



For an agricultural enthusiast like me, participating in the 8th Agritech India 2016 trade expo was quite an enlightening experience since the event presented all the diverse aspects of agriculture all in one place. The event showcased dedicated exhibitions like GrainTech India, DairyTech

India and MeatTech Asia, visitors could witness the diversification of Indian agriculture in terms of farm machinery, poultry equipment, livestock management, food processing technologies, etc. Urbanites like me who are constantly fed with media reports on farmer suicides and dismal state of Indian agriculture, the Agritech India expo was truly an eye opener to the immense business opportunities opening up in this sector!

The majority of stalls displayed regular features such as hybrid seeds, greenhouse equipment, irrigation and water management services, and other latest mechanization tools and product ranges. However, there were a few companies that presented some technological innovations that were not only interesting but also could change the game for the established market players. Here are some of the agri tech innovations showcased at the Agritech India 2016 trade expo that were noteworthy for their innovativeness and eco-friendly aspects:

Sxtreo GPS devices



We all own handheld computing devices such as tablets, smartphones, but many of us don't use them in the countryside and rugged terrains due to the fear of damage. Particularly, farmers and field executives need a sturdy device that can withstand physical shocks, water spillage and dust intrusion. Stesalit Systems is a Kolkata-based electronic manufacturer that has created a range of

products named 'Sxtreo' for a wide range of field applications such as agro-farms, forest survey, mining, etc.

Sxtreo is a rugged GPS handheld device with integrated camera for geotagging and global navigation satellite systems (GNSS). It is shock resistant, waterproof and dustproof and has robust multi-tasking capabilities that is engineered to perform in harsh environments such as mines, farms, forests, etc. this smartphone has a large touch screen and has great battery backup. Currently, the Odisha Forest Dept has purchased a set of devices for its forest rangers to accurately survey the rugged terrain. However, the high cost of INR30,000+ will be a major hurdle for larger market acceptability among farmers.