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Study on the Use of Small Multi-Copter (UAV) in Agriculture

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The use of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) has been increasing in various fields, from the military to commercial fields; particularly in environmental measurements and in agriculture, it is used for the spreading of pesticides as well as general observation. Due to the high cost of the UAV in combination with the fragmented and smaller scale farming styles in Japan, however, it is difficult to popularize the use of UAV. In this study we attempt to understand the needs of farmers and explore the possibility of the use of Micro-UAV in the agricultural sector in Japan. We took aerial views using Micro-UAV and researched how to improve the efficiency and how the pictures that were taken in the air could be applied on the spot. As a result, we found that there was a possibility to make use of them in examining the location of soil, e.g. in the case of damage by wildlife.