

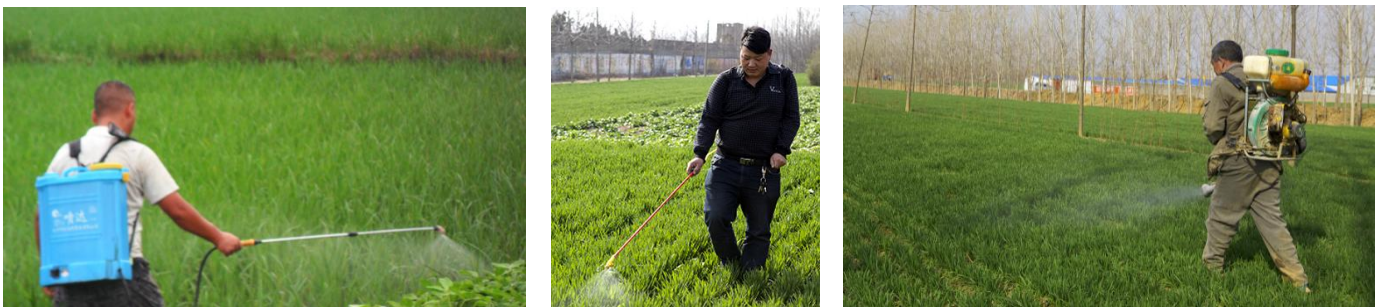
HOW INNOVATION IS HELPING THE SMALL-SCALE FARMER IN CHINA

Drone technology used for aerial spraying

by Carol Phillips Executive Consultant Communications and Media

Agricultural innovation and technology is often geared towards the 'big end' broadacre farming enterprises. But recently in China RLF hosted a demonstration of just how effective technology can be for small-scale growers as well.

Foliar spraying on small-scale holdings in China is traditionally done manually, with a backpack and hand-spray.



How things have changed !

Agricultural Airplane Control is the terminology used in China as it ushers in the drone technology to help farmers as they work to make their farming enterprises more efficient.

Drone technology has been developed and manufactured in China. And, RLF was at the forefront recently, demonstrating just how effective and efficient foliar spraying of the crop can be with an 'airplane'.



The drones generally can :

- cover somewhere between 7-10 acres every hour
- have a carrying capacity of 10-litres of liquid fertiliser
- scan the ground to maintain the correct distance between it and the top of the crop by modulating its movement
- ensure even spray and crop coverage
- cover between 8-10 metres every second



In addition, they are easily transported to the farmer's field because they can be folded down into a very compact package.

All of these features make it an affordable and worthwhile investment option for either an individual farmer or a small collective of farmers. Localised collectives are a very common way for farmers to work together to take advantage of the economies of scale, and the introduction of this technology would fit perfectly with this model.

RLF team members were thrilled with the demonstration and the following photo captures the interest being paid to it by local farmers.

Innovation and technology improving 'the odds' for small scale enterprises. Drone technology PLUS crop nutrition technology with Ultra Foliar Broadacre Plus - two innovative solutions for small-scale farmers.



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