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SPACE APPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES: RELEVANT LEGAL FRAMEWORK

**Abstract**

It is a well-established fact that space technologies, particularly satellite remote sensing and positioning sensors and services, can be used to improve agricultural processes and practices, and ultimately increase productivity and profitability of the activities. Many entities worldwide, including the United Nations through its Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, emphasise importance and promote use of space technologies within the agricultural sector.

The paper will highlight various agricultural activities and areas where space technologies can and are being used, including but not limited to precision farming, phytopatology and agricultural risk management. Based on this overview, it will explore the legal framework relevant for development and use of space applications for various agricultural purposes. It will focus on two main aspects in this regard: regulatory framework applicable to the actual development and use of space applications; analysis of how use of space applications and technologies can aid implementation of legal obligations stemming e.g. from the International Biodiversity Convention, International Plant Protection Convention, or the Rotterdam Convention regarding international trade in pesticides, as well as recommendations from international bodies regarding sustainable ways of agricultural production.

To conclude, the paper will summarise the most important legal and regulatory aspects relevant to the development and use of space applications for agricultural purposes.