



Agricultural Aviation Organizations of the Americas Warn About the Challenges of Integrating Sprayer Drones and Call for Modern and Safe Regulatory Frameworks

Thursday, May 28, 2026 — The leading agricultural aviation organizations in the region—the Argentine Federation of Agricultural Aviation Chambers (FeArCA), Brazil’s National Union of Agricultural Aviation Companies (Sindag), Uruguay’s National Association of Private Agricultural Aviation Companies (Anepa), the Mexican Federation of the Agricultural Aviation Industry, the Agricultural Aviation Association of Paraguay, the National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) of the United States, and the Canadian Aerial Applicators Association (CAAA)—express our concern regarding the rapid growth of agricultural UAVs (sprayer drones) and emphasize the importance of advancing toward clear, modern, comprehensive, and effectively enforceable regulatory frameworks that enable safe, professional, and responsible operations.

The purpose of this statement is to contribute to strengthening operational safety, professional accountability, application traceability, and the orderly coexistence of manned and unmanned aircraft within rural airspace.

We recognize the value, potential, and opportunities that new technologies bring to the agricultural sector, as well as the growing development of professional agricultural drone operators in various countries. We understand that integrating these technologies into the aviation system represents a necessary evolution for the industry. However, we believe it is essential that this process be carried out under appropriate standards of operational safety, traceability, airspace coordination, and respect for the different regulatory realities of each country.

A Growing Challenge for Rural Airspace

The undersigned organizations warn that the rapid expansion of drones used for agricultural applications—some of which are operated without adequate training or proper certification—has increased the challenges associated with operational safety in an airspace that is already highly complex.

The simultaneous operation of manned and unmanned aircraft at low altitudes requires effective mechanisms for coordination, identification, and control to minimize risks and promote safe and efficient coexistence among the various technologies used in aerial work.

In this regard, we emphasize that manned agricultural aircraft perform their operations just a few meters above the ground and at high speeds, under dynamic conditions and significant operational demands. This requires clear coordination and operating protocols during aerial application activities.

We also believe that the technological and commercial growth of agricultural UAVs must be accompanied by modern regulations, adequate oversight, and harmonized standards that enable their safe, professional, and sustainable integration into the aviation system.

Call to Authorities

Through this statement, we urge aviation and regulatory authorities in each country to advance measures that strengthen the orderly and safe integration of these technologies, including:

- Strengthening and updating regulatory frameworks governing sprayer drone operations.
- Promoting appropriate licensing, certification, and insurance systems for operators.
- Implementing drone identification and electronic traceability mechanisms.
- Establishing clear coordination protocols in low-altitude airspace.
- Increasing oversight of illegal or irregular operations while safeguarding operational safety.

We also underscore the importance of developing awareness campaigns aimed at producers and operators in order to promote responsible practices, professionalize the activity, and encourage the use of formal and regulated service providers. We believe that responsible technological integration requires clear rules, training, institutional coordination, and a shared vision among all stakeholders involved.

Finally, we call for deeper collaboration between the public and private sectors to ensure the safe, orderly, modern, innovative, and professional coexistence of manned and unmanned aircraft, at a time when the 2026 agricultural season presents a new challenge for aviation and operational safety throughout the region.

Agricultural Aviation Organizations

- Canadian Aerial Applicators Association (CAAA)
- National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA)
- Agricultural Aviation Association of Paraguay
- National Association of Private Agricultural Aviation Companies (Anepa)
- Argentine Federation of Agricultural Aviation Chambers (FeArCA)
- Mexican Federation of the Agricultural Aviation Industry
- National Union of Agricultural Aviation Companies (Sindag)