

**PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT
SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURAL SPRAYING
(DJI AGRAS T30)**

THERESA MAY T. BIDES

An Undergraduate Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the Department of Agricultural and
Biosystems Engineering, College of Engineering, Central Luzon State
University, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL AND BIOSYSTEMS
ENGINEERING
(AB Machinery and Power Engineering)**

JUNE 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF APPENDIX TABLES	x
LIST OF APPENDIX FIGURES	xi
LIST OF FORMULAS	xii
ABSTRACT	xiii
INTRODUCTION	1
Background of the Study	1
Statement of the Problem	2
Objectives of the Study	3
Significance of the Study	3
Scope and Limitation of the Study	4
Time and Place of the Study	4
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	5
Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems	5
Role of RPAS in Precision Agriculture	6
Type of RPAS	6
Multi-Rotor RPAS	6
Fixed –Wing RPAS	7
Single-Rotor RPAS	8
Fixed-Wing-Multi-Rotor Hybrid RPAS	8
Spraying Operation of the Environment	9
Effects of Inadequate Application	9

Effects of Spray Drift	10
Parameters Influencing Deposition	10
Droplet size	11
Wind speed	11
Application height	11
Spraying Methods	12
Aerial Sprayers	12
Backpack Sprayers	12
Tractor Mounted Sprayers	12
Aerial Application	13
Practices of Aerial Application	13
Benefits of Aerial Application	13
METHODOLOGY	14
Conceptualization of the Study	14
Conceptual Framework	15
Principle of Operation	15
Experimental Design	17
Test Conditions	17
Weather Parameters	17
Test Site	18
Safety Precautions	18
Test Set-up	18
Data Collection	20
Water Sensitive Paper	20
Data Analysis	21

DepositScan Software	21
Performance Evaluation	22
Droplet Size Classification	23
Uniformity of Distribution	24
Effective Swath Width	25
Output Rate	25
Application Rate	26
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	27
Components of the RPAS	27
Weather Parameters	27
Analysis of Spray Droplet Deposition Characteristics	27
Performance Evaluation of the RPAS	29
Droplet Size Classification	29
Uniformity of Distribution	32
Effective Swath Width	33
Output Rate	34
Application Rate	36
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	38
Summary	38
Conclusion	39
Recommendations	40
LITERATURE CITED	41
APPENDICES	44
Appendix Tables	45
Appendix Figures	51

LIST OF TABLES

TABLES		PAGE
1	Specifications of RPAS (Agras T30)	16
2	Instruments and materials used for gathering data	22
3	Droplet size classification based on ASABE S572.1	23
4	Specifications of XR series 11001VS	25
5	Weather data during the RPAS spray test in the CLSU oval	26
6	Characteristics of droplet deposition in spraying test at 3 m/s flight speed	27
7	Characteristics of droplet deposition in spraying test at 5 m/s flight speed	28
8	Evaluation index of droplet distribution under two different flight speeds	32
9	Amount of liquid throughout the spray testing	35
10	Recorded time throughout the spray testing	35
11	Output rate throughout the spray testing	36
12	Average application rate (L/ha) under two different flight speeds	36

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURES		PAGE
1	Quadcopter in flight	7
2	A fixed-wing RPAS	7
3	A single rotor RPAS	8
4	A fixed-wing-multi-rotor hybrid RPAS	8
5	Conceptual framework of the study	15
6	Parts of RPAS (Agras T30)	16
7	Test layout	19
8	Layout of water-sensitive papers	20
9	Flow chart showing the steps	22
10	XR series 11001VS spray nozzle tip (TeeJet)	27
11	Droplet size classification of VMD values in spraying test at 3m/s flight speed	29
12	Droplet size classification of VMD values in spraying test at 5m/s flight speed	31
13	Evaluation index of droplet distribution under two different flight speed	33
14	Evaluation of droplet deposition uniformity (CV) under two different flight speed	34
15	Average application rate (L/ha) under two different flight speeds	37

LIST OF APPENDIX TABLES

APPENDIX TABLE	PAGE
1 Parts of DJI AGRAS T30	46
2 Flight test time at different points	46
3 Droplet Characteristics for 3 m/s at replicate 1	47
4 Droplet Characteristics for 3 m/s at replicate 2	47
5 Droplet Characteristics for 3 m/s at replicate 3	48
6 Droplet Characteristics for 5 m/s at replicate 1	48
7 Droplet Characteristics for 5 m/s at replicate 2	49
8 Droplet Characteristics for 5 m/s at replicate 3	50

LIST OF APPENDIX FIGURES

APPENDIX FIGURE		PAGE
1	Evaluation index of droplet distribution at 3 m/s flight speed	51
2	Evaluation index of droplet distribution at 5 m/s flight speed	52
3	Scanned WSP at 3 m/s at replicate 1	53
4	8bit black and white WSP at 3 m/s at replicate 1	53
5	Scanned WSP at 3 m/s at replicate 2	53
6	8bit black and white WSP at 3 m/s at replicate 2	53
7	Scanned WSP at 3 m/s at replicate 3	54
8	8bit black and white WSP at 3 m/s at replicate 3	54
9	Scanned WSP at 5 m/s at replicate 1	54
10	8bit black and white WSP at 5 m/s at replicate 1	54
11	Scanned WSP at 5 m/s at replicate 2	55
12	8bit black and white WSP at 5 m/s at replicate 2	55
13	Scanned WSP at 5 m/s at replicate 3	55
14	8bit black and white WSP at 5 m/s at replicate 3	55
15	Measuring the ribbon frames at PhilSCAT	56
16	Picture of DJI Agras T30 (folded)	56
17	Attaching the frames at the ground	56
18	Attaching the WSP at the frames	56
19	Actual picture of RPAS during the testing	57
20	Picture of the handheld anemometer	57
21	Picture of pilot operator briefing	57

LIST OF FORMULAS

FORMULA	PAGE
1 Mean	25
2 Standard deviation	25
3 Coefficient of variation	25
4 Application rate	26

ABSTRACT

BIDES, THERESA MAY T., Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, College of Engineering, Central Luzon State University, Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines, June 2023, **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURAL SPRAYING (DJI AGRAS T30)**

Adviser: MARVIN M. CINENSE, Ph.D

The current study entitled “Performance evaluation of remotely piloted aircraft system for agricultural spraying (DJI Agras T30)” was conducted to characterize its spraying application performance based on droplet deposition data and optimize the operating parameters. The performance of the RPAS was evaluated using American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) Standards S386.2 (R2018) given its parameters. Each test will have three replicates at a single pass application of the aircraft to assess the reliability of the spraying system. Various flight parameters were also evaluated. The XR 11001VS spray nozzle tip was mainly consist of droplets ranging from 61 μm to 502 μm . The effective swath width of the aircraft varied from 8.8 m for 3 m/s and 8.0 m/s for 5 m/s, with an CV value of 50.9% and 55.2% respectively. The output rate of the aircraft was varied from 6.1 L/min and 11.2 L/min. The application rate varied from 38.5 L/ha and 46.7 L/ha.

Keywords: remotely piloted aircraft system; agricultural spraying; deposition; effective swath width; application rate

LITERATURE CITED

- Allagui, Asma & Bahrouni, Hassouna & Youssef, M'Sadak. (2018). Deposition of Pesticide to the Soil and Plant Retention During Crop Spraying: The Art State. *Journal of Agricultural Science*. 10. 104. 10.5539/jas.v10n12p104.
- Ahmad, F., Khaliq, A., Qiu, B., Sultan, M., & Ma, J. (2021). Advancements of Spraying Technology in Agriculture. *IntechOpen*. doi: 10.5772/intechopen.98500
- Das, S. (2021). Agriculture Drone: From Sci-Fi to Reality. Al Ardh Al Khadra Agricultural. Soil-Conditioner Factory L.L.C. Retrieved from <https://www.aaaksc.com/agriculture-drone/>
- Das, N., Maske, N.M., Khawas, V., Choudhary, S., & Dethe, E.R. (2015). Agricultural Fertilizers and Pesticides Sprayers - A Review. *International Journal for Innovative Research in Science and Technology*, 1, 44-47.
- Davies, E. (2021). Pesticide Drift: Causes and Adverse Health Effects. Retrieved from <https://www.drugwatcher.org/effects-of-pesticide-drift/>
- Dekoulis, G. (Ed.). (2020). Autonomous Vehicles. *IntechOpen*. doi: 10.5772/intechopen.73376
- DJI (n.d.). Agras T30. Retrieved from <https://www.dji.com/t30>
- Fishel, F.M., & Ferrell, J.A. (2010). Managing Pesticide Drift. *EDIS*. Retrieved from <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/PI232>
- Gardisser, D.R. & Kuhlman, D.K. (2001). Agricultural Aircraft Calibration and Setup for Spraying. Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Governments Cooperating.
- GlobalSpec. Aerodynamics of Multirotor Drones. Retrieved from <https://insights.globalspec.com/article/18303/aerodynamics-of-multirotor-drones>
- Jamala, G.Y., Ari, B.M., Tsunda, B.M. and Waindu, C. (2013), "Assessment of agro-chemicals utilization by small-scale farmers in Guyuk, Adamawa State, Nigeria", *Journal of Agriculture and Veterinary Science*, Vol. 6 No.2, pp. 51-59
- Laksham K. B. (2019). Unmanned aerial vehicle (drones) in public health: A SWOT analysis. *Journal of family medicine and primary care*, 8(2), 342-346. https://doi.org/10.4103/jfmipc.jfmipc_413_18

- Lu J. L. (2010). Analysis of Trends of the Types of Pesticide Used, Residues and Related Factors among Farmers in the Largest Vegetable Producing Area in the Philippines. *Journal of rural medicine: JRM*, 5(2), 184–189. <https://doi.org/10.2185/jrm.5.184>
- Meola, A. (2021). Precision agriculture in 2021: The future of farming is using drones and sensors for efficient mapping and spraying. Retrieved from <https://www.businessinsider.com/agricultural-drones-precision-mapping-spraying>
- Murison, M. (2020). Fixed-Wing vs Multirotor: Which Drone Should You Choose for Aerial Surveying? DJI Enterprise. Retrieved from <https://enterprise-insights.dji.com/blog/fixed-wing-vs-multirotor-drone-surveying>
- Naji, I. (2019). "The Drones' Impact on Precision Agriculture" (2019). *ETD Collection for University of Texas, El Paso*. AAI27668778. <https://scholarworks.utep.edu/dissertations/AAI27668778>
- Simula, A. (2021). Establishing drone technology to agriculture as a service provider. JAMK University of Applied Sciences. Retrieved from https://www.theseus.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/504391/Opinn%C3%A4ytety%C3%B6_B6_Antti_Simula.pdf?sequence=2
- Singh, I. (2021). What's the difference between drones, UAS, UAV, and RPAS? Retrieved from <https://dronedj.com/2021/12/07/drone-uav-uas-difference-explained/>
- Syam, H., Jamaluddin, & Rahman, K. (n.d.). *Design and test of unmanned aerial vehicle (uav) spraying capacity in quadcopter based plant spraying system*. Universitas Negeri Makassar. ISBN: 978-623-7496-62-5
- S386.2; ASABE Standards. Calibration and Distribution Pattern Testing of Agricultural Aerial Application Equipment. ASABE: St. Joseph, MI, USA, 2018.
- Tudi, M., Daniel Ruan, H., Wang, L., Lyu, J., Sadler, R., Connell, D., Chu, C., & Phung, D. T. (2021). Agriculture Development, Pesticide Application and Its Impact on the Environment. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 18(3), 1112. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18031112>
- UAV Systems. What Is A Fixed Wing Drone? | Advantages And Uses Of Fixed Wing Drones. Retrieved from <https://uavsystemsinternational.com/blogs/drone-guides/what-is-a-fixed-wing-drone-advantages-and-uses-of-fixed-wing-drones>

- Unmanned Systems Technology (2015). Arcturus JUMP 15 Fixed Wing VTOL UAV. Retrieved from <https://www.unmannedsystemstechnology.com/video/arcturus-jump15-fixed-wing-vtol-uav/>
- Yang, S., Yang, X. & Mo, J. The application of unmanned aircraft systems to plant protection in China. *Precision Agric* **19**, 278–292 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11119-017-9516-7>
- Yinka-Banjo, C., & Ajayi, O. (2020). Sky-Farmers: Applications of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) in Agriculture. IntechOpen. doi: 10.5772/intechopen.89488
- Zhang Y L, Lian Q, Zhang W. (2017). Design and test of a six-rotor unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) electrostatic spraying system for crop protection. *Int J Agric & Biol Eng*, 2017; 10(6): 68–76.
- Zhu H, Li H Z, Adam A P, Li L J, Tian L. Performance evaluation of a multi-rotor unmanned agricultural aircraft system for chemical application. *Int J Agric & Biol Eng*, 2021; 14(4): 43–52