodic Agriwise Talks where discussion groups consist of local farmers who meet to network and learn about technologies and practices that may be applied on their own farms. In March 2023, the first talk of the year was titled Drones and the Future of Farming and the keynote speaker was Tawanda Chihambakwe the Managing Director and Chief Drone Pilot of Precision Aerial Group. During his talk Tawanda started off by giving a brief history of the company and his expertise. He noted that the Group consists of

four branches namely; Precision Aerial, Precision Drone Training, Zimbabwe Flying Labs and Drones and UAV Conference.

Drones and Irrigation

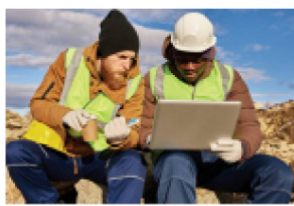
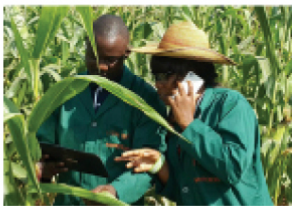
Drones are playing an increasing role in solving issues in agriculture and irrigation management. The use of drones and connected analytics has great potential to support and address some of the most pressing problems faced by agriculture in terms

of access to actionable real-time quality data.

Irrigation Planning - Drones and its data collection and analysis capabilities has great potential to support and address some of the most pressing problems faced by agriculture and water management sector in terms of access quality data in less time and at less cost. Flying labs offers services in mapping and documenting farmland

Use drone maps, digital surface models, and terrain models for Irrigation and drainage management. Multispectral data can also help identify leaky irrigation pipes or areas that need more water.

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Farmers enjoying the talk by Tawanda

and boundaries to support farmers in creating a base for farmland analysis, like for example analysis of irrigation networks by;

- 1) Marking the boundaries of the farm using a high resolution drone imagery.
- 2) Defining the topographic profile of the land using a digital terrain models.
- 3) Generating contour lines to better orient the direction of water flow for irrigation purposes and installation new irrigation networks.

Irrigation Management - In order to improve water use efficiency, Drones can be used in water management in order to address crucial issues faced in agriculture and irrigation sector. Drones equipped with Thermal Cameras and Remote Sensing capabilities can help defeat irrigation issues,

or areas receiving little or too much moisture. The topography of fields from Red, Green and Blue band (RGB) Imagery assists farmers to position and segregate the crops to maximise drainage, follow natural land runoff, and to avoid water-logging. Following are the important benefits of use of drone survey in irrigation management;

- Real Time control on Irrigation Rotation and capturing of evidence.
- Area irrigated outside of command and on backwater can be surveyed and assessed accurately.
- Precise information of area irrigated with accurate crop identification leading to realistic assessment of crop and area.
- Bring transparency and accountability and thereby improving water use efficiency and increase

in revenue.

- Requires less manpower and cost effective.

Drone technology is very useful in irrigation management for identification of crop type and area. This information is used for assessment of irrigation revenue. This technique is advanced, fast, accurate, minimum manpower required, non-human centric, transparent, evidence based and verification enabled. Working together with DripTech and the Precision Aerial Group can give you the results you need.

For more information, contact; DripTech on 0867 700 7000 info@driptech.co.zw Precision Aerial on +263719489139, email: info@dronetraining.co.zw or visit www.dronetraining.co.zw



Precision Aerial spraying tobacco at a field in Marondera



Precision Aerial conducting soyabean crop spraying in Beatrice

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